

Chinese Politics (New Course Plan)

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This document shows the plan of two tentative outlines of a class of Chinese politics. The undergraduate one will be organized as a lecture. It is designed for students who have taken the introductory level of Comparative Politics class. The graduate one will be organized as a seminar, in which the discussion will focus on the current debate of the China field. Students are expected to write a research paper for the graduate-level class.

1 Undergraduate Class

This class aims to provide 1) an introduction to Chinese political system, and 2) a brief discussion of how China studies contribute to the field of Comparative Politics. In the first set of lectures, the instructor will introduce the history of China's contemporary politics and political system. Then, the rest of semester will focus on how the literature understand the politics of China, including studies of the reform of the Party, cadre promotion, elite co-optation, policy-making, village election, protest and repression, information censorship, public consultation, the fiscal federalism and centralization and international relation.

Sample reading materials:

- Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2003. *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, 2nd Edition. 2nd edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.
- McGregor, Richard. 2012. *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*. Reprint edition. New York, NY: Harper Perennial.
- O'Brien, Kevin, and Lianjiang Li. 2006. *Rightful Resistance in Rural China*. New York: Cambridge Univ Press.
- Lampton, David. 2008. *The Three Faces of Chinese Power*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.
- Brady, Anne-Marie. 2008. *Marketing Dictatorship: Propaganda and Thought Work in Contemporary China*. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

The students are expected to read 50-100 pages of reading materials before the class. They will be asked to make a in-class presentation. There will be a final exam.

1.1 Graduate Class

The graduate class will focus on the discussion of recent literature. The organization of topics will be similar to the undergraduate class, but the requirement is to learn “how to evaluate the research” rather than about “what happens in Chinese politics.” Each week the students are required to read 300 pages of reading materials and then to join the discussion. Discussion leader will be required to write a response paper for the assigned materials. There will be a final paper or research proposal as the assignment.

Sample reading materials:

- Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. *How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*. Ithaca; London: Cornell University Press.
- Fu, Diana. 2018. *Mobilizing without the Masses: Control and Contention in China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Manion, Melanie. 2015. *Information for Autocrats: Representation in Chinese Local Congresses*. Cambridge, United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.
- Truex, Rory. 2016. *Making Autocracy Work: Representation and Responsiveness in Modern China*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Wang, Yuhua. 2014. *Tying the Autocrat’s Hands: The Rise of the Rule of Law in China*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Dickson, Bruce. 2016. *The Dictator’s Dilemma: The Chinese Communist Party’s Strategy for Survival*. 1 edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.