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 are worth 20% of the grade.

   This is especially important because of the periodic seminar sessions (listed on the schedule). For these sessions, send one written question to me at pes15@case.edu the day before the seminar session.

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 20% of the grade.

3. A five to seven page paper examining some aspect of Chinese politics, e.g. organizational structure, political process, economic reform, political culture, contention, corruption, state-owned enterprises, the Beijing Consensus, the media, etc. This paper is due December 4 via pes15@case.edu. A written one-page topic is due by November 1. The paper is worth 20% of the grade.

4. An in-class final exam. The format will be the same as the midterm. The final exam is worth 40% of the grade.

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

Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 3-4 p.m. in room 312 Mather House or by appointment. I can be reached at pes15@case.edu.

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Introduction -- East Asia is in the midst of change, especially China. Get in the habit of reading about what is going on in and between China, Japan, and the two Koreas by reading the New York Times, Washington Post, The Economist, or other media.

August 26    Setting the Stage
Reading:        *Minxin Pei: China’s Trapped Transition, Ch. 5.

Political Culture – an examination of Chinese political culture. Has it changed? What elements of the political culture indicate a future course for China?

August 28    Culture & Confucianism
Reading:        *Lucian Pye: Asian Power & Politics, Chapters 2, 3, 11, and 12

September 2: China’s Political Culture & Nationalism
                *Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapters 7 & 8.
The Chinese State and the Policy Process – an examination of various actors involved in the Chinese political structure and policy making at the national and sub-national levels. These include the Communist Party, the Chinese government, the Military, universities and research institutes, and Non-Governmental Organizations.

September 4: The Party & The State

Reading
*Richard McGregor: 5 Myths About the Chinese Communist Party” in Foreign Policy, August 24, 2011.

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

September 9: Leadership

Reading

September 11: Ideology

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

September 16: Policy Process

Reading:  
*Paul Schroeder: China’s Achilles Heel, (unpublished), An occasional paper for the Political Science Faculty at Case Western Reserve University, January 6, 2014.

**Reform and Economic Growth** – an examination of the politics of reform and growth in China’s domestic economy and foreign trade. This includes the on-going debate of changing the development model from export-led to a mass consumer model.

September 18: Process of Economic Reform

Reading:  

Suggested  

September 23: Tiananmen Interlude

Reading  

Film  
Tank Man at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40bI6wzCTck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=40bI6wzCTck)

September 25: Limits of Reform

Reading:  
POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China

Suggested


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

September 30  Corruption

Reading:


Suggested


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

October 1  Seminar Question Due by 7 p.m. to pes15@case.edu

October 2  Seminar Session and Midterm Review

October 7  In-class Midterm

Society – an examination of social pressures caused by 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 9:  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.
POSC 370D Syllabus: The Politics of China

Suggested


*Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing The Brookings Institution 2009 Chapter 5

October 14: Contradictions and Contention
Reading: Joseph Fewsmith: “What Does the Communist Party Have to Do? in Cheng Li, Chapter 11.

October 16: Labor Contention

October 21: Environmental Contention

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 23: Contention & Reform

Reading


Suggested


October 28 Fall Break

October 30: Authoritarian Capitalism

Reading:


Suggested

*Minxin Pei: China’s Trapped Transition, Ch 2.
*Lily Tsai: Accountability Without Democracy, 2007, Chs. 1, 3-4.
November 4 & 6: Political Reform

Reading: Elizabeth Perry & Merle Goldman: *Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China*, 2007, Chapters 1, 2, 7, 8, and 11.

**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 11 & 13: The Three Benefits, Six Woes

*Paul Schroeder*: *China’s Catch 22s*, (unpublished) An occasional paper for the Political Science Faculty at Case Western Reserve University, January 23, 2014.

Nov. 18 & 20: Party Adaptation


Nov. 25 & 25 The Beijing Consensus & Its Limits

Reading: *Stefan Halper*: *The Beijing Consensus: Legitimizing Authoritarianism in Our Time*, Chapter 1 & 5.
James McGregor: *No Ancient Wisdom, No Followers*, Chs 4-5.

November 27 Thanksgiving
Thinking About the Future

December 1       Seminar questions due via pes15@case.edu by 7 p.m.
December 2 & 4   Seminar Questions plus final review.
December 11      Final Exam, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.