

Boston University
Dept of International Relations

CAS IR 527 – Spring 2008
Tues & Thurs: 2:30-4:00
Classroom: xxx

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CHINA

Professor Min Ye

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Course Description

This course will provide a comprehensive analytical and empirical discussion on China's economic reform. Three main questions are addressed: How did China implement economic reform? What were the state and society relationships during the reform era? How was Chinese political-economic development shaped by and in turn influencing the global system? All these questions are discussed in a comparative perspective by contrasting China with other major historical and present developing countries, including Japan and India.

The course first offers a background discussion of China's politics before the economic reform: the land reform, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution. It is followed by discussions on contemporary political economy within China. Topics included state's role in economic reform, the local governments, state-owned enterprises, private sectors, and international linkages. Then, the course discusses China's political development in the context of economic growth. The course is concluded with analyses of China's impact on the global system.

Course Reading

There are five books available for purchase at the BU bookstore. Other materials will be supplied in class or on course website. You are expected to finish the required reading before the class.

Barry Naughton. 2007. *The Chinese Economy: Transition and Growth*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Edward Steinfeld. 2000. *Forging Reform in China: The Fate of State-Owned Industry*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Center for Strategic and International Studies and Institute of International Economics (eds.). 2006. *China: The Balance Sheet*. Washington, DC: CSIS and IIE.

Joseph Fewsmith. 2001. *China since Tiananmen*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Nicholas R. Lardy. 2002. *Integrating China into the Global Economy*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.

Course Assignments

You are required to write a book review on a selected topic relating to China's political economy and present the review in the class. In addition, each of you writes comments on three book reviews of your classmates. The list of books for review will be supplied in the class. If you want to review a book of your own choice, you should confirm with the instructor. The book review is due on March 20 (Thursday) at the beginning of the class. Presentation schedule will be arranged in the latter half of the semester. At the end of the course, you are expected to write a research paper (25 pages) on a selected topic on China. The final paper is due on May 1 (Thursday).

Grading

Participation: 20%

Book review: 15%

Presentation: 10%

Comments: 5%

Research Paper: 50%

Policy on Absences

You are expected to attend all classes. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. Absences for illness for more than two days require a medical certificate. Absences for religious observances and for family or personal reasons require documentation. Absence for purposes of representing the University in authorized athletic events or officially sponsored activities are excused by notification from your sponsoring department or activity. The stated University policy reads: "Any student who has been excessively absent from a course may be required to withdraw from that course without credit." I define "excessively absent" for this course to be six absences, excused or not.

Policy on "Incompletes"

No incomplete grades will be reported unless the instructor and the student have conferred, the student has presented a sufficient reason why the work of the course cannot be completed on schedule, and the instructor has assigned a date within the succeeding twelve months by which time all course requirements must be completed. This must be in written form. A "contract" must be signed by the instructor and the student. No degree credit for incomplete courses will be granted unless the work is completed by the date assigned, which must be no later than one calendar year from the date on which the incomplete grade was reported. In the event that course work remains incomplete on the assigned date or twelve months after the "I" grade has been

awarded, whichever comes first, the “I” grade will be changed automatically and permanently to an F grade.

Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of the ideas or words of another as your own. It is taken very seriously at Boston University as at all institutions of higher learning. Those believed to have committed plagiarism must appear before the university disciplinary board a procedure that can result in a student’s suspension or expulsion. Your papers should contain appropriate citations. It is better to use too many citations than too few. If you have any doubt about what constitute plagiarism, please talk with me. I reserve the right to use computer software for plagiarism detection.

Consult <http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html> for a systematic discussion of Academic Conduct Code of the College of Arts and Sciences.

SESSION SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

Week 1: Introduction & Syllabus

Jan 17, Thur: China in the World

Week 2: Land Reform and Great Leap Forward

Stavis, Ben, “China and the Comparative Analysis of Land Reform,” *Modern China* 4, 1, January 1978.

Vogel Ezra, “Central Control: the Legacy of Land Reform,” *Canton Under Communism*, 91-110.

Barry Naughton, 55-73

Simplified Chronology of the PRC: to be provided

Summary charts on “Communist Party Organization,” “State Structure of the PRC”

Week 3: Why Cultural Revolution?

Anita Chan, Stanley Rosen, and Jonathan Unger, “Students and Class Warfare: The Social Roots of the Red Guard Conflict in Guangzhou,” *China Quarterly* 83, September 1980, 397-444.

Wang Xizhe, “Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution,” in A. Chan, S. Rosen, and J. Unger, *On Socialist Democracy and the Chinese Legal System*, 177-84, 206-08, 216-17, 232-39

Lynn White, “The Cultural Revolution as an Unintended Result of Administrative Policies,” in William Joseph, Christine Wong, and David Zweig, eds., *New Perspectives on the Cultural Revolution*, 83-104

Barry Naughton, 74-82

Week 4: Openness and Economic Reforms

Barry Naughton, 85-157

Week 5: The State

Kenneth Lieberthal and David Lampton (eds.), *Bureaucracy, Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China*, Chapter 1

Wang Shaoguang and Hu Angang, *The Chinese Economy in Crisis: State Capacity and Tax Reform*, Chapter 1

Dali Yang, *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan*. Chapter 1.

Week 6: Local Governments

Jean Oi, "Fiscal Reform and the Economic Foundation of Local State Corporatism in China," *World Politics*, October 1992.

Barry Naughton, *Rural Economy*, 229-246; 272-293

Jonathan Unger and Anita Chan, "Inheritors of the Boom: Private Enterprise and the Role of Local Government in a Rural South China Township," *The China Journal* (July 1999)

Andrew Walder, "Local Governments as Industrial Firms: An Organizational Analysis of China's Transitional Economy," *American Journal of Sociology*, September 1995.

Adam Segal and Eric Thun, "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Local Governments, Industrial Sectors, and Development in China," *Politics & Society*, 29, 4, December, 2001.

Week 7: SOE

Edward Steinfeld. *Forging Reform in China*.

Week 8: Private Sector

Barry Naughton, 297-325

Bruce Dickson, *Red Capitalism in China: The Party, Private Entrepreneurs and Prospects for Political Change*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Chapter 1 & 5

Week 9: Financial Reform

Edward Steinfeld. "Moving beyond Transition in China: Financial Reform and the Political Economy of Declining Growth," *Comparative Politics*.

John Danglois, "The WTO and China's Financial System," *The China Quarterly*, No. 167, September 2