POS394: China in Transition
Mondays & Wednesdays: 3-4:15pm
Cowden Family Building Room 203
Instructor: Sarah Shair-Rosenfield
Office Hours: Monday 1-2:30, Tuesday 11-1 or by appointment (6775C Coor Hall)

This course offers an introduction to the politics of People’s Republic of China with a focus on political and economic transitions of the Reform Era. The purpose of the course is to provide a working knowledge for understanding political events and change in contemporary China. The first part of the course offers a historical background, the second discusses the evolution of political institutions, the third examines the evolution of Chinese foreign policy and the fourth reviews the changing relations between ordinary people and the Chinese state.

This course has three primary objectives: 1) to instill basic knowledge about Chinese national government; 2) to encourage the use of critical thinking to apply that knowledge to contemporary issues in Chinese politics; and 3) to develop deliberative skills with which you may engage others regarding research and policy outcomes not only on topics of Chinese government but with respect to politics in general. While your readings will allow you to accomplish the first objective, lectures and discussions are meant to facilitate the second and third objectives, all of which will be assessed in writing assignments, quizzes and longer exams throughout the course.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

In-class examinations (50%)
There will be one in-class midterm exam counting for 20% of your grade and one in-class final exam counting for 30% of your grade. In-class exams will cover textbook readings, lectures, and discussions but will focus more on the lectures and discussions than on the textbook material, particularly in the longer essay questions. Make-up exams will not be given except for absences excused prior to the scheduled time of the exam or for medical emergencies.

Papers (50%)
There will be two writing assignments for this course, between 3-7 pages long, which will be responses to specific prompts. The first paper will focus on the 2012 Chinese Communist Party’s Congress held this fall, a once per ten-year turnover of party leadership, as it compares with the 2012 Democratic and Republican National Conventions. The second paper will focus on religion in contemporary China, focusing on a comparison of two of the major religions that have historical and/or contemporary importance for the Chinese people (Daoism, Buddhism, Protestantism, Catholicism, and Islam).

NOTE:
There will be approximately 50-100 pages of reading each week. There are no scheduled quizzes and I will only implement quizzes or some form of attendance/participation policy in the event that students begin to routinely miss class and/or come unprepared for discussions about the session’s readings. Otherwise the only graded materials will be the two writing assignment and two exams.

Shair-Rosenfield
GRADING POLICIES

Grading scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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Paper policies

Papers must be submitted in hard copy (duplex printing is fine) at the beginning of the class session on the date listed in the syllabus. Name and ASURITE ID should be printed on the first page, the honor code should be written and signed on a separate page at the end of the paper. A late penalty will be assessed as follows: for each additional day late there will be an automatic 5-point deduction from the final grade for that assignment. No late papers will be accepted after 1 week past the assignment deadline (i.e. if the paper is due on a Monday at the beginning of class, no papers will be accepted after the beginning of class the following Monday).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Four books are available at the ASU bookstore, all are required:

- Elizabeth Perry and Merle Goldman, *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China* (Harvard University Press, 2007)
- Marc Lanteigne, *Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2009)

All other readings listed on the syllabus are posted in Blackboard under “Assignments” and are noted with [BB] in the syllabus.

BLACKBOARD

This course will make frequent use of Blackboard including: reading assignments not available in the four assigned books, email announcements, and open discussion forums for people to discuss concerns and additional research resources. If you are not familiar with Blackboard, please familiarize yourself with this webpage provided by ASU:


Shair-Rosenfield 2
Introduction

Session 1
8/27 No required readings.

