"No state is forever strong or forever weak," said Han Feizi, China's great legalist philosopher. "If those who uphold the law are strong, the state will be strong; if they are weak, the state will be weak."\(^1\) Han believed that as a country's conditions changed, the law and institutions must change to meet those new circumstances. China today faces new circumstances that have caused numerous monumental problems that impact the lives of its people. Issues of economic reform are being overshadowed by issues of political reform. Indeed, incomplete economic reforms are causing problems in China's political system. Countless "mass incidents" over these problems have served to compound them. All this has prompted serious debate among intellectuals, leaders, and average citizens regarding the potential for political reform. Is political reform needed? What might that reform look like? Is political change even possible in a country ruled by a single political party that is plagued by corruption, operated by networks of patrons and clients, and bereft of legal remedies?

This seminar provides a fuller understanding of China's potential for political change -- and the direction it might take. The course examines Chinese political thought from Confucius, Mencius and Han Feizi through Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. Further, what does China's ancient philosophy tell us about China's rise in the late 20th and early 21st Centuries? Does Confucianism remain? These and other political philosophies have influenced China's political culture, which will give shape to what any change might look like. As well, Chinese history may be a guide in how the country has embraced political reform and how it has turned the idea away, often with drastic results.

**Texts for Purchase:**

George Orwell: *1984* -- read by end of term.

Aldous Huxley: *Brave New World* -- read by end of term.

Donald Munro: *The Concept of Man in Early China*.

Fung Yu Lan: *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*

Nick Knight: *Rethinking Mao*.

Joseph Fewsmith: *The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China*.

Bruce Gilley & Larry Diamond, eds.: *Political Change in China: Comparisons with Taiwan*.

Other readings marked with an asterisk* are on Blackboard.

Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Mather House Room 315.

**Responsibilities**

**Twenty percent** for attending each class *and participating* in class discussions. This means coming to class prepared, i.e. having done the reading for the day. **Attendance is noted.**

**Participation** will be gauged by seminar questions you are to submit where noted in the syllabus. These will be used to generate class discussion on February 16, February 24 and April 19.

**Twenty percent** for one short paper analyzing any aspect of Chinese politics that offers potential for reform. The paper should be no longer than five (5) pages and should incorporate material discussed in class or the readings up to the due date, **April 20 by noon** via e-mail pes15@case.edu. *Your paper topic requires a written proposal of no longer than one (1) page and should include a list of proper resources.* When writing, **proper citations are required**, either in the body of the text with appropriate follow-up bibliography, footnotes (I prefer footnotes) or endnotes. N.B. Submit bibliographic material with the paper: Do not send it separately. **A penalty of 5% per day late is enforced.**

**Twenty five percent** for a take-home midterm exam distributed February 18 and due February 25. The exam will offer four or five questions. Students will write on two of their choice in no longer than eight pages total (approximately four pages for each question). Use *double space, 12-point font in Word format. Do not submit a paper in .pdf.*

When writing, **proper citations are required**, either in the body of the text with appropriate follow-up bibliography, footnotes (I prefer footnotes) or endnotes. N.B. Submit bibliographic material with the paper: Do not send it separately. **A penalty of 5% per day late is enforced**

**Thirty five percent** for a take-home final exam distributed April 21 and due April 28 by noon via pes15@case.edu. Students will write on two questions of their choice. The final exam paper should be six (6) to eight (8) pages, double spaced, 12-point font total. When writing, **proper citations are required**, either in the body of the text with appropriate follow-up bibliography, footnotes (I prefer footnotes) or endnotes. N.B. Submit bibliographic material *with* the paper: Do not send it separately. **A penalty of 5% per day late is enforced**

Students taking 453 at the graduate level will write a 20-25 page *analytical* paper on a topic pertaining to China's potential for political reform. Reform issues to consider include electoral reform, bureaucratic reform, the role of the military in any political reform, anti-corruption efforts, and the potential for a competitive multi-party system. The topic will be approved after consultation in person with the professor. A one-page written proposal is required after consultation and should include a list of resources to be used.

**N.B.** *I do not give incompletes* for the course unless extenuating circumstances warrant. Not having done assignments or being overwhelmed by too many courses are not extenuating.
Tentative Schedule

January 12  Connections or Contradictions
Antiquity & the Nature of Chinese Philosophy

Reading

Daniel Munro: The Concept of Man in Early China, Chapters 1-2.
Dynastic Cycle & Chinese Philosophers

January 14  Culture & Political Culture
Different Thought Patterns & Development of Political Culture

Reading

*Lucian Pye: Asian Power Politics The Cultural Dimensions of Authority. Chapters 2-3

Suggested Reading:


