PS 126 Chinese Politics
Fall 2015 Tufts University
Tues, Thurs 1:30-2:45
Eaton 203

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Office hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30, Thursdays 11-12, and by appointment. Friday is my research day, so I prefer not to schedule appointments on Fridays if at all possible.

Course website accessible through https://trunk.tufts.edu/
Updates to the syllabus will be found on the website under "Syllabus." Please treat the on-line syllabus as the most recent, most definitive version.

Learning objectives:
In Comparative Politics: political institutions; civil society; political ideologies; political violence and the politics of social movements; the politics of identity; introduction to social science methods.

Course description:
This is a course on the domestic politics of China since the revolution of 1949. We will pay special attention to history, political economy, and the effects of great political events on the everyday lives of ordinary Chinese people. In the first part of the course we will concentrate on the evolution of political life in China during the Mao years, 1949-1976, including the revolution, the socialist economic and social transformation, and mass campaigns culminating in the Cultural Revolution. The second part of the course will focus on issues in post-Mao China: economic reform, the return of the market and the breakdown of many socialist institutions, and the social, economic and political challenges posed by these changes. Throughout the course, we will be thinking about how some of the tensions within Chinese society and political economy (city vs. countryside, plan vs. market, center vs. periphery) have affected the course of political change, and how political change has affected men and women, young and old, Han and non-Han, coast and interior, creating a great diversity of political experience in China. We will also practice reading against the grain and between the lines in a heavily politicized literature.

Textbooks to buy, and also on reserve at Tisch:
1. LIANG Heng and Judith Shapiro, Son of the Revolution (any edition)
3. Peter J. Seybolt, Throwing the Emperor From His Horse (Boulder: Westview, 1996)
5. Elizabeth J. Perry and Marc Selden, eds., Chinese Society: Change, Conflict, and

**Requirements:**

1. **Class attendance and active participation** (15%). Please let me know if you are missing class due to illness or bereavement. You are entitled to three free absences with no penalty, no questions asked. After that, you won't receive credit for each missed day.

2. **Map quiz:** in class **Tuesday, Sept. 22** (5%). Sorry, no make-ups.

3. **Take-home mid-term essay exam** (20%), due **Friday, October 23** by 4 pm via the Trunk Assignments function. Questions will be handed out in class October 15, and will also be available on Trunk after that time.

4. **Take-home essay final exam** (20%), due **Wednesday, December 16** by 4 pm via the Trunk Assignments function. This exam will not be cumulative; it will cover material after the mid-term only. Questions will be handed out in class **Tuesday, December 2**.

5. **10-12 page research paper applying causal analysis to a topic in contemporary domestic Chinese politics** (40%). Please expect to visit the Harvard East Asia libraries in order to do the research for this paper.

**Assignment #1: Paper topic exercise.** Select one of the research paper topics/questions from the approved list and identify existing hypotheses in the literature, as outlined in the detailed assignment prompt. *If you choose to write your own topic/question, you must submit a topic/question proposal no later than Friday October 2 at 4 pm, by email.* Assignment #1 is due on **Friday, October 9** by 4 pm via the Trunk Assignments function (5%).

**Assignment #2: Analysis paper.** Present one hypothesis, identify criteria to test it, evaluate the evidence using the criteria, and conclude whether the hypothesis is confirmed in part or in whole, as outlined in the detailed assignment prompt. Assignment #2 is, due **Friday, November 13** by 4 pm via the Trunk Assignments function (5%).

**Assignment #3: Completed research paper.** Due **Friday, December 11** by 4 pm via the Trunk Assignments function (30%). The final grade will be based on the final paper if parts one and two are completed on time. Late penalty: +/- per day for parts one, two, and three.

The exams and all three parts of the research paper are to be submitted via the Trunk Assignments function, which will run the papers through Turnitin.com. You may also email papers to me as a backup if you like. As is Tufts policy, I require absolute academic honesty from my students. However, I want you to know that I don't use Turnitin because I suspect my students of plagiarism, but because (1) using it means I don't even have to consider plagiarism as a possibility, and (2) you can use it to assure yourself you’re citing your sources correctly. I will set up our course account so that you can run drafts through the system to check your own work in advance, and I hope you will do so. I use it on my own work and I find it to be a very useful tool.
Films:
Five films will be viewed in this class; think of them as required texts. For your convenience, they have been digitized and will be available for you to view online through links on the Trunk site under “Resources.” You can also watch them in the library if you prefer. The films are:

(1) "China in Revolution," FDV 7149 disc 1
(2) "The Mao Years," FDV 7149 disc 2
(3) "The Story of Qiu Ju," FDV 3544
(4) "China in the Red," FDV 4963
(5) "The Gate of Heavenly Peace," VC 5825

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon so we can discuss them.

