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.
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%.

   This is especially important because of the two seminar sessions on December 3 and 5. For this exercise, bring one written question that will help encourage discussion. These questions are to be turned in after class December 5.

2. An in-class midterm exam scheduled for October 12. 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. An in-class final exam scheduled for December 11 at 8:30 a.m.. The format will be the same as the midterm. 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.

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Schedule

August 27  Introduction

August 29  Setting the Stage  Story of the Two Pebbles

Reading:  Minxin Pei: *China’s Trapped Transition*, Ch. 5.


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?  *August 31 to September 5.*

August 31  Culture & Confucianism

Reading:  *Lucian Pye: Asian Power & Politics*, Chapters 2, 3, 7, 11, and 12
September 5: China’s Political Culture

Reading:  
*Yu Keping: *Democracy is a Good Thing* The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapters 7 & 8.  

September 7 Chinese Nationalism

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. *September 10 to September 21.*

September 10: The Party  
September 12: The State  
September 14: Leadership  
September 17: Leadership Change

Reading for these sessions  
September 19: Ideology

Reading:


Yu Keping: “Ideological Change and Incremental Democracy in Reform-Era China” in Cheng Li, ed. China’s Changing Political Landscape, Ch. 3.

September 21: Policy Process

Reading:


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. September 24 to October 10.

September 24 & 26: Process of Reform

Reading:


*Dali Yang: Remaking the Chinese Leviathan, Chapter 1 & 2.

September 28: Tiananmen Interlude

Tank Man at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40bI6wzCTck

Oct. 1, 3 & 5: Limits of Reform

Reading:


*Minxin Pei: China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy, Harvard University Press, 2006, Introduction, Chapters 1, 4, and Conclusion.

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*Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing* The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapter 9


*Carl Walter & Fraser J. T. Howe: Red Capitalism, Ch 8.

October 8: Corruption

Reading:


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


October 10: Midterm Review

October 12: In-Class Midterm

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. October 15 to 29.

October 15 & 17: Social Transformation & Civil Society

Reading:


*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. (Additional next page)
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October 19: Contradictions and Contention

**Reading:**


*Melinda Liu & Marijie Vlaskampt:* “Smart, Young, and Broke,” in *Newsweek*, June 20, 2010.


October 22: No Class

October 24: Labor Contention

**Reading:**

*Ching Kwan Lee:* *Against the Law: Labor Protests in China’s Rustbelt and Sunbelt*, University of California Press, 2007, Chapters 1 (part) and 2.

October 26 & 29: Environmental Contention

**Reading:**


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. October 31 to November 12.

October 31:  Contention

Reading:  

Nov. 2:  Contention & Reform

Reading  

Nov. 5 & 7:  Capitalism & Democracy

Reading:  
Minxin Pei: China’s Trapped Transition, Ch 2.  

Nov. 9 & 12:  Political Reform

Reading:  
Elizabeth Perry & Merle Goldman: Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China, 2007, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, and 11.  
Introduction, Chapters 1, 3, 5, 8.
Section Six  Fragility, Adaptation & A New Model – an examination of how economic and social pressures impact China's stability and legitimacy. This includes China’s dying Marxist ideology, decentralization, the Party's adaptation in the post Cold War era, and whether the Party can retain political control. **November 14 to November 26.**

**November 14 & 16: The Three Benefits, Six Woes**

*Reading:*  

**Nov. 19 :**  
**Adaptation**

*Reading:*  

**Nov 21 & 23:**  
No Class

**Nov. 26:**  
**Adaptation (continued)**

*Reading:*  

**Nov. 28**  
**The Beijing Consensus**

*Reading:*  
*Stefan Halper:* *The Beijing Consensus: Legitimizing Authoritarianism in Our Time,* Ch 1

**Nov. 30**  
**Limits of the Beijing Consensus & Survival**

*Reading:*  
*Halper:* Ch 5

**Section Seven Thinking About the Future** -- Seminar sessions in which each student is to participate. Come prepared with questions about China, which we will discuss in these two sessions. **December 3 & 5.**

**December 3 & 5**  
**Seminar sessions.**

Prepare One written question for discussion.

**December 7**  
**Review for Final Exam on December 11 at 8:30 a.m.**