Main Idea: How China Works

Enduring Understandings:
Will China’s rise create a new superpower or will its many domestic challenges prevent that?

Understanding China today involves a question raised by Frederick Engels: Has political reform become an economic necessity? Put another way, does politics yield to the dictates of economic development? These questions provide a picture of today’s China and puts China’s rise in a more complete light.

Learning Objectives: Assessment of your work will depend on how well you prepare in advance of class.

Understand: Wednesdays and Fridays are comprised of an explanation and discussion of topics concerning Chinese political life.

Analyze: Each Monday (or Wednesday if Monday is a day off) will consist of small group discussions examining sample issues covered in the previous two class sessions. One member of each group will offer a two-minute synopsis of the issue and the group’s discussion of it. Success in these exercises depends on attending class regularly and doing assigned readings.

Apply: After a few weeks, group sessions will consist of small discussions examining a sample problem covered in the entire course up to that point. One member of each group will offer a two-minute synopsis of the problem and the groups’ discussion of it. Success in these exercises depends on attending class regularly, doing assigned readings, and thinking deeply about solving the problem based on what you learned in the course.

Assessment Tasks:

- Attendance plus three one-page papers is worth 10% of the final grade. These papers ask what you think when you hear the word China. Write your answer in no more than one page and return it to me at pes15@case.edu within 24 hours of being notified it is due.
- Group Discussion sessions are worth 30% of the final grade.
- Two five to eight (5-8) page papers (each worth 15%) and one 15-page paper (worth 30%) of the grade (use outside resources as well as course reading)
  1. Paper One Due October 7, 2016 via pes15@case.edu. Discuss China today in terms of its political culture, ideology and political structure. This assesses your understanding of the material.
  2. Paper Two Due November 18, 2016 via pes15@case.edu. Discuss China today in terms of its economic reforms, social changes and recent political contention between people
and government and within the Communist Party. This assesses your analyzing the material.

3. **Paper Three Due December 16, 2016** (Final Exam paper 15 pages). Discuss the legitimacy of the People’s Republic of China in the eyes of Chinese citizens and whether political reform is necessary to maintain the regime. This assesses applying your knowledge of China in a discussion of China’s future.

**Books to Buy:**

5. **Fred Dallmayr & Zhao Tingyang:** *Contemporary Chinese Political Thought*, University Press of Kentucky, 2012, ISBN 9780813136424

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.

**Sample Periodicals to Read**

- New York Times (search icon for China)
- “China World News” via The Guardian
- The Economist + Its China Briefing
- China Quarterly
- China Digital Times
- East Asia Forum

**I can be reached at pes15@case.edu or at my office, room 315 Mather House**

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. or by appointment.

(Note: There is another Paul Schroeder on campus so do not confuse our e-mails. Use the one above.)
Tentative Schedule
(Subject to Change)

Day One  Our first enduring understanding is to consider that China’s one-party state is increasingly challenged by the public to provide better governance across an array of issues. Does providing better governance require political change? What are the limits of political change given the intransigence of the Chinese Communist Party?


Week One  Our second long-term understanding is basic elements of culture. From that we will consider how that creates a political culture.

Reading:  Geert Hofstede, et al: Cultures and Organizations, Third Edition, 2010, Chapter 1,

Week Two  Understanding: What is meant by Chinese culture? What is Confucianism?

Reading  * Lucian Pye: Asian Power & Politics, Chapters 2 & 3.
  * Geert Hofstede: Cultures and Organizations, Chapter 7.
  * He Baogang: “Four Models of the Relationship between Confucianism and Democracy,” Chapter 7 in Fred Dallmayr & Zhao Tingyang: Contemporary Chinese Political Thought, University Press of Kentucky, 2012

Week Three  Understanding: How does culture and Confucianism translate into political culture? What are China’s two political cultures? What impact do both of these have on political change?

Week Four Understanding: The Chinese State includes the country’s political structure and leadership 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. How does the structure lead to networked leadership? How does a networked leadership exercise power? China’s organization presents one of three major obstacles for Chinese political change.

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

Week Five Understanding: The People’s Republic of China has a rich ideological history in Marxism, Leninism and Mao Zedong Thought. Does this package of communist ideology remain salient for China today? What has replaced it? How does this impact China’s foreign relations?

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

Week Six Understanding: How does structure influence China’s policy process?

*Paul Schroeder: China’s Achilles Heel, (unpublished), An occasional paper for the Political Science Faculty at Case Western Reserve University, January 6, 2014.
Week Seven  
Understanding: How has China’s economic reforms produced the growth that astounds the world? What process did China follow to realize such growth? What limitations are there on China’s further development, both economically and politically? Here we seek understanding of two of the three limitations on China’s further development, decentralization and corruption.

Reading:  

Week Eight  
Understanding: Between the two-part economic reform process came the Tiananmen interlude, begun on April 15, 1989, continuing on with thousands of Chinese protesting for more openness, and ending June 4 in the shooting death an unknown number of citizens.

Reading:  
Film  
Tiananmen Square Declassified.  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqQQZjdYM1c

Week Nine  
Understanding: The many economic changes in China have brought with them numerous social pressures.

Reading  
*Minxin Pei: China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy, Harvard University Press, 2006, Introduction, Chapters 1, 4, and Conclusion.  
Week Ten  
**Understanding: Analyzing social movements and contentious politics.**

*Charles Tilly & Sidney Tarrow: Contentious Politics, 2007, Chapters 1-3.*  
*Sidney Tarrow: Power in Movement, Social Movements and Contentious Politics, 2011*

Week Eleven  
**Understanding: Contentious politics in China**

*December Green & Laura Luehrmann: Contentious Politics in Brazil and China, Westview Press, 2016, Chapter 1*  
*Wenfang Tang: Populist Authoritarianism, Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 1*

Week Twelve  
**Understanding: The transformation of Chinese society, including social pressures caused by economic growth and social change.**

*Vivi Lu: “NGOs in China” in Yongnian and Fewsmith.*  
*Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing The Brookings Institution, 2009, Chapters 4 - 6.*  
*Joseph Fewsmith: “What Does the Communist Party Have to Do? in Cheng Li, Chapter 11.*  

Week Thirteen  
**Understanding: Contention in the Chinese issues of labor, the environment, demographics, and corruption revealing the imperative for some type of political reform.**

Week Fourteen

Understanding: Will economic and social pressures create a need for political reform? How do these pressures impact control by the Communist Party? This includes examination of the changing face of the Party, the contentious politics of leadership change, and the on-going debate regarding economic and political reform.


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

November 18

Paper two due via pes15@case.edu

Week Fifteen

Understanding: Fragility and Adaptation and how economic and social pressures impact China’s stability and legitimacy. This includes decentralization, the Party’s adaptation in the post-Cold War era, and whether the Party can retain political control.


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

David Shambaugh: “Learning From Abroad to Reinvent Itself,” in Cheng Li, China’s Changing Political Landscape.

*Stefan Halper: The Beijing Consensus: Legitimizing Authoritarianism in Our Time, Chapter 1 & 5.
Week Sixteen

Understanding: Can China’s current dynasty remain? Can it adapt to a changing social and political environment, domestically and globally? Can it become a democracy?

Reading:

James McGregor: No Ancient Wisdom, No Followers, Chs 4-5.
Yu Keping: Democracy is a Good Thing, Chapters 1 and 9
Fred Dallmayr and Zhao Tingyang: Contemporary Chinese Political Thought: Debates and Perspectives, University Press of Kentucky, 2012, Chapters 7, 8, 11 and 12.

December 19 Final Exam paper due via pes15@case.edu.