Please turn off your cell phone in class and use your laptop responsibly. Texting, IMing, gaming, and using other kinds of electronic communication are, of course, not acceptable in the classroom. If I receive any complaints from students about others creating a distraction through misuse of their computers during class time, I will ban laptops from the classroom.

KEEPING UP WITH NEWS ABOUT CHINA
Please stay abreast of the news about China while you are in this class. Try to approach it from several different directions, because you’ll get very different stories and angles. For Western, non-US reporting, check out a UK paper, for example, The Guardian, www.guardian.co.uk. The New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/, and the Christian Science Monitor http://www.csmonitor.com/, are two good American sources of news on China. For the Chinese government’s point of view on the news, visit the China Internet Information Center, http://www.china.org.cn/english/index.htm, or the Xinhua News Agency site, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english2010/. You could also see what the English-language Taiwanese papers, Hong Kong papers, and Singaporean papers have to say.

HOW TO USE THE COURSE WEBSITE
The course website is accessible through the Trunk site, https://trunk.tufts.edu/. I will use it to distribute information, to update the syllabus, to make announcements between classes, to hand out web-based assignments, and also to connect you to important resources concerning China. If you have questions about the class, this is the first place to look. You will be automatically enrolled on the website as soon as you register for the class on SIS.

- Most course-related documents, including readings, are located under “Course Tools—Resources.”
- If you have technical questions about using Trunk, please visit the Trunk support site at http://sites.tufts.edu/trunksupport/common-tasks-getting-started/for-students/
Trunk automatically enters your Tufts e-mail address from the directory as the destination for mail sent to you through the course website. As such, important course-related messages will go to your Tufts email, and I will contact you by email via your Tufts email account. Therefore, if you do not regularly use your Tufts email account, please have your Tufts email forwarded to an address that you regularly check. You can do so here: https://tuftstools.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/forward

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Tues Sep 8
Introduction to the course

Thurs Sep 10
A sketch of the history of China up to and during the first half of the twentieth century

Reading:
(1) R. Keith Schoppa, “From Empire to People’s Republic,” in Joseph, pp. 41-55.

Also, this week please watch the film "China in Revolution" (FDV 7149, disc 1) at your leisure. You can find the link to the film on the Trunk website under “Resources.” Take notes, jotting down particularly striking images or arguments in the film; treat the film as a course text, the same as written materials.

Tues Sep 15
The Revolution of 1949 and the founding of the People's Republic of China

Reading:
(1) R. Keith Schoppa, “From Empire to People’s Republic,” in Joseph, pp. 54-69.
(2) Seybolt, pp. 19-49.

MAO THOUGHT AND THE '50S: LAND REFORM, COLLECTIVIZATION, AND NATIONALIZATION OF THE ECONOMY

Thurs Sep 17
Basic principles of Mao thought

Reading:
Read from "The Importance of the Peasant Problem" through "The Question of Going Too Far," and more if you can stand it. What is Mao advocating? How is it different from what other revolutionaries prescribed as the solution for China's problems?

(3) Mao Zedong, "On Practice."
(continued next page)

What is his main point? Where does knowledge come from? What are the implications of that for politics? Don't spend a lot of time trying to understand every word; the object is for you to see how Mao Zedong thought reads.

If you'd like to read more of Mao's writings, check out the main site where these readings are posted, http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/index.htm.

Tues Sep 22
The revolutionary government in the countryside: from cooperatives to collectives to communes

MAP QUIZ IN CLASS TODAY. You will be given a copy of the map in this syllabus with all the place names removed, and asked to identify numbered locations. If you'd like to see a more detailed map of China with all the provinces and provincial capitals marked on it, go to one of these sites:
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/china_pol01.jpg
http://geology.com/world/china-map.gif

Reading:
(1) Saich, Ch.3, "China’s Changing Road to Development: Political History"

ULTRA-LEFTIST CAMPAIGNS AND MASS POLITICS: THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD AND THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Thurs Sep 24
The Hundred Flowers, the Great Leap Forward and the Four Clean-ups: the politics of mass campaigns and the beginnings of Ultra-Leftism

Reading:
(1) Teiwes, in Joseph, pp. 85-96
(3) Seybolt, pp. 51-64
(4) LIANG and Shapiro, Chapters 1-3
Tues Sep 29
Struggles at the top and the events of the Cultural Revolution

Reading:
(1) Teiwes, in Joseph, pp. 96-113
(2) Seybolt, pp. 65-75
(3) LIANG and Shapiro, Chapters 4-14

This week please watch the film "The Mao Years" (FDV 7149, disc 2). The link to the digitized film can be found on the Trunk website under “Resources.” Take notes, jotting down particularly striking images or arguments in the film; treat the film as a course text.