January 19  Roots
The Six Schools of Thought & Confucianism, the Moral Order

Reading

Fung Yu-lan: A Short History of Chinese Philosophy, Chapter 3.
*Yan Xuetong: Ancient Chinese Thought, Modern Chinese Power, 2011, Chapter 1
Daniel Munro: The Concept of Man in Early China, Chapter 3, pp 49-73.
January 21 Roots

Mo Tzu -- Impartial Concern for All & Mencius

Reading

**Fung Yu-lan:** *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*, Chapter 5.
**Donald Munro:** *The Concept of Early Man in China*, Chapter 3, pages 74-83.
*Bai Tongdong:* *China: the Political Philosophy of the Middle Kingdom*, 2012, Chapters 1-3.
*Mencius:* Book 1 Part A No. 1

January 28 & 28 Daoism

The Dao, Lao Tzu, Chang Tzu & Wu Wei

Reading

**Donald Munro:** *The Concept of Man in Early China*, Chapters 5 & 6.
*Bai Tongdong:* *China: the Political Philosophy of the Middle Kingdom*, 2012, Chapter 4.
**Fung Yu-lan:** *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*: Chapters 9 & 10

February 2 & 4 Yin & Yang, the Five Elements, Legalism & the Military

Reading

**Fung Yu-lan:** *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy*, Chapter 12 & 14
*Bai Tongdong:* *China: the Political Philosophy of the Middle Kingdom*, 2012, Chapter 5 with reference to Bai Chapters 1-3.
**Sun Tzu:** *The Art of War*. Chapters 3-5.
February 9  Persistant Tradition, Frequent Reform
Rise of the Sung
Reading

February 11  Tradition, Self-Strengthening, 100-days Reform & Sun Yatsen
Deterioration of The Qing & the Self-Strengthening Movement
Reading
*Immanuel Hsu: The Rise of Modern China, Chapter 11, 15 & 21

February 15  First Seminar Questions Due via pes15@case.edu

February 16  First Seminar Questions Discussion

February 18  Midterm Distributed
February 25  Midterm Due via pes15@case.edu
February 18 & 23  Chinese Socialism & Mao Zong Thought

Reading

*Donald M. Lowe: The Function of "China" in Marx, Lenin and Mao, Chapters 1, 4 & 5
"The Struggle in the Chingkang Mountains." -- 1928.
"The Chinese Revolution and the CCP" -- 1939.
"On New Democracy." -- 1940.
"Mao's 60 Points on Work Methods" – 1958
*Sun Tzu: The Art of War, Chapter 6

Nick Knight: Rethinking Mao  Chs 1 & 6

February 24  Second Seminar Questions Due by noon via pes
February 25  Second Seminar Questions

March 1 & 3  Deng Xiaoping Theory

Cats, Black and White & To Get Rich is Glorious

Reading

*Barry Naughton: The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth, Chapter 4.
*Steven Feldman: Trouble in the Middle, pp 130-148.
March 15, 17, & 22  Urgency of Reform

Economic Woes

Reading


Environmental Woes

Reading

*Perry Link, Richard Madsen & Paul Pickowicz, eds: Restless China, Chapter 10
*Judith Shapiro: China’s Environmental Challenges, Introduction.

Social Woes

Reading

*Perry Link, Richard Madsen, & Paul Pickowicz, eds: Restless China, Chapters 1, 2 & 4.
*Judith Shapiro: China’s Environmental Challenges, Chapter 5

Legitimacy Woes

Reading

*Steven Feldman: Trouble in the Middle, pp 148 - 159.
March 24 & 29  China's Great Debate

Limits of Reform

Reading

*Joseph Fewsmith: The Logic and Limits of Political Reform in China, Chapters 1, 2, 5 & Conclusion.

Issues & Debates

Reading

*Fred Dallmayr & Zhao Tingyang, eds: Contemporary Chinese Political Thought, Chapters 1-2.

March 31, April 5, 7 & 12  Democracy and Confucianism

Chinese Democracy

Reading

*Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing, Chapters 1, 4, 6 & 8

Regional Influence

Reading

*Don Chull Shin: Confucianism and Democratization in East Asia, Chapters 1, 4, 7 & 8.

Resilient Confucianism

Reading

*Stephen Angle: Contemporary Confucian Political Philosophy, Chapters 1, 3, 4 & 8

*Fred Dallmayr & Zhao Tingyang, eds: Contemporary Chinese Political Thought, Chapters 5, 7 & 8
Confucianism & Chinese Politics

Reading


*Fred Dallmayr & Zhao Tingyang, eds: *Contemporary Chinese Political Thought*, Chapters 11-12.

April 14  China in Transition

When, How, and How Far?

Reading


April 18  Third seminar questions via pes15@case.edu.

April 19  Third Seminar Questions

April 21  Term Paper Due

April 21  Discussion & Final Exam Distributed

April 28  Final Exam Due by noon via pes15@case.edu.