PS 126 Chinese Politics  
Fall 2012 Tufts University  
Tues, Thurs 10:30-11:45 am, 152 Robinson Hall

Prof. Elizabeth Remick  
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Office hours: Monday 10:00-11:00, Wednesday 1:30-2:30, and by appointment. I'm generally not available on Fridays.

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)  
Requirements:
(1) **Class attendance and active participation** (15%)
(2) **Map quiz:** in class **Tuesday, Sept. 18** (5%). Sorry, no make-ups.
(3) **Take-home mid-term essay exam** (20%), due **Wednesday, October 24** by 4 pm via Turnitin.com. Questions will be handed out in class October 11, and will also be available on the website after that time.
(4) **Take-home essay final exam** (20%), due **Thursday, December 13** by 4 pm via Turnitin.com. This exam will not be cumulative; it will cover material after the mid-term only. Questions will be handed out in class Thursday, Nov. 29.
(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 September 28 at 4pm, by email.* Assignment #1 is due on **Friday, October 5** by 4 pm on Turnitin.com (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 9** by 4 pm via Turnitin.com (5%).

**Assignment #3:** **Completed research paper,** due **Monday, December 10** by 4 pm via Turnitin.com (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 Turnitin.com. You may also email them 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. After enrollment stabilizes, I will set up the course account and you will receive an email about how to get started.

**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:
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 4
Introduction to the course

Thurs Sep 6
A sketch of the history of China up to and during the first half of the twentieth century

**Reading:**

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 course 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 11
The Revolution of 1949 and the founding of the People's Republic of China

**Reading:**
2. Seybolt, pp. 19-49.

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

Thurs Sep 13
Basic principles of Mao thought

**Reading:**
2. Selections from Mao Zedong, "Report On An Investigation Of The Peasant Movement In Hunan," on website
   http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-1/mswv1_2.htm
   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?
   (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 18
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"
(2) Teiwes, “Mao Zedong in Power,” in Joseph, pp.63-74

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

Thurs Sep 20
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. 74-83
(3) Seybolt, pp. 51-64
(4) LIANG and Shapiro, Chapters 1-3

Tues Sep 25
Struggles at the top and the events of the Cultural Revolution

Reading:
(1) Teiwes, in Joseph, pp. 83-98
(2) Seybolt, pp. 65-75
(3) LIANG and Shapiro, Chapters 4-14
This week or over the weekend, but in any case before Tuesday, October 2, please watch the film "The Mao Years" (FDV 7149, disc 2). The link to the digitized film can be found on the course website under “Resources.” Take notes, jotting down particularly striking images or arguments in the film; treat the film as a course text.

Thurs Sep 27
RESEARCH PAPER DAY
- 30 minutes on researching and writing the research paper
- 45 minutes on finding sources for the research paper
**Preparing for class:** 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.” Also, please click on “PS 126 Research Guide” under Course Tools on the course website to begin investigating the tools that we will talk about.

Friday, Sept 28, 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 2
Cultural Revolution, continued: discussion of "The Mao Years" and the meaning and effects of the Cultural Revolution
**Reading:** LIANG and Shapiro, Chapters 15-24

OVERVIEW OF THE POST-MAO REFORMS

Thurs Oct 4
**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 5 BY 4 PM VIA TURNITIN.COM.** Please choose carefully—you must stick with this topic for all of the related assignments.

Tues Oct 9 No class—Tufts Monday schedule

FORMAL POLITICAL STRUCTURES IN THE PRC

Thurs Oct 11
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"

Thurs. Oct. 11: 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 Wednesday, October 24 by 4 pm via Turnitin.com.

Tues Oct 16
Local structures of social and political control during the Mao years: the danwei (work unit) and the residents' committee
Reading:

Thurs Oct 18
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…"

Tues Oct 23
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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 MID-TERM TAKE-HOME EXAMS DUE BY 4 PM, VIA TURNITIN.COM. 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.

REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE, AND RURAL POLITICS
Thurs Oct 25
The politics of agricultural reform and the household responsibility system
Reading:
Tues Nov 30
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:
   Read summary, Chapter One, and Chapter Three.
(2) Lianjiang Li and Kevin O'Brien, "The Struggle over Village Elections," in Goldman and MacFarquhar, pp. 129-144.

Thurs Nov 1
REFORMS IN INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
The transition from plan to market

Reading:
(1) Saich, pp. 262-271, 281-296.

Tues Nov 6
SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE REFORMS
Who has benefited and who has suffered from economic reforms?

Reading:
(1) Saich, Ch. 11, "Social Policy"
Thurs Nov 8
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 9 VIA TURNITIN.COM.** I will return your assignments as I work my way through them rather than waiting to return them all at once.

**POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND DISSENT**

Tues Nov 13
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 15
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/](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.

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE**

Tues Nov 20
Human rights in China proper: scholarly views

**Reading:**
Thursday, November 22, No class—Thanksgiving holiday

Tues Nov 27
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 Ren Yanshi, "A Comparison of Human Rights in China with Those in the United States," *Beijing Review*, April 1-7 1996, pp. 10-15, on the course website. 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 Nov 29
TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS PASSED OUT IN CLASS TODAY
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 4
Tibet and the Free Tibet movement
What is the "Tibet question"? Who cares about Tibet's fate, and why?
Readings:
(1) Melvyn C. Goldstein, "The Dragon and the Snow Lion: The Tibet Question in
the 20th Century." In A. J. Kane, ed., China Briefing 1990 (Boulder CO:
(2) Phintso Thonden, "Rejoinder: On the Dragon's Side of the Tibet Question,"
(3) Melvyn C. Goldstein, "The Snowlion and the Dragon II (a Response to
(4) Tsering Shakya, "Tibet and the Occident: The Myth of Shangri-La," Tibetan
York: Oxford University Press, 2010), read only pp. 326-335.
(6) OPTIONAL, if you are interested in learning more about the Dalai Lama from
a not very reverent perspective, check out: Evan Osnos, “The Next

Thurs Dec 6
Family, gender, and the one-child policy
Reading:
(1) Sara Friedman, “Women, marriage and the state in contemporary China,” in
Perry and Selden, pp. 148-170.
(2) Tyrene White, “Domination, resistance and accommodation in China’s one-
child campaign,” in Perry and Selden, pp. 171-196.

FINAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE BY 4 PM MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, VIA
TURNITIN.COM. 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 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13 BY 4 PM VIA
TURNITIN.COM. 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.
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
- Nanjing 南京
- Shanghai 上海
- Wuhan 武汉
- Hong Kong 香港
- Guangzhou 广州
- Chengdu 成都
- Chongqing 重庆
- Hangzhou 杭州
- Tianjin 天津
- Kunming 昆明
- Lhasa 拉萨
- Urumqi 乌鲁木齐

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