Thurs Oct 1
RESEARCH PAPER DAY
Please make sure to bring a laptop computer today. If you do not have access to one, please let me know.

This research session will focus on how to find sources for our research papers. There will be a substantial hands-on research component. This session will prepare you for Research Paper Assignment #1.

Preparing for class:
1. Look over the assignment prompt for all three parts of the research paper, focusing particularly on Assignment #1: Paper Topic Exercise. The assignment prompts can be found on the course website under “Resources—Assignments.”
2. Click on “PS 126 Research Guide” under Course Tools on the course website to begin investigating the tools that we will talk about.
3. Complete the library research exercise available on the Trunk site under Assignments. You don't have to turn this in, but it is worth your time to work on it before this session.

Friday, Oct 2, 4 pm: Deadline for sending me a proposal for your final paper topic if you choose to construct your own rather than selecting one from the list

Tues Oct 6
Cultural Revolution, continued: discussion of "The Mao Years" and the meaning and effects of the Cultural Revolution
Reading: LIANG and Shapiro, Chapters 15-24

Thurs Oct 8
OVERVIEW OF THE POST-MAO REFORMS

Reading:
(1) Saich, Ch. 4, "China Under Reform, 1978-2010"
(2) Seybolt, pp. 77-88, 99-130.
RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT #1, Paper Topic Exercise, DUE ON FRIDAY OCT 9 BY 4 PM via the Trunk Assignments function. Please choose carefully—you must stick with this topic for all of the related assignments. I will return these assignments as I finish reading them rather than all at once at the end.

FORMAL POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN THE PRC

Tues Oct 13
Formal structures of government: the Communist Party and the State
Reading:
(1) Saich, Ch. 5 "The Chinese Communist Party," Ch. 6, "The Central Governing Apparatus," and Ch. 7, "Governance Beyond the Centre"
(3) A very helpful Who's Who in China's Leadership: http://www.china.org.cn/china/leadership/node_7178530.htm#a1

Thurs Oct 15
MID-TERM TAKE-HOME ESSAY ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT IN CLASS.
Material covered up to and including today. Questions will be posted on the course website after class. Exams are due on Friday, October 23 by 4 pm via the Trunk Assignments function.
Local structures of social and political control during the Mao years: the danwei (work unit) and the residents' committee
Reading:

Tues Oct 20
Analyzing administrative, economic and cultural structures in rural China: a historical perspective
Reading:
Note: This piece is difficult. Pay attention to the overall argument and use the study guide, available on the website under "Resources—Viewing Guides, Worksheets…"

Thurs Oct 22
Discussion of film "The Story of Qiu Ju"
Assignment:
View the film "The Story of Qiu Ju" (FDV 3544). The link to the film can be found on the website under "Resources." Take notes and answer the questions in the viewing guide available on our website under "Resources—Viewing Guides, Worksheets…"; you do not have to turn in your responses. Come in prepared to discuss the questions on the viewing guide/worksheet.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAMS DUE BY 4 PM via the Trunk Assignments function. I will send out an email confirming whose papers I have received immediately after the deadline. Email me a backup if you like. As this is an exam, no late papers can be accepted. Please back up your work as you go.

Tues Oct 27

REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL POLITICS
The politics of agricultural reform and the household responsibility system
Reading:
(2) Saich, pp. 271-281.

Thurs Oct 29

VILLAGE ELECTIONS AND VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS
Which institutions have power in villages, who gets elected to office, how do they get elected, and how democratic are the elections? What do we mean by democracy to begin with?
Reading:
(2) Lianjiang Li and Kevin O'Brien, "The Struggle over Village Elections," in Goldman and MacFarquhar, pp. 129-144.

REFORMS IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
Tues Nov 3
The transition from plan to market

**Reading:**

Thurs Nov 5

**SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE REFORMS**
Who has benefited and who has suffered from economic reforms?

**Reading:**
1. Saich, Ch. 1, "Social Policy"

Tues Nov 10 **No class—Wednesday schedule**

Thurs Nov 12

Discussion of film "China in the Red"

**Assignment:**
View the film "China in the Red" (FDV 4963). The link to the film is available on the course website under “Resources.” Please take notes and be prepared to discuss the film in class. What stories and images strike you as being particularly interesting or powerful? What topics from readings do you see reflected here, and what new and/or different interpretations does the film contain?

**RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT #2, ANALYSIS PAPER, DUE BY 4 PM ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13 via the Trunk Assignments function.** I will return your assignments as I work my way through them rather than waiting to return them all at once.