Session 2: Understanding Post-Tiananmen China
8/29 Beja, Jean-Philippe 2009 “The Massacre’s Long Shadow” [BB]
   Perry, Elizabeth 2007 “Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to the Revolution?” [BB]

I. Historical Background

Session 3: The Imperial & Republican Eras
9/5 Lieberthal, pp. 1-56

Session 4: The Maoist Era
9/10 Lieberthal, pp. 84-122

Session 5: The Reforms
9/12 Goldman & MacFarquhar, chapters 1 & 2

II. The Evolution of Political Institutions

Session 6: Authoritarian Resilience?
9/17 Perry & Goldman, Introduction
   Andrew Nathan 2003 "China's Changing of the Guard: Authoritarian Resilience" [BB]

Session 7: Overview of the Political System
9/19 Lieberthal, 171-242 (note: read pp.206-242 carefully, can skim 171-205)

Session 8: Elite Politics in the Center
9/24 Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 3
   Lieberthal, 148-167

Session 9: National People’s Congress
9/26 Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 5
   Young Nam Cho 2002 “From ‘Rubber Stamps’ to ‘Iron Stamps’: The Emergence of Chinese Local People’s Congresses as Supervisionary Powerhouse” [BB]

Sessions 10 & 11: Grassroots Elections and Local Elites
10/1 Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 6
   Perry & Goldman, Chapter 2
10/3 Perry & Goldman, Chapter 6
Session 12: Legal Reforms
      Benjamin L. Liebman 2007 “China’s Courts: Restricted Reform” [BB]

Session 13: Mid-term Exam
10/10

No class: 10/15 Fall Break

Session 14: The Chinese Communist Party Congress
10/17  Kevin Latham 2000 “Nothing but the Truth: News Media, power and Hegemony in South China” [BB]
       Alice Miller 2012 “Prospects for Solidarity in the Xi Jinping Leadership” [BB]

III. The Evolution of Chinese Foreign Policy

Session 15: Intro to Chinese Foreign Policy
10/22  Lanteigne, Intro & Chapter 1

Session 16: Economic Interdependence?
10/24  Lanteigne, Chapters 2-3

Session 17: Military and the United States
10/29  Lanteigne, Chapters 4-5

Session 18: China in the Region
10/31  Lanteigne, Chapters 6-7 & Conclusion
       ***Writing Assignment #1 due***

IV. Changing State-society Relations in the Reform Era

Session 19: Workers
11/5   Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 8
       Perry & Goldman, Chapter 10
       Ching Kwan Lee & Eli Friedman 2009 “The Labor Movement” [BB]

Session 20: Peasants
11/7   Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 9
       Thomas Bernstein & Xiaobo Lu 2000 “Taxation without Representation: Peasants, the Central and the Local States in Reform China” [BB]
       Kevin O’Brien 2009 “Rural Protest” [BB]

Session 21: Intellectuals and Students
11/14  Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 13
Session 22: Religions in China
       Pitman B. Potter 2003 “Belief in Control: Regulation of Religion in China” [BB]

Session 23: Private Entrepreneurs
11/21  Goldman & MacFarquhar, Chapter 12

Session 24 & 25: Civil Society
11/26  Perry & Goldman, Chapters 7, 12
11/28  Tony Saich 2000 “Negotiating the State: The Development of Social Organizations in China” [BB]
       Kenneth Foster 2002 “Embedded within State Agencies: Business Associations in Yantai” [BB]

Session 26 & 27: Popular Collective Action
12/3   Jonathan Ocko 1988 “I will Take It All the Way to Beijing: Capital Appeals in the Qing” [BB]
       Joseph Esherick and Jeffrey Wasserstrom 1990 “Acting out Democracy: Political Theater in Modern China” [BB]
12/5   Perry & Goldman, Chapter 8, 11
       Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom 2009 “Middle-class Mobilization” [BB]
       Elizabeth Perry 2009 “A New Rights Consciousness” [BB]

***Writing Assignment #2 due***

Session 28: The Internet and New Media
12/10  Perry & Goldman, Chapter 13
       Guobin Yang 2003 “The Internet and Civil Society In China: a preliminary assessment” [BB]
       Guobin Yang 2009 “Online Activism” [BB]

12/17  Final Exam 12:10-2pm