Course Outline

This course will explore the dynamics of political change in post-Mao China through an examination of selected systemic challenges and regime responses. The primary focus will be on processes of institutional development and decay as the Party-State regime evolves from hard to soft authoritarianism. A secondary theme will deal with evolving state-society relations, exploring the regime’s efforts to manage an increasingly diverse and restive society. An important goal of the course will be to introduce students to the major scholarly debates within the contemporary China studies field, as well as to the primary and secondary materials available for empirical research on these questions.

Course Format and Requirements

The course will be organized as a colloquium/seminar centered on class readings. Responsibility for summarizing and commenting on the readings will be rotated among seminar participants. Grades will be based on the following:

(1) Participation: 20%;
(2) 5 reading summary/critiques (2-3 pages)  50%
(3) Biographic Exercise 3-5 pages, 30%

Readings: Posted on Quercus by topic and date.

Topics and Readings:

May 4  
Course Introduction/Historical Overview

May 5

Problematics, Paradigms, and Hunches: Pekingology Revisited

3. Alice Miller, ‘Valedictory’, China Leadership Monitor, # 57
8. William Overholt, China’s Crisis of Success, Chapter 1.

May 6

China: ‘Resilient Authoritarianism’ or “Trapped Transition”? 

2. Minxin Pei, “Is China’s Transition Trapped and What should the West do about it?” Centre for Social and Legal Studies, University of Oxford, 2007/
5. Vivienne Shue and Patricia Thornton, To Govern China, Introduction.

May 7

Chinese Perspectives on Systemic Challenges

May 11  
**Change as Process: Three Models**

2. Kellee S. Tsai, *Capitalism Without Democracy*, Chapters 2&7, (pp. 17-43; 200-221)

May 12  
**Village Democracy and Health Policy: Case Studies of Process**


May 13  
**Can the Party Reinvent itself?**


May 14  
**Ideology and Legitimacy: Restoring Orthodoxy?**

4. “Internet Commentator”
6. TBA (XJP Thought…)

May 18

**No Class: Victoria Day**

May 19

**Managing Protest**

5. Zhen Jianghua, “The Perilous Life of a Young Activist in China.”

May 20

**Making Law Work**


May 21

**Elite Conflict and Institutionalization**


May 25

**The 19th CCP Congress: Predictions, Outcomes, Consequences.**

1. Tony Saich, “What Does Xi Jinping Dream About?”
3. Cheng Li, “Leadership Politics in the Xi Jinping Era”
5. Elizabeth Economy, China’s Third Revolution, Chapter 1.

May 26

**Bio Presentations**

May 27

**Civil Society and Political Change**

4. “China From the Inside” (Video, 2007)
5. TBA

May 28

**Combating Corruption**

4. TBA (XJP Anti Corruption Drive)

June 1

**Decentralization, Development and Predation**

5. Yuen Yuen Ang, “Local Bureaucrats”

**June 2**

**China’s Rising Middle Class: Force for Change?**


**June 3**

**Media and Political Change**

5. TBA (Social Credit System)

**June 4**

**China’s Political Economy at the Crossroad**


**June 8**

**Ethnic Politics in the PRC**

1. Dru Gladney, *Dislocating China*, Ch 2
4. James Leibold, “Xinjiang” CLM 59
5. Michael Davis, “The Quest for Self Rule in Tibet”

June 9  
**Chinese Foreign Policy**

2. Ian Johnson, “Will China become Supreme?” *NYRB*.
4. Frank Pieke, *Knowing China*, Chapter 6

June 10  
**China’s Periphery**

1. Nathan and Scobell, *China’s Search for Security*.
2. HK (TBA)
3. Taiwan (TBA)

June 11  
**China’s Future**