CHINESE POLITICS & DEVELOPMENT

中国政治

POLI 321A

SPRING 2009 – University of British Columbia

Course Schedule: TTH 12:30pm-2pm
Location: BUCHANAN A 203
Class Web Page: http://www.politics.ubc.ca/tiberg/poli321.htm

Instructor:

Yves Tiberghien
Email: yvestibe@interchange.ubc.ca
Office: Buchanan C 416
Office Phone: 822-4358
Office Hours: Wednesday 11-12 and 1-5pm
(or by appointment)

About me: http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/tiberg/Homepage08/biography.html

Teaching Assistant:

Erin is serving at TA for the course. She has a lot of experience with China and Chinese politics. She will be a wonderful resource for think pieces, give a lecture on ethnic politics and help grade think pieces.

Erin Williams is a PhD candidate in Political Science. In the 1990s, she was a foreign student and an English teacher at East China Normal (Teacher's) University in Shanghai. She wrote her M.A. thesis on China's experiment with village elections. In 2006, she spent five weeks in Mutianyu village, a famous site near the Great Wall of China. From her time there, she wrote "Off the (Great) Wall", a short collection of personal stories of some of the village's oldest residents. Her dissertation research will focus on the re-categorization of ethnic minorities as "indigenous groups" and the re-definition of "traditional culture" as "indigenous knowledge". China is one of her major case studies.

Erin can be reached by email at: ewilliam@interchange.ubc.ca

Office Hours: will be held before think pieces are due.
Course Description:

This course unravels some of the most fascinating questions of political science through a look at Chinese political processes over the Mao, Deng, and modern periods. The course will start with a historical overview, then analyze the Mao years, before spending more than half on the reform period. A particular focus will be given to the challenges of China’s interactions with globalization.

We begin with a review of China’s long-term trajectory and the particular dilemmas and traumas that China faced at the beginning of the 20th century. We then unpack the pillars of governance put in place under the Mao regime, as well as the tensions that led to the Cultural Revolution. The larger second half of the course focuses on the reform period that began exactly 30 years ago, in the Fall of 1978. We analyze the lessons from the Chinese pathway of gradualism and experimentation in many issue-areas. The course also focuses on the debate over political change, the rising social tensions, the entry of China into globalization, and the growing global impact of Chinese foreign policy.

Prerequisites:

Enrolment is restricted to third and fourth year students. The course is otherwise open to anyone and does not assume any knowledge of Chinese Politics.

Course Format:

The format of the course will be two lectures a week. Occasionally, lectures may be replaced with movies, guest speakers, or debates.

Required Texts:

1. THREE REQUIRED BOOKS:
   • Huang, Shu-Min. 1989. The Spiral Road: Change in a Chinese Village through the eyes of a community party leader. Westview Press.

2. SMALL READING PACKAGE, available from the UBC bookstore. This package is a valuable collection of key articles and book chapters taken from the best books on China. It is something to keep for the long-term as a great reference.

3. EMAILS AND WEBLINKS, as sent by the instructor.
Course Assignments, Due Dates, and Grading:

Think Piece 1 (Due Feb 10) 25%
Think Piece 2 (Due March 19) 30%
Class Participation or one News Analysis 5%
Final Exam (2 hours, April, set by Registrar’s Office) 40%

The instructor will grade the final exam. The TA will grade think pieces, in close association with the instructor.

Rationale of the Assignments:

Given the complexity of some elements of Chinese politics, readings are relatively heavier than for an average Poli Sci course. As a counterpart, almost no additional personal research is required, except for those who choose to pursue a research paper option (see option 2). The assignments encourage you to take time to do the readings, think about the lectures, and develop a personal interpretation of Chinese Politics.

Both readings and lectures are crucial components of the course and are interrelated. It will be impossible to achieve a good course grade without attending lectures AND completing the assigned readings. Lectures are designed to introduce the key chronology of events, key concepts, and key theoretical debates. They will also bring in contemporary issues and key recent cases.

The course reader has been carefully designed to provide essential context on all key issues and to expand on important theoretical concepts.

*** I expect that all weekly readings will be done by Wednesday evening of each week. The Tuesday lecture will thus introduce key concepts and events, while the Thursday lecture will build upon the readings to deepen the issues studied that week.

Web Page and Email List:

An email list has been set up for the purpose of the class. I plan to use it occasionally to pass important announcements or to send relevant articles from newspapers such as the New York Times, the Financial Times, the China Daily, the South China Morning Post, the Far Eastern Economic Review, or the Economist. If any of you, for whatever reason, would prefer not to be included in this email list, please contact me by email or talk to me directly.
I also warmly encourage you to email me for comments, questions, or feedback. For example, if some lecture presentation or some reading did not seem clear to you, chances are that they were not clear for anybody. Do not hesitate to email me. I will be happy to prepare an additional handout or to make an additional explanation in class.

