



CIEE Beijing, China

Course title:	Government and Politics of China
Course code:	POLI 3002 CBEJ
Programs offering course:	Intensive Chinese Language
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2020

Course Description

This course is a comprehensive introduction to the contemporary politics of China, addressing current policy making issues in the Chinese government. However, my philosophy is that you would never be able to understand the “zhengzhi” (politics) in China unless you gain a better understanding of Chinese philosophy, that is, how the Chinese see the “yuzhou” (the Universe), how they engage themselves in thinking, and what they regard as important. Therefore, we will review the traditional structure of Chinese politics and its cultural correlativity in the beginning class sessions and start focusing on China's ongoing quest for modernity, a quest that has its roots in the 19th century and continues to shape Chinese politics today. The goal of the course is to let students familiarize themselves with the basic issues of government and politics of China and understand the changing scenarios. The topics, for example, are: the rise and effects of “nationalism,” the idea of “blue-water navy,” China's “peaceful rise,” “mega-farms” in Africa, food-security, “collective actions” in current China, the present transformation to new leadership, the impact of public perceptions of corruption on decision making, the party structure and the “Bo Xilai phenomena,” the state-society relations of China, environmental and social consequences of economic reform, etc. Of course, the basic issues of government and politics of China include: How do Chinese political institutions operate? How are Chinese political leaders chosen? How are policies made? What is the relationship between citizen and state in the Chinese context? What is the concept of governmental legitimacy in Chinese tradition? We will adopt a comparative Chinese and American political thought and theory perspective and gain the knowledge of China's politics on its own historical and cultural terms.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

1. Identify major issues of government policy and structure;
2. Understand and recount the objective conditions and cultural constructs that lie at the root of Chinese policy issues;
3. Identify the essence of the policies now being followed; and
4. Develop analytic skills in explaining political practices in China.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Lectures, discussions, observations, and good use of the Chinese environment, e.g., interviewing of or interaction with Chinese persons, and appropriate field trips to relevant institutions.



N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	12-Page Interview Paper	35%
2.	8 Quizzes	30%
3.	Class Presentation and Discussion	20%
4.	Class Participation	15%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

12-Page Interview Paper

The interview paper will be based on a deeper understanding of how the Chinese tradition and historical experiences are relevant to political decision-makings and practice in responding to internal and external political issues. Students may conduct interviews on an issue area, an event, a text, a story, etc., related to a particular dimension of contemporary Chinese government and politics. Please submit a topic proposal at the fifth class meeting (Monday October 8). You are expected to include your interview topic and outline your interview plan. The paper will be due in the final class session (December 3). In this article, you must cite books or articles on the subjects that have been assigned in class, and also other sources.

8 Quizzes

Quizzes contain questions regarding key political terms, figures, and conceptual issues, which are covered in previous classes. Questions will be given before the quiz is taken.

Class Presentation and Discussion

Regarding the mandatory readings from the texts and other materials, students are responsible for completing the assigned readings before each class and should read them critically since they are not neutral textbooks. You may consider if you really agree with the author’s arguments, if they are persuasive, and why the authors take the positions that they do.

Students are to assume discussions on selected articles or chapters based on their research of particular topics, and summarize and analyze them for the rest of the class. Each student is expected to lead at least one discussion and he/she is welcomed to volunteer to lead the rest of the topic discussions. For each class meeting we will usually have a 15-minute discussion on particular topics.

Class Participation

Students are also required to pay attention to current political issues in the news. It is recommended that students follow China news of at least a major China-based source. Suggested sources may include CCTV9 news program (<http://www.china.org.cn/English>); *People’s Daily* online English-language version (<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn>); *China Daily*, which is a China’s national English-language paper (<http://www.chinadaily.net>), etc.

Attendance:



It is expected that students will not be absent unless there is a pressing reason which should be communicated to the instructor. Being punctual, including returning from breaks on time shows respect to your classmates and instructor. As per CIEE academic policy I must deduct points: you will lose 2% for every unexcused absence and 1% every time you are late. This course requires a careful level of preparation, regular attendance, timely completion of reading assignments, and active participation in discussion by each student.

Attendance

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class Orientation Week

No class

Week 2

Class Introduction to Government and Politics of China

General introduction to the educational goals and requirements of the course.

Week 3

Class Chinese and Western Worldviews

What is the relevance of worldview and politics?

Reading:

Chenshan Tian. 2000. "Tongbian: A Chinese Strand of Thought." *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* 27:4, pp. 441-468

Session I - Key Research and Discussion Topic: Chinese "Nationalism"

Week 4

Class Modalities and Concepts: Chinese and Americans

What does politics mean in China? Ideal or realistic approach?

Reading:

Chenshan Tian. 2003. "Max Weber and China's Transition under the New Leadership." *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 8 (1-2), pp. 27-46

Quiz 1

Session II – Comparative East-West Political Thought and Theory

Week 5

Class National Holiday



No Class

Week 6

Class

Chinese Political Values (Culture)

What are the American Political values? How different are they in China?

Reading:

Hall, David & Ames, Roger. 1998. "The Chinese Individual." The Democracy of the Dead: Dewey, Confucius, and the Hope for Democracy in China, pp. 188-203. Open Court: Chicago and Lasalle.

Quiz 2

Session III – Key Research and Discussion Topic: Food Security and Policy; Collective action

Week 7

Class

Chinese Democracy

What is the ideal (or good) society of the Chinese assumption?

Readings:

Ku Hung-Ming. 2007. The Spirit of Chinese People, pp. 5-64. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "Debating Democracy." China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?, pp. 257-281. Oxford University Press.

Quiz 3

Session IV – Key Research and Discussion Topic:

Official Environmental Discourse and Government Policy

Week 8

Class

Economic Reform

What is the socialist market system?

Readings:

Ku Hung-Ming. 2007. The Spirit of Chinese People, pp. 64-143. Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press.

Rawski, Evelyn S. & Rawski, Thomas G. "China's Economic Development and Global Interactions in the Long Run," pp. 1-31. Paper prepared for the Harvard-Hitotsubashi-Warwick Conference "Economic Change Around the Indian Ocean in the Very Long Run," Venice, 22-24 July 2008.

Ramo, Joshua Copper. The Beijing Consensus, pp. 1-47. Foreign Policy Center.

Washington Consensus, pp.1-11.

Quiz 4

Session VI – Key Research and Discussion Topic:

Peaceful Rise; Environmental Consequences of the Reform Era; Mega-farms in Africa

Week 9

Class

The Communist Party

How different is the political party from that in the U.S.?

Readings:

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "Déjà vu all over again: China and the East Asian Model." *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?*, pp. 26-81. Oxford University Press

The 18th Party Congress, *China Leadership Monitor* (this reading will be given one week before this class)

Quiz 5

Session VII – Key Research and Discussion Topic:

The Transformation to New Leadership; Do people dare talk about Bo Xilai and the Trial of his Wife, Gu Kailai?

Week 10

Class

The People's Congress

What is the People's Congress in Chinese terms?

Readings:

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "Taking rights seriously? Official policy and actual practice." *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?*, pp. 82-128. Oxford University Press

Mao Zedong. 1938. "The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War," pp. 1-17.

Yang Fengchun. 2004. "The People's Congress System," pp. 10-15; "The Nature and Status of the People's Congresses," pp. 84-94; "Deputies to the NPC," pp. 94-118; "The Main Functions and Powers of the NPC and Its Standing Committee," pp. 124-138. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press.

Week 11

Class The Judicial System

Human rights in Chinese terms

Readings:

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "Institutional reform: rule of law and good Governance." China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?, pp. 184-232. Oxford University Press

Hall, David & and Ames, Roger. 1998. "Law, Constitution, and Community," pp. 214-220; "Communal Sources of Human Rights," pp. 221-239. Democracy of the Dead: Dewey, Confucius, and the Hope for Democracy in China. Open Court: Chicago and Lasalle.

Quiz 6

Session VIII – Key Research and Discussion Topic:

Social Consequences of Economic Reform

Week 12

Class Media and Politics

Media's role in Chinese terms

Readings:

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "Of rights and wrongs: why China is subject to a double standard on rights." China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?, pp. 163-183. Oxford University Press.

Chenshan Tian. 2003. "Free and Independent Media: The Narratives in China and the Reality of Globalization," pp. 1-19. Center for Chinese Studies.

Lu, Yiyi. 2007. "NGOs in China: Development Dynamics and Challenges." China Policy Institute, pp. 1-17.

Quiz 7

Session IX – Key Research and Discussion Topic:

Public Perception of Corruption and its Impact on Decision-making

Week 13

Class The Military

Why is the "People's" Army under the Control of the Party?

Readings:

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "What if China democratizes? What if doesn't." *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?*, pp. 257-281. Oxford University Press.

Shambaugh, David. 2002. "Civil-Military Relations in China: Party-Army or National Military?." *Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies* 16, pp. 10-29.

Quiz 8

Session X – Key Research and Discussion Topic:

"Blue-Water Navy" Impact on Decision-making

Week 14

Class Reading Week

No class

Week 15

Class State and Society

Why are the state and society not dualistic in Chinese terms?

Readings:

Peerenboom, Randall. 2007. "Social and Economic rights, law and order, women's rights, and cultural rights." *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?* pp. 129-162. Oxford University Press.

China's Political System. "The Central Administrative System." China Internet Information Center.

Session XI –Key Research and Discussion Topic:

Chinese Democracy and State-Society Relations

Interview Project Due

Course Materials

Readings

- China Internet Information Center. "China's Political System." V. The Central Administrative System. Web.
- Hall, David L., and Roger T. Ames. *The Democracy of the Dead: Dewey, Confucius, and the Hope for Democracy in China*. Chicago: Open Court Publishing, 1999. 188-203. Print.
- Ku, Hung-Ming. *The Spirit of Chinese People*. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2007. 5-64. Print.
- Lu, Yiyi. *NGOs in China: Development Dynamics and Challenges*. Nottingham: China Policy Institute, 2007. 1-17. Print.

- Mao, Zedong. The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War: Sixth Plenary Session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Party, 1938. Print.
- McGregor, Richard. The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers. New York: HarperCollins Publishing, 2010. Print.
- Naughton, Barry. The Chinese Economy: Transitions & Growth. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2007. Print.
- Peerenboom, Randall. China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest? Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. 257-81. Print.
- Ramo, Joshua Cooper. The Beijing Consensus. London: Foreign Policy Center, 2009. 1-47. Print.
- Rawski, Evelyn S., and Thomas G. Rawski. "China's Economic Development and Global Interactions in the Long Run." Harvard-Hitotsubashi-Warwick Conference "Economic Change Around the Indian Ocean in the Very Long Run" 2008. Print.
- Saich, Tony. Governance and Politics of China. 3rd ed. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Print.
- Shambaugh, David. "Civil-Military Relations in China: Party-Army or National Military?" Copenhagen Journal of Asian Studies 16 (2002): 10-29. Print.
- Tian, Chenshan. Center for Chinese Studies, 2003. 1-19. Print.
- Wakeman, Frederic E. The Fall of Imperial China. New York: Free Press, 1977. Print.
- Williamson, John. "Washington Consensus." International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and United States Department of the Treasury, 1989. Print.
- Yang, Fengchun. Chinese Government. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 2004. 10-15. Print.

Optional Readings

- McGregor, Richard. 2010. The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers. Harper Collins.
- Naughton, Barry. 2007. The Chinese Economy: Transitions & Growth. The Mit Press.
- Saich, Tony. 2004. Governance and Politics of China, 3rd ed. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Wakeman, Frederic E. 1977. The Fall of Imperial China. Free Press