Government and Politics in the People’s Republic of China

中国大陸政府與政治

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Course Hours: 3:10~6 pm, Tuesday
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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 Attendance, Participation, and Oral Presentation(s) 20%
-- Final Exam 40%
-- One Term Essay (12,000 Chinese words) (Deadline: 10 January 2012) 40%

Textbook
Supplementary Readings

2. 施哲雄等著，《發現當代中國》 (台北: 楊智, 2003)
3. 李英明編, 《中國大陸研究》 (台北: 巨流, 2007)
4. 徐斯儉、吳玉山編, 《黨國蛻變: 中共政權的菁英與政策》 (台北: 五南, 2007)
5. 趙建民, 《當代中共政治分析》 (台北: 五南, 2004)
6. 楊宏山, 《當代中國政治關係》 (台北: 巨流, 2004)
7. 楊光斌, 《中國政府與政治導論》 (台北: 巨流, 2006)
8. 黎安友, 從極權統治到韌性威權: 中國政治變遷之路，(台北: 巨流, 2007)
10. 法務部調查局展望與探索編, 《中國大陸綜覽》 (台北: 法務部調查局, 2008)

Syllabus

Week 1 (9/13)  Course Introduction
Week 2 (9/20)  Introduction (Ch.1)
Week 3 (9/27)  The Chinese Tradition (Ch.2)
Week 4 (10/4)  Reformers, Warlords, and Communists (Ch.3)
Week 5 (10/11)  The Communist Road to Power (Ch.4)
Week 6 (10/18)  PRC Politics under Mao: 1949-1976 (Ch.5)
Week 7 (10/25)  Film Time (I)
Week 8 (11/1)  PRC Politics in the Post-Mao Era: 1976-2007 (Ch.6)
Week 9 (11/8)  The Politics of the Economy (Ch.7)
Week 10 (11/15)  Crime and Punishment: The Legal System of the PRC (Ch.8)
Week 11 (11/22)  The Role of the Military (Ch.9)
Week 12 (11/29)  Quality-of-Life: Health, Demography, and the Environment (Ch.11)
Week 13 (12/6)  Conformity and Dissent: The Art, the Media, and Social Control (Ch.12)
Week 14 (12/13)  Ethnic Minorities and National Integration (Ch.13)
Week 15 (12/20)  Foreign Policy (Ch.14)
Week 16 (12/27)  Film Time (II)
Week 17 (1/3/12)  Final Exam
Week 18 (1/10/12)  Term Paper Due