The web page for the class can be found at the following address:
http://www.politics.ubc.ca/tiberg/poli321.htm

It includes all information about the course (syllabus, announcements, key articles). It also includes links to some of the best sources of information on China.

POLI-MILESTM: Class Participation and/or News Analysis

To encourage class participation, a grade will be assigned (5 points). Class participation is based upon both quantity and quality (for example, a quality intervention can immediately earn 2 points). I will assess participation at the end of each class and cumulate points class after class.

However, given the size of the class and given the preferences of some students, you have two other alternatives to earn all or part of the 5 points.

The first alternative is to participate in the class discussion via email (before or after the lectures). If you had interesting comments on the readings or on a lecture, or if you would like to answer one of the questions covered in class after giving it some thoughts at home, you are welcome to send me an email. That will count as full participation and will accrue toward the maximum of 5 participation points.

The second alternative is to write a 2-page news analysis:
- topic: pick any interesting piece of news related to Chinese Politics
- size: 1-2 pages, double-spaced,
- due date: your choice but no later than the last day of class
- goal: briefly summarize the event (half a page maximum) and make an argument regarding the significance of this event for Chinese politics. You may want to give a theoretical explanation for the event. What matters is to show how the event relates to deeper aspects of Chinese politics and to underline the connections with readings or fundamental elements covered in lectures. It may also be appropriate to make historical comparisons.

Participation grades will be fully transparent. At any moment, you are welcome to query about your accrued participation grade to date by sending me an email. In exceptional cases, I will break the limit of 5 points and give a maximum of 1 additional bonus point.
Helping Me with Remembering Class Names:

Remembering student names is essential for me. We will therefore a self-introduction at the beginning of the course.
In addition, I urge each one of you to do one of the following:
- to lend me a recent photograph of yourself with your name written on the back (which I am happy to return later)
- or to come to introduce yourself to me personally during office hours (in the first 2 weeks)
- or to begin any class intervention by giving your name loud and clear

Student Ownership of the Course:

Maximizing the learning chances for the maximum of students is the primary goal of this course. It is well-known that learning will be maximized only if students are involved in as many elements of the course as possible. Therefore, I encourage any possible student involvement and any proposal that you may have.

1. I welcome any idea or recommendation regarding lecture contents. I am happy to tailor lecture to special issues if there is a strong interest in the class.
2. I warmly welcome any feedback by email or personal meeting. I will always take them into account.
3. We will have a mid-term informal evaluation of the course to give you a chance to affect the content and form of the course.

Academic Integrity and Turnitin.com:

The University takes the issue of plagiarism very seriously. Students should be aware of the following statement taken from the UBC Calendar: “The penalty for substantial or complete plagiarism ... normally is suspension from the University.” All students are required to submit an electronic copy of their essay to TurnItIn <http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html>, an internet-based service to which UBC subscribes. This is a service that checks textual material for originality. It is increasingly used in universities North American and the UK, and it is Political Science Department policy to use it for term papers in undergraduate courses. For more information, a page describing TurnItIn, and UBC’s reasons for using it is available at: http://www.vpacademic.ubc.ca/integrity/turnitin/. See also UBC’s statement on plagiarism at http://students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0.
**Originality of Papers for The Course**

All written work submitted by students must be original. Work submitted for evaluation must not be (or have been) submitted in other courses. Overlap between essays in this course and other courses will show up as a form of plagiarism in Turnitin.com.

Exception can be given in cases of a larger project for several classes, but only with advance written approval of the instructors and a clear understanding that a paper prepared for more than one course might well be subject to different (more demanding) standards of evaluation.

**How to Submit your Paper to Turnitin.com**

To submit your paper at TurnItIn, log onto the site: [http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html](http://www.turnitin.com/static/home.html). Click on the “create a user profile” link and select “student” on the pull-down menu. To enroll, you will be asked to enter your “class ID” and “class enrollment password.” Once you have enrolled, when you login you will be taken to the page showing your classes. Click on “Poli 321-2009,” and then click on “submit” and choose one of the options to submit your paper. You will not receive credit for your essay unless it is submitted to TurnItIn.

- **class ID:** 2536252
- **enrollment password:** yangtze

**Think Pieces: 5-6 pages each**

Think pieces have 2 major goals: first to develop a personal interpretation of Chinese politics by presenting your own argument and defending it in a few pages; second, to demonstrate your mastery of the readings and facts presented in lectures. The questions are given by the instructor (pick one from a choice of 5 for each think piece).

Your paper should be an essay. Specifically, the paper must do the following three things:

1. Present an analytical argument that is a clear answer to the question
2. Address some of the literature related to the question (possible answers)
3. Offer some compelling evidence to support your argument (taken from readings, lectures, and class web links)

Contents of the paper:

1. The class readings and lectures are sufficient to make a good paper.
2. For some topics, however, it may be helpful to complement the required readings with one additional book (e.g. supplementary readings). I am happy to discuss this on an individual basis or through email. I am always happy to offer reading suggestions for those who want to write a richer and deeper paper.

