Though many believe China is on the rise, the country is beset with numerous challenges that will require political deftness in the years ahead. Is Communist China up to it? After 30 years of economic reform, a dying ideology, a worsening environment, repeated public health crises, labor problems, a widening income gap, and an export development model that is running out of steam, the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party is being tested as never before. Without political reform, the Communist Party is buying time with its continued push for more economic growth.

With continued economic growth deemed necessary for survival, China has become a one-party state increasingly challenged by its public to provide better governance across an array of issues. This raises questions asked by Frederick Engels: Has political reform become an economic necessity? Does politics yield to the dictates of economic development? These questions provide a picture of today’s China that calls into question conventional wisdom that China’s rise will generate a new superpower.

This course examines China from a variety of perspectives, culture, policy, society, economics, and politics to enlighten our understanding of China today.

**Reading Materials**

Books for sale at the University Bookstore are as follows:


Additional reading material is listed with an * on the schedule and is available via the Case Blackboard. Feel free to include readings other than those listed.
POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China

Responsibilities

1. Students are responsible 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 and participation each count for 10% of the grade, for a total of 20%.

As part of your participation, write three short essays, no longer than three (3) pages each. Paper One is due January 12 (Wednesday) by noon. Paper Two is due February 4 (Friday) by noon. Paper Three is due April 22 (Friday) by noon. Send your essays to pes15@case.edu.

The topic for each is quite simple: what is your understanding of China? For the second and third essays, this should include how your understanding has changed. This assignment is an exercise in critical thinking. I do not want a recitation of facts. I do expect an essay on what you think about China with facts serving only to substantiate your opinion. Citations should be in the body of the essay. No bibliography is necessary. Taken together, the three papers should show growth in your understanding of China and help spur class discussions or questions.

2. An in-class midterm exam scheduled for March 3. The exam will offer four or five questions. Students will write on two of their choice. The midterm exam counts for 30% of the grade.

3. A take-home final exam distributed April 21. 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. Proper citations are required, either in the body of the text, footnotes (I prefer footnotes) or endnotes. The final exam is due noon on April 28 via e-mail at pes15@case.edu. The final exam is worth 50% of the grade.

Note: Some class lectures will use PowerPoint slides. These are not available to students who miss class.

Professor Schroeder’s office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. in room 113 Mather House or by appointment. I can be reached at pes15@case.edu or telephone 216-368-2426.

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POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China

Schedule

January 11       Course introduction

January 12       ESSAY ONE DUE BY NOON at pes15@case.edu.

January 13       Setting the Stage

Reading:         Minxin Pei: *China’s Trapped Transition*, Ch. 5
                 *Melinda Liu & Marijie Vlaskampt*: “Smart, Young, and Broke” in *Newsweek*, June 20, 2010.

Section One:     Political Culture – an examination of Chinese political culture. Has it changed? What elements of the political culture indicate a future course for China? **January 13 to January 20.**

January 18       Culture & Confucianism

Reading:         *Lucian Pye*: *Asian Power & Politics*, Chapters 3, 7, 11, and 12

January 20:      China’s Political Culture

                 *Yu Keping*: *Democracy is a Good Thing* The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapters 7 & 8.
                 *Tim Oakes*: “Cultural Strategies of Development: Implications for
POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China


**Section Two:** The Chinese State and the Policy Process – an examination of various actors and their goals involved in Chinese policy making at the national and local levels. These include the Communist Party, the Chinese government, the Military, universities and research institutes, and Non-Governmental Organizations. **January 25 to February 3.**

**January 25 & 27:** Organization & Institutional Development

Reading:  
*C. Fred Bergsten, et. al.:* *China’s Rise, Challenges and Opportunities*, Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2008, Ch. 9.  

**February 1:** Ideology

Reading:  
*Yu Keping:* “Ideological Change and Incremental Democracy in Reform-Era China” in Cheng Li, ed. *China’s Changing Political Landscape*, Ch. 3.
POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China

February 3: Policy Process


February 4 ESSAY TWO DUE BY NOON.

**Section Three** Reform and Economic Growth – an examination of the politics of reform and growth in China’s domestic economy and foreign trade, the politics of corruption, and the need to develop interior and western China. This includes the on-going debate of changing the development model from export-led to a mass consumer model. February 8 to February 24.

February 8 & 10: The Process of Reform

*Dali Yang: Remaking the Chinese Leviathan, Chapter 1.*

February 15 & 17: The Problems With Reform

*Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing* The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapter 9  
*David Leonhardt* “Can the Chinese Discover the Urge to Splug?” in *The New York Times Magazine*, November 28, 2010 (Reprise). Blackboard Section “setting the Stage.”
February 22 & 24: Corruption and the Need for Bureaucratic Reform


*Laura M. Luehrmann: CCP: China’s Corruption Party, paper presented at the 59th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, the Ohio State University, October 1-3, 2010.

*Dali Yang: Remaking the Chinese Leviathan, Chapter 7.

*Lily Tsai: Accountability Without Democracy, 2007, Chapters 2 & 7.


March 1: Discussion

March 3: In Class Midterm

March 8 & 10: Spring Break

Section Four

Society – an examination of social pressures caused by continue economic reform and the Communist Party’s need to continue economic growth to maintain stability and stay in power. Social pressures include population growth, labor issues, land seizures via eminent domain, environmental and sustainability issues, health and education, and development of a social security net. March 15 to March 29.

March 15 & 17: Social Transformation & Civil Society


*Qiusha Ma: Non-Governmental Organizations in Contemporary China, Routledge, 2006, Chapters 2-4 and Conclusion.

*Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapters 4 and 6.


POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China

March 22 & 24: Contradictions


March 24 & 29: The Environment


Section Five Political Reform – an examination of how economic and social pressures impact the Communist Party. This includes China’s dying Marxist ideology and what that means for political control by the Communist Party. This section will also include the changing face of the Party, the politics of leadership change, and the on-going debate regarding economic and political reform. Match 31 to April 21.

March 31 & April 5: Contention & Reform

Reading: *Charles Tilly & Sidney Tarrow: Contentious Politics, 2007, Chapters 1-3.
Lily Tsai: Accountability Without Democracy. 2007, Chs. 1-4.

April 7 & 12: Capitalism & Democracy

Minxin Pei: China’s Trapped Transition, Ch 2.
POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China


April 14 & 19  
Political Reform

Reading:  
*Elizabeth Perry & Merle Goldman* *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, 2007, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, and 11.  
*Martin King Whyte* *Myth of the Social Volcano*, 2010. Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, and Conclusion.

April 21:  
Fragilility & Survival

Reading:  
*Susan L. Shirk* *China, Fragile Superpower*, Oxford University Press, 2007, Chapters 1-4.  
*David Shambaugh* *China’s Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, University of California Press, 2006, Chapter 1.  

April 21:  
Distribution of Final exam questions.

April 22  
ESSAY THREE DUE BY NOON.

April 28:  
Final Exam due at noon via e-mail at pes15@case.edu.