Political Economy of China’s Development
6-8:20 pm., Tuesday
Rm. 221, Engineering Building, Xuhui Campus

Instructor: Huirong Chen, Ph.D.  
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Credit/Hours: 3.0/48
Subjects: graduate students
Office hour: by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a graduate seminar on the political economy of China’s reform and development in the post-Mao era. Our emphasis will be on the dynamic interactions among the state, the market, and society. Topics covered include: the political context of reform and development; the evolution of property rights in rural land tenure and industry, state-owned enterprises, and private enterprises; fiscal reform and changing central-local relations, financial markets and banking, foreign trade and investment, the role of the state in economic development, the prospects of democratization, and theoretical debates on the China model and its prospect. In particular, the evolving political economy of China under reform will be examined in a broader international context. Implicit or explicit comparative analysis between China and East Asian economies, transitional countries, and western advanced democracies will be highlighted.

The purpose of this course is to help students analyze the complexities and challenges of China’s rise and its implications in a scholarly manner. Students are also expected to theorize China’s unique development trajectory with reference to theories in comparative politics.

REQUIREMENTS

Class meetings will follow a seminar format. Students are required to finish all assigned reading materials AND submit one page of critical comments on readings to the instructor and all fellow students BEFORE each class. This is essential for your performance because you are expected to ACTIVELY participate in class discussion.

During each session, designated pairs of students will present their summaries and critical comments. Other students come to class having read fellow students’ comments and propose challenging questions for discussion. Students are also required to write an analytical research paper (20-25 pages) on any subject covered in the class. Essays should include research puzzles, literature review, main arguments, empirical evidence, and properly styled footnotes or endnotes. Please be reminded that plagiarism is a serious offense. Try your best to avoid it! More details will be declared in class.
ASSESSMENT

The composition of grade is listed below:

Class presentation/discussion:  50%
Research paper:      50%

TEXTBOOK AND REQUIRED READINGS


RECOMMENDED READINGS


COURSE STRUCTURE

Week 1 (Sep. 11): Introduction
Week 2 (Sep. 18): Mao’s Legacy
Week 3 (Sep. 25): The Initiation and Process of Economic Reform
Week 4 (Oct. 2): No Class, National Day Holiday
Week 5 (Oct. 9): Rural Reform: Land Tenure, Rural Industrialization
Week 6 (Oct. 16): No Class, Reading Week
Week 7 (Oct. 23): Reform of State-Owned Enterprises
Week 8 (Oct. 30): The Growth of Private Enterprises
Week 9 (Nov. 6): Fiscal Reform and Its Consequences
Week 10 (Nov. 13): Financial Markets and Banking
Week 11 (Nov. 20): Foreign Trade and Investment
Week 12 (Nov. 27): The State and Economic Development
Week 13 (Dec. 4): No Class, Reading Week
Week 14 (Dec. 11) Economic Development and China’s Democratization
Week 15 (Dec. 18): Conclusion: Is There a China Model?
Week 16 (Dec. 25): No Class, Writing Research Paper

TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1 (Sep. 11): Introduction
No readings assigned

Week 2 (Sep. 18): Mao’s Legacy
Naughton, Introduction and Chapter 3
Saich, Chapter 2

Week 3 (Sep. 25): The Initiation and Process of Economic Reform
Naughton, Chapter 4

Week 4 (Oct. 2): No Class, National Day Holiday

Week 5 (Oct. 9): Rural Reform: Land Tenure, Rural Industrialization
Naughton, Chapters 5, 10, 12

Week 6 (Oct. 16): No Class, Reading Week

Week 7 (Oct. 23): Reform of State-Owned Enterprises
Week 8 (Oct. 30): The Growth of Private Enterprises
Huang, Yasheng. 2008. *Capitalism with Chinese characteristics: entrepreneurship and the state* Cambridge; New York Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1

Week 9 (Nov. 6): Fiscal Reform and Its Consequences
Naughton, Sections 18.2-18.4 (The Fiscal System).

Week 10 (Nov. 13): Financial Markets and Banking
Naughton, Chapters 18.1 (Savings), 19 (Financial System)

Week 11 (Nov. 20): Foreign Trade and Investment
Naughton, Chapters 16, 17

Week 12 (Nov. 27): The State and Economic Development
Week 13 (Dec. 4): No Class, Reading Week

Week 14 (Dec. 11) Economic Development and China’s Democratization

Week 15 (Dec. 18): Conclusion: Is There a China Model?
Randall Peerenboom. 2007. China modernizes: threat to the West or model for the rest?. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1

Week 16 (Dec. 25): No Class, Writing Research Paper
No readings assigned