

Political Science 275
Politics of the Peoples Republic of China
Spring, 2006
Mr. Grey

Carnegie 309, Ext. 3147
1109 Main St., 236-1043
grey@grinnell.edu
Office hours: 3:15-4:05,
T-Th; MWF-1:15-2

The People's Republic of China celebrates its fifty-seventh year in 2006. Those years have been filled with vast political and economic changes, the consequences of efforts by revolutionary leaders to massively transform a society in many ways resistant to such efforts. In this course we shall examine this history. We shall also examine the goals and perspectives of the leadership, leadership heterogeneity and conflict, and the resulting policies of the government. We shall look at the character of Chinese society, and how it resisted and/or was changed by these policies. We shall also try to determine the extent to which, and the mechanisms by which, the society shaped the policies of the leadership. Despite the repression following the Tiananmen Square incident of 1989, there exists a continuing dynamic promoting increased mass political participation in the PRC and we shall examine this dynamic and assess the forms such participation is likely to take, and the consequences for the character of the political system.

Books to Buy

- Jie Chen, Popular Political Support in Urban China, Woodrow Wilson Center, Stanford University Press, 2004
Joseph Fewsmith, Elite Politics in Contemporary China, M. E. Sharpe, 2001
Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar, The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms, Harvard University Press, 1999
Peter Hays Gries and Stanley Rosen, State and Society in 21st-Century China, RoutledgeCurzon
Tony Saich, Governance and Politics in China, Palgrave, 2004
Jonathan Unger, The Nature of Chinese Politics: From Mao to Jiang, M. E. Sharpe, 2002

Written Work

Each student will participate in one of five scheduled debates. A week after each debate, the participants will hand in a debate paper, based on (but not necessarily taking the same position as) the debate. This paper will count 40% of the final grade. There will be mid-sem and final take-home exams, each counting 25% of the final grade. Ten per cent will be based on performance on the debate and class participation.

Reading Assignments

Jan. 23 – Introduction – China's Revolutionary Century

HISTORY OF THE REVOLUTION

Jan. 25 – Saich, Chs. 1 and 2

Jan. 27 – Saich, Ch. 3; Goldman and MacFarquhar, Ch. 1

Jan. 30 – Goldman and MacFarquhar, Ch. 2; Fewsmith, Intro and Ch. 1

ELITE POLITICS

Feb. 1 – Saich, Chs. 4 and 5

Feb. 3 – Goldman and MacFarquhar, Ch. 3; Fewsmith, Ch. 2

Feb. 6 – Unger, Chs. 1 and 2

Feb. 8 – Unger, Chs. 3 and 4

Feb. 10 – Unger, Chs. 5 and 6; Fewsmith, Ch. 4

Feb. 13 – Unger, Chs. 7-10

Feb. 15 – Unger, Chs. 11-13

Feb. 17 – Goldman and MacFarquhar, Chs. 4 and 5

Feb. 20 – 1st Debate – There is a significant dispersion of power within the Chinese Political Elite

MASS POLITICS

Feb. 22 – Saich, Chs. 8 and 7

Feb. 24 – Goldman and MacFarquhar, Ch. 7; Chen, Ch. 1

Feb. 27 – Chen, Chs. 2 and 3

Mar. 1 – Chen, Chs. 4 and 5

Mar. 3 – Chen, Chs. 6 and 7

Mar. 6 – Gries and Rosen, Intro, Chs 1 and 2

- Mar. 8 - Gries and Rosen, Chs. 3 and 4
- Mar. 10 - Gries and Rosen, Chs. 5 and 6
- Mar. 13 - Gries and Rosen, Ch. 7
- Mar. 15 - Gries and Rosen, Ch. 8
- Mar. 17 - Catch-up and Midsem Exam Due

SPRING BREAK

- Apr. 3 - Gries and Rosen, Chs. 9 and 10
- Apr. 5 - Gries and Rosen, Ch. 11

DEMOCRATIZATION?

- Apr. 7 - Fewsmith, Ch. 3; Goldman and MacFarquhar, Ch. 6
- Apr. 10 - Other readings to be distributed
- Apr. 12 - Other readings to be distributed

FRAGMENTATION?

- Apr. 14 - Goldman and MacFarquhar, Chs. 10-12
- Apr. 17 - Goldman and MacFarquhar, Chs. 8 and 9
- Apr. 19 - Goldman and MacFarquhar, Chs. 13 and 14
- Apr. 21 - 2nd Debate – Mass dissatisfaction threatens the stability of China
- Apr. 24 - 3rd Debate – Chinese political dynamics suggest its impending democratization.
- Apr. 26 - 4th Debate – Chinese economic dynamics suggest future democratization -

MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

- Apr. 28 - Saich, Ch. 9
- May 1 - Saich, Ch. 10
- May 3 - Saich, Ch. 11
- May 5 - 5th Debate – China is planning to challenge American predominance in international politics

THE FUTURE

- May 8 - Goldman and MacFarquhar, Ch. 15; Saich, Ch. 12
- May 10 - Fewsmith, Ch. 5; Gries and Rosen, Ch. 12
- May 12 - Catch-up