

Chinese Political Reforms (Tentative)

I. Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to key aspects of Chinese politics, with a focus on the post-Mao reforms since 1978. The goal of the course is to help students to gain different perspectives on current Chinese government structure, most importantly, the dynamics of the ongoing process of economic and political reforms. Discussion topics include Chinese political history (1949 to present), Chinese government structure and institutions, nationalisms in China, economic reforms and their political implications, democratization, civil society, environment, and other emerging issues in current Chinese society.

II. Texts:

1. Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, W.W. Norton, 2004.
2. Susan L. Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail Its Peaceful Rise*, Oxford University Press, 2007.
3. Bruce J. Dickson, *Wealth into Power: The Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.
4. Dali Yang, *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China*, Stanford University Press, 2004.
5. Guobin Yang, *The Power of the Internet in China: Citizen Activism Online*, Columbia University Press, 2009.
6. David Shambaugh, *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, University of California Press, 2008.

III. Requirements:

Students are required to do the assigned readings in the syllabus before each class and actively participate in class discussions. Students are expected to talk to the instructor around the middle of the semester about a possible topic for the research paper. Class attendance on time is required. Absence from class must ask for prior permission from the instructor and, in case of emergence, must report to the instructor immediately afterwards. Class absence beyond three with no excusable reasons may result in significantly reduced grade and absence beyond four times may result in failure of your total course grade. Similarly, lateness for class beyond one may result in reduction in your class participation grade.

IV. Course Grading:

Presentation 20%

Class Participation (including attendance) 20%

Research Paper 30%

Exam 30%

V. Class Schedule: Topics and Readings

Week 1:	Introduction
Week 2:	Political History 1: The Maoist Era Lieberthal, Chapter 3, 4
Week 3	Political History 2: The Reform Era Lieberthal, Chapter 5; Shambaugh, Chapter 4, 5
Week 4	Political System 1: The Government Lieberthal, Chapter 6; Dali Yang, Chapter 2
Week 5	Political System 2: The Party Lieberthal, Chapter 7; Shambaugh, Chapter 6, 7
Week 6	Market Transition and State Capacity Dali Yang, Chapter 3, 4
Week 7	The State and Society Lieberthal, Chapter 10; Dickson, Chapter 4; Dali Yang, Chapter 5
Week 8	Privatization and Political Change Dickson, Chapter 2, 5, 7
Week 9	Accountability and Anticorruption Dali Yang, Chapter 6, 7
Week 10	The Internet and Political Reform Guobin Yang, Chapter 2, 6, 7
Week 11	Nationalism and Public Opinion Shirk, Chapter 4, 7, 8
Week 12	The Way Forward
	Exam

VI. Periodicals, newspapers and websites:

Far Eastern Economic Review

China Daily

Beijing Review

China Quarterly

Asian Survey

www.xinhuanet.com (sponsored by the Xinhua News Agency)

www.china.com.cn (sponsored by the State Council Information Office)

www.gov.cn (official web portal of the Central People's Government of PRC) www.feer.com
(*Far Eastern Economic Review* on line)

www.chinadaily.com.cn (*China Daily* on line)