

**POL 441**  
**Chinese Politics**  
**Instructor: William Hurst**

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**Seminar Meeting Time:** Wednesdays 6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** LA 214

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:30 - 3:00 PM

**Office Location:** SS 3031

**Email:** [william.hurst@utoronto.ca](mailto:william.hurst@utoronto.ca)

**Overview:**

This course is designed as a general survey of the current literature on Chinese politics. This is not a survey course of Chinese political history. For students looking for additional background on Chinese politics in the Maoist era or the general sweep of Chinese political history, I recommend Kenneth Lieberthal's textbook on the Chinese political system, Governing China, as well as Jonathan Spence's masterful survey history text, In Search of Modern China. After reviewing the basic ground rules in Week 1, Weeks 2-12 will focus on current issues and debates in the field through readings of approximately one or two books and/or a series of about 6-8 articles per week. The goal is for students to have a firm grounding in Chinese politics as the field currently stands.

**FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS:** Seminar format. Students will be expected to attend and participate in class discussions, to make one presentation on the readings for a given week, and to write a larger literature review or original research paper (5000-7500 words in either case). Undergraduate and graduate students will be expected to complete the same requirements, but undergraduates' work will be judged by a slightly more lenient standard. Grades will be determined according the following rubric:

Seminar Participation: 35%

Presentation: 10%

Final Paper: 55%

**Rules and Procedures:** If you are absent on the day of your scheduled presentation, you receive zero credit for the presentation, regardless of the reason for your absence. At the instructor's discretion, you *may* be offered a chance to do an alternate presentation *if and only if* the schedule permits. Final papers are due no later than 12:00 Noon on Monday April 9. These are to be submitted in hard copy to the instructor's mailbox in the Political Science Department. *Late papers will be accepted only at the instructor's discretion and may be marked down for lateness.*

# **Class Meeting Agenda:**

## **Week 1 (January 11): Introduction and Ground Rules**

## **Week 2 (January 18): Frameworks for Studying Chinese Politics**

### Readings:

Carlson, Gallagher, Lieberthal, and Manion (eds) Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

ISBN: 9780521155762

Elizabeth Perry (1994) "Trends in the Study of Chinese Politics: State-Society Relations" *The China Quarterly* 139: 704-713;

Lowell Dittmer and William Hurst (2002/2003) "Analysis in Limbo: Contemporary Chinese Politics amid the Maturation of Reform" *Issues & Studies* 38/39(4/1): 11-48;

Kevin J. O'Brien (2011) "Studying Chinese Politics in an Age of Specialization" *The Journal of Contemporary China* 20(71): 535-41.

## **Week 3 (January 25): 1980's Reform**

### Readings:

Barry Naughton Growing out of the Plan: Chinese Economic Reform, 1978-1993

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996 - at least introduction, chapters 2, 6, & 8; remainder recommended. ISBN: 9780521574624

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO:

David Zweig Freeing China's Farmers: Rural Restructuring in the Reform Era Armonk:

M.E. Sharpe, 1997. ISBN: 9781563248382

OR

Joseph Fewsmith Dilemmas of Reform in China: Political Conflict and Economic Debate Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 1994.

### Recommended on the Maoist System:

\* Kenneth Lieberthal Governing China: from Revolution through Reform New York: Norton, 2004 - chapters 2-7.

\* Dali L. Yang Calamity and Reform in China: State, Rural Society, and Institutional Change since the Great Leap Famine Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1996.

\* Mark W. Frazier The Making of the Chinese Industrial Workplace: State, Revolution, and Labor Management Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

\* Andrew G. Walder Communist Neo-Traditionalism: Work and Authority in Chinese Industry Berkeley: UC Press, 1986



**Week 4 (February 1): Rural Politics, Part I**

Reading:

Kevin O'Brien and Lianjiang Li Rightful Resistance in Rural China Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. ISBN: 9780521678520

**Week 5 (February 8): Rural Politics, Part II**

Reading:

Kellee S. Tsai Back-Alley Banking: Private Entrepreneurs in China Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2002. ISBN: 9780801489174

OR

Rachel Murphy How Migrant Labor is Changing Rural China Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. ISBN: 9780521005302

**Week 6 (February 15): Bureaucratic Politics**

Reading:

Dali Yang Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004. ISBN: 9780804754934

OR

Andrew Mertha China's Water Warriors: Citizen Action and Policy Change Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780801476686

**Break**

**Week 7 (February 29): General Urban Politics**

Readings:

William Hurst (2006) "The City as the Focus: The Analysis of Contemporary Chinese Urban Politics" *China Information* 20(3): 457-480.

Wenfang Tang and William L. Parish Chinese Urban Life under Reform: The Changing Social Contract Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. ISBN: 9780521778657

**Week 8 (March 7): Urban Labor Politics**

Reading:

William Hurst The Chinese Worker After Socialism Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. ISBN: 9780521898874

OR

Ching Kwan Lee Against the Law: Labor Protest in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780520250970

### **Week 9 (March 14): Political Economy/SOE Reform**

#### Reading:

Mary E. Gallagher Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005. ISBN: **9780691130361**

OR

Yi-min Lin Between Politics and Markets: Firms, Competition, and Institutional Change in Post-Mao China Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001. ISBN: **9780521604048**

OR

Victor C. Shih Factions and Finance in China: Elite Conflict and Inflation Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN: **9780521106474**

### **Week 10 (March 21): Contentious Politics**

#### Reading:

Kevin O'Brien ed. Popular Contention in China Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, 2008. ISBN: **9780674030619**

OR

Yongshun Cai Collective Resistance in China: Why Popular Protests Succeed or Fail Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010. ISBN: **9780804763400**

### **Week 11 (March 28) Lawyers, Legal Institutions and Reform**

#### Readings:

Jonathan Kinkel & William Hurst "Access to Justice in Post-Mao China: Assessing the Politics of Criminal and Administrative Law" *Journal of East Asian Studies* **11(3)**: 467-499 (2011).

Ethan Michelson "The Practice of Law as an Obstacle to Justice: Chinese Lawyers at Work" *Law and Society Review* **40(1)**: 1-38 (2006).

Rachel E. Stern "From Dispute to Decision: Suing Polluters in China," *China Quarterly* 206 (June 2011): 294-312.

*The China Quarterly* Number 191 (September 2007): All Research Articles and Accompanying Commentaries (i.e. you do not have to read the "Duihua Exchange" or Book Reviews, but should read everything else).

## **Week 12 (April 4): China in the World**

Read at least *one* book from *either* of the two reading lists. Students with primary interests in IR should read *two* books, one from *each* reading list.

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### **Readings (IPE):**

Edward S. Steinfeld Playing our Game: Why China's Rise Doesn't Threaten the West New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780195390650

OR

Yasheng Huang Selling China: Foreign Direct Investment During the Reform Era Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. ISBN: 9780521608862

OR

Thomas G. Moore China in the World Market: Chinese Industry and International Sources of Reform in the Post-Mao Era Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. ISBN: 9780521664424

### **Readings (Security):**

Avery Goldstein Rising to the Challenge: China's Grand Strategy and International Security Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005. ISBN: 9780804752183

OR

M. Taylor Fravel Strong Borders, Secure Nation: Cooperation and Conflict in China's Territorial Disputes Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780691136097

OR

Alistair Iain Johnston Social States: China in International Institutions, 1980-2000 Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780691134536