Tues Nov 17

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND DISSENT**
How have ordinary people participated in Chinese politics? What forms has protest taken in the PRC? Democracy Wall, the 1986-87 student movement, and the June 4th movement of 1989 in historical perspective

**Reading:**
1. Saich, Ch. 7, "Political Participation and Protest"
Thurs Nov 19
Discussion of the film "The Gate of Heavenly Peace"
Assignment:
(1) View the film "The Gate of Heavenly Peace," VC 5825, parts 1 and 2. A viewing guide for the film is available on the course website under “Resources—Viewing Guides;” the link to the film is available under “Resources.” Be sure to watch the two-hour version rather than the two-volume, three-hour version.
(2) Investigate the "Gate of Heavenly Peace" web site, including reviews, controversy, and criticism, at this URL: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gate/
(3) Prepare to discuss the film by using the viewing guide, but you do not have to turn in the worksheet.

Tues Nov 24
Human rights in China proper: scholarly views
Reading:

Thurs Nov 20  No class—Thanksgiving holiday

Tues Dec 1
Human rights in China proper: advocacy, definitions, controversies
Who has something to say in cyberspace about human rights in China? What criteria do they use to evaluate China's human rights situation?
Assignment:
(1) First, use a search engine like Google to get a broad idea of the range and number of sites on human rights in China. What kinds of groups and people talk about human rights in China? Spend about five minutes on this, checking out the links that the search engine produces.
(2) Next, on the course site under “Resources—Viewing Guides, Worksheets…,” there is a worksheet for thinking about how the human rights issue is discussed on a selection of different websites. Investigate in more detail the websites listed in the worksheet. Take notes and think about the
questions on the worksheet. We will discuss the worksheet in class, but you do not have to turn it in.

(3) Finally, read Xinhua News Agency, "Full Text of Human Rights Record of the United States in 2012," [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-04/21/c_132327175.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-04/21/c_132327175.htm) What do you think about this piece? Identify two items that seem especially outrageous to you. On the other hand, is there anything here that makes you ask, "yeah, why don't we think about this as a human right?" Why or why not?

**ETHNICITY AND ETHNIC SEPARATISM**

Thurs Dec 3

**TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS PASSED OUT IN CLASS TODAY, and available on Trunk by the afternoon.**

What is ethnicity in China? What ethnic separatist groups exist in China?

**Reading:**

3. On the course website under “Resources—Viewing Guides, Worksheets…” there is a worksheet on ethnic separatism. Please refer to the worksheet as you search the Internet to find out what kinds of ethnic separatism exist in China. Take notes and come to class prepared to discuss what you find, but you do not have to turn in the worksheet.

Tues Dec 8

Tibet and the Free Tibet movement

What is the "Tibet question"? Who cares about Tibet's fate, and why?

**Readings:**

Thurs Dec 10
Family, gender, and the one-child policy

Reading:


FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE BY 4 PM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, via the Trunk Assignments function. I will send out an email at the deadline to let you know whose papers I have received by that time, so you can confirm yours is in. Email me a backup if you like.

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 BY 4 PM via the Trunk Assignments function. As with the research paper, I will send out a confirming email at the deadline. Email me a backup if you like. Since this is an exam, no late papers can be accepted.
Map for map quiz

On the map in this syllabus, the names of provinces are in capital letters and provincial boundaries are dotted lines. Cities are marked with a single large dot. On the quiz, you will be asked to identify ten of the following places on the map:

**Provinces**
- Xinjiang 新疆
- Tibet 西藏
- Qinghai 青海
- Gansu 甘肃
- Ningxia 宁夏
- Sichuan 四川
- Yunnan 云南
- Guizhou 贵州
- Guangxi 广西
- Guangdong 广东
- Hainan 海南
- Hunan 湖南
- Hubei 湖北
- Jiangxi 江西
- Fujian 福建
- Zhejiang 浙江
- Jiangsu 江苏
- Anhui 安徽
- Shandong 山东
- Shanxi 山西
- Shaanxi 陕西
- Inner Mongolia 内蒙古
- Hebei 河北
- Henan 河南
- Liaoning 辽宁
- Jilin 吉林
- Heilongjiang 黑龙江

**Major rivers**
- Yellow River (Huang he) 黄河
- Yangtze River (Chang jiang) 长江

**Major cities**
- Beijing 北京
- Shanghai 上海
- Hong Kong 香港
- Chongqing 重庆
- Tianjin 天津

**Some helpful memorization hints:**
- "bei" 北 means north
- "nan" 南 means south
- "xi" 西 means west
- "dong" 东 means east
- "shan" 山 means mountain
- "he" 河 means river
- "jiang" 江 means river
- "hu" 湖 means lake