Specific formal requirements:
1. Papers must be typed
2. You must footnote all references (quotes, use of evidence, etc…)
3. You must include a final bibliography
4. The essay must adhere to standard rules of English concerning spelling, grammar, and vocabulary
5. Length: 4 pages minimum, 6 pages maximum, not including notes and bibliography
6. Font: 12 points (no 10 point allowed)
7. Margins: one-inch margins
8. Spacing: double-spaced

Grading Criteria for Think Pieces, Research Papers, and Exam Essays:

**GRADING CRITERIA:**
1. Is the question answered?
2. Is there a personal argument presented in the first 10 lines and defended throughout the essay?
3. Clarity, Organization, Structure (good outline, good transitions)
4. Integration of class material, facts, and readings to back up the argument

**TYPICAL PITFALLS OBSERVED IN PAST CLASSES:**
A large number of papers tended not to present a personal causal argument in response to a clearly identified question. The argument should be clearly stated within the first 2 paragraphs of the introduction, on page 1. It should be engaging and original (personal). It should present an explanation to a puzzling question.
• The introduction of many papers did not fulfill the stated requirements. Within one page, a strong introduction should introduce the question upfront, present the argument, and give a roadmap for the paper.
• Many papers were written in a descriptive way, going through a historical analysis of key phenomena. Rather, political science papers should be argumentative and clearly organized. It is important to fight against alternative explanations and to defend your position in forceful ways. Each of the clearly indicated 3 or 4 sections should be there to back up the argument. After presenting facts and evidence, it is important to extract concluding statements, stating what the facts show and how they prove your point.
• Political science is always concerned with understanding general relationships and processes that are hidden behind messy events. This is where the focus of research papers must be.
• Many papers did not integrate enough political processes and did not extract larger political lessons.

GRADING SCALE (based on Faculty of Arts recommendations, see web site: http://www.arts.ubc.ca/FOA/doa/GradingGL.htm)(as edited by Professor Max Cameron)

80% to 100% (A- to A+)
This grade is reserved for exceptional papers. An exceptional paper must demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking around a clearly articulated thesis; the paper should have a good structure and be well organized; the paper should demonstrate a capacity to analyze and synthesize; it should also demonstrate superior grasp of the subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base is expected; clear and effective writing style and appropriate referencing format are also expected.

68% to 79% (B- to B+)
Grades in this range are given for competent papers. A competent paper will have a clear if not original thesis statement and develop the thesis with sound argumentation; a reasonably coherent structure and organization of the material is expected; the paper will show evidence of a good grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability is expected as well as a reasonable understanding of relevant issues; although a substantial research effort may not have been made, there should be evidence of familiarity with the most relevant literature.

50% to 67% (D to C+)
An adequate paper will be awarded a grade in this range. Such a paper lacks or does not develop a coherent or clear thesis statement, but some effort is made to structure the paper around an argument; nevertheless, there is little attempt to develop or sustain a coherent argument throughout the paper; the paper should demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter; it should also show an ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; normally, a paper in this range will reflect acceptable but uninspired work; it will not be seriously faulty but will lack style and vigour (especially in argumentation).

00% to 49% (F)
Inadequate paper. This grade is reserved for papers with little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; no thesis statement is made; there are weaknesses in critical and analytic skills; major errors are made in discussions of
the subject matter; the literature used is limited or irrelevant; or the subject is not on the list of paper topics or has not received prior approval by the instructor.

Penalties for Late Papers and Bonuses for Early Papers:

VERY IMPORTANT!
• Think pieces should be handed in class on or before the due date. Alternatively, I will accept think pieces that are turned in my mailbox in the Poli Sci office or personally in my office.
• Under exceptional circumstances (printer problems, commuting problems), I will accept papers that are turned in as email attachments.
• To encourage early papers, a bonus of 1 point will be given to papers that are at least one day early.
• Late think pieces are thoroughly discouraged. Extensions will not be granted except for illness or extraordinary circumstances. In most cases, I will ask for a written document (either from a doctor or from Arts Advising).
• The late penalty is 3 points per day (including week-end days), beginning the first morning after the due date.

Other Course Formalities: Final Exam, Students with Disability, Academic Honesty

The final exam will be scheduled through the University scheduling system. Make your holiday arrangements accordingly. No make-up or alternate final exams will be scheduled. Exemptions can only be granted based on written documentation (either medical documents or a letter from Arts Students Advising)

The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. Please let your instructor know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standings. Students have the right to view their marked examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university.
READING LIST

I / HISTORICAL TRAJECTORY

Week 1: Course Presentation – Historical and Geographical Overview of China

Lieberthal, Chap 1, pp. 3-26
Huang, Introduction, pp.1-9

Week 2: 19th-20th Centuries Overview: from Decline of Empire to Formation of the PRC

Lieberthal, Chap 2, pp. 27-56
Huang, Chap 1-3: pp.11-54

Movie: “China in Revolution: 1911-1949”

II / THE MAO PERIOD

Week 3: Mao Zedong and the CCP

Lieberthal, Chap 3, pp. 59-83: “The Features of Mao Zedong Thought”

Mao, Zedong. Quotations from Chairman Mao Tsetung (“the little red book”).
Chapter 1: “The Communist Party”
Chapter 2: “Classes and Class Struggle”
Chapter 21: “Self-Reliance and Arduous Struggle”
Chapter 22: “Methods of Thinking and Methods of Work”

LECTURES:
Jan 20: Mao’s Life, Thought, and Influence on the CCP
Jan 22: Yan’an and the Maoist Road (Dr Tim Cheek, Center for Chinese Research)

Week 4: Formation of the State / Organization of Power

Lieberthal, Chap 6 and Chap 7, pp. 169-242 (**)

Movie: “The Mao Years”
Week 5: Collectivization and Economic Organization / Danwei / Central Planning


Lectures:
• Collectivization and Agriculture Policy
• Creation of SOEs, 5-year plan, danwei, iron rice bowl etc..

Week 6: Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution

Huang, Chapters 4 to 7: pp. 55-127


Lieberthal, Chap 4, pp. 84-122 (or Jonathan Spence)

Movies: Chinese Documentaries and Historical Footages
III / REFORM PERIOD –
China’ Emergence as a Superpower

Week 7: Tectonic Shift: The Move to Reform and Deng’s Rise / The HK Question

Lieberthal, Chap 5, pp. 123-168

LECTURES:
Feb 24: Pivotal Politics in the 1970s: from Cultural Revolution to Deng’s Rise to Power
Feb 26: Elite Politics in the 1980s / The Question of Hong Kong’s Return to China

Documentary: Nixon Goes to China

Week 8: Rural and TVE Reforms, Limits of SOE Reforms, Social Change

Lieberthal, Chap 8, pp. 243-272
Huang, Chapters 8-10: pp. 129-198

LECTURES:
March 3: Rural Reforms and the Deng method
March 5: TVE and partial SOE reforms – the changing socio-economic picture of the 1980s

Week 9: TianAnMen / Political Change in the 1990s (Jiang, Hu) / Village Elections / the Democracy question

Fewsmith, Chap 1-2 (21-82)

LECTURES:
March 10: The Democracy Question: from Tian An Men to Village Elections (YT and Erin Williams)
March 12: Party Politics under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao

Recommended Movie:
“The Gate of Heavenly Peace”
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8fGgkSNkP0

PBS Clip on the Tank Man:
Week 10: Economic Reforms in the 1990s / China and Globalization


Chapter 1 (part – 18-31): “Introduction.”
Chapter 2 (32-65) “the Party’s Promotion of the Private Sector.”

OPTIONAL:
Fewsmith, Chap 3-5 (skim in part): 83-164

LECTURES:
March 17: The Question of the Rule of Law and Legal Reforms in China (Dr. Pitman Potter, Director of IAR)
March 19: Overview – Reforms and Globalization

Optional Documentary: China Rises (CBC)

Week 11: Social and Ethnic Issues / Migrant Workers


OPTIONAL (good background):
Lieberthal, Chap 10: 289-314: “The State and Society”
LECTURES:
March 24: The Question of Tibet (Dr. Tsering Shakya) (tbc)
March 26: Ethnic Minorities in China / Social Issues (Erin Williams)

Weeks 12/13: Foreign Affairs / Environmental Questions / Conclusion: Where To China

Lieberthal, Chap 9: 273-288 (the Environment)

Kang, David. 2007. *China Rising: Peace, Power, and Order in East Asia*. Chapter 1 (pp. 3-17): “the Puzzle and China’s Amazing Rise.”

OPTIONAL: other chapters of this book (Japan, US, Taiwan..)

Week 13 Readings:
Fewsmith, Chap 6-7-8: 165-278

LECTURES:
March 31: Environmental Questions / GMOs / Food Safety
April 2: Rise of China and Chinese Foreign Policy / Conclusion: Where To China
Spring 2009-UBC

SIGN-UP SHEET

POLI 321 : CHINESE POLITICS
Instructor: Yves Tiberghien

*** ARE YOU CURRENTLY REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE?  YES  NO

Name:                          Year:  Major:

Email address: [WRITE VERY WELL]:

Where are you from? (optional):

Courses taken on China/ East Asia

Motivation for taking the course:

Anything else you would like to say about yourself: