

The Ohio State University
Fall 2005
PS 537 – Government and Politics of China

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Office Hours: M/W 2:30-3:15

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Course Description: This is an introductory course covering the government and politics of the People's Republic of China. The course will give students an overview of Chinese politics from the Opium War to the present, and will focus in more detail on contemporary political issues. Key topics include the causes of the revolution, the Mao Zedong era, post-Mao reforms, political economy, regional variation (urban-rural and coastal-interior), contemporary social movements, problems of labor and unemployment, and democratization.

Requirements: This course does not assume any prior knowledge of Chinese politics or history. All students are expected to have read the assigned material before class. Students are also expected to keep up-to-date on current developments and news related to Greater China. In addition to major U.S. and European newspapers, there are several English-language sources from Asia.

China: Beijing Review (www.bjreview.com.cn), China Daily (www.chinadaily.com.cn),
People's Daily (<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn>)

Hong Kong: Asia Times (www.atimes.com), Far Eastern Economic Review (www.feer.com),
Hong Kong Daily (<http://www.hongkongdaily.com/>), South China Morning Post
(www.scmp.com)

Taiwan: Taiwan News (www.etaiwannews.com)

Singapore: Channel News Asia (www.channelnewsasia.com), Straits Times
(www.straitstimes.asia1.com.sg)

Grades will be based on a midterm (30%), periodic quizzes (20% total) and a final exam (50%). Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance, and no make-ups will be permitted. Students may choose to write a term paper in place of the final exam. The term paper may be on any topic related to the course. Students choosing the term paper option are required to submit a paper abstract and meet with the instructor to discuss it no later than week 6. This abstract should include 1) a clear statement of the research question, 2) a summary (no more than one page) of existing scholarship on this question, and 3) an outline of the evidence you will draw upon in your paper. Term papers should be 10-12 pages. The term papers will be evaluated on the basis of both content and presentation. In other words, if you write a paper, make sure it is clearly written, well organized, and free of spelling or grammar errors!

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. The Office of Disability Services (292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall) will provide students with a letter documenting the disability, and will coordinate reasonable accommodations.

The following books are available for purchase:

Kenneth Lieberthal Governing China: From Revolution through Reform 2nd Edition (W.W. Norton, 2004)

Daniel B. Wright The Promise of the Revolution: Stories of Fulfillment and Struggle in China's Hinterland (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003)

Sept 21 Introduction

No reading

Week 1

Sept 26, 28 The Decline of the Qing Dynasty and The Republican Revolution

Lieberthal, Ch. 1-2

Week 2

Oct 3, 5 The Communist Road to Power and The New Order

Lieberthal, Ch. 3

Wright, Ch. 1-2

Week 3

Oct 10, 12 The Maoist Era

Lieberthal, Ch. 4-5

Week 4

Oct 17 China's Political System – Formal Structure and Actual Configuration of Power

Lieberthal, Ch. 6

Oct 19 MIDTERM EXAM

Week 5

Oct 24, 26 Rural Reform

Lieberthal, Ch. 7

Wright, Ch. 7-11

Week 6

Oct 31, Nov 1 Urban Reform

Lieberthal, Ch. 8

Wright, Ch. 13-16

Week 7

Nov 7, 9 Tiananmen and the Politics of Dissent

Wright, Ch. 12, 17-18

Week 8

Nov 14, 16 The Environment

Lieberthal, Ch. 9

Week 9

Nov 21, 23 **State and Society, Labor Issues**

Lieberthal, Ch. 10

Wright, Ch. 3-6

Week 10

Nov 28, 30 **China Faces the Future**

Lieberthal, Ch. 11