Topics on Political Governance and Development: The Development & Governance in China
政治治理與發展專題：中國發展與治理

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Course Hours: 2:10~5PM, Monday
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Semester: Spring 2009

Course Description/Objectives

As China has been rising dramatically in the past few decades from the ashes of the civil war-like ‘cultural revolution’ and is now increasingly integrated into the world system, its development and governance issues become more significant that the international society cannot simply ignore or underestimate. It is partly because China does not simply play an important role that power the world economy, serving as a world plant, but its development and governing mechanism has had a great impact upon both regional and global countries. The world health issue - SARS epidemic and the most recent milk toxic incident are examples of self-explanatory that demonstrate how and to what extent that China is heavily impacting upon the rest of the world.

This seminar-oriented course is in this context to critically investigate the relevant issues concerning the development and governance of Communist China, in particular from the 1980 onwards when the reform and opening policy was implemented. By means of reviewing existing literature with regard to the theoretical discussions on the theme of development, governance, governability, governance crisis and the like, we are well-positioned to explore and examine critically a number of (ongoing) development issues, such as party/political reform, social engineering project, and land reform project, that in one way or another relates to the PRC’s governance. It is hoped that through thought-provoking questions, class discussions, and essay writing will we enhance a critical and deeper understanding of China’s (in)capability in handling issues of development and governance in the age of globalization. Simply put, after taking this course, students should be better able to describe, explain, analyze, and/or predict many issues of development and governance in the Chinese context and their implication for the world, together with China’s sociopolitical / economic prospects in the decades ahead.
Grades  Your grades in this course will be allocated in the following way:

-- Class Participation and Oral Presentation(s)                     30%
-- One Short Essay (5,000 words)  (**deadline: 13 April 2009**) 30%
-- One Term Essay  (10,000 words) (**deadline: 22 June 2009**) 40%

Syllabus

Week 1 (16/2/09) Course Introduction

Week 2 (23/2/09) Historical Overview & Theories of Analysis of Chinese Politics

Week 3 (2/3/09)

Week 4 (9/3/09)

Week 5 (16/3/09)

Week 6 (23/3/09)

Week 7 (30/3/09) Reading Week (I)

Week 8 (6/4/09)
Week 9
*China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006), Chapters 2 & 3.

Week 10 (20/4/09)

Week 11 (27/4/09)

Week 12 (4/5/09) Film Time

Week 13 (11/5/09)

Week 14 (18/5/09)

Week 15 (25/5/09) Reading Week (II)

Week 16 (1/6/09)

Week 17 (8/6/09)

Week 18 (15/6/09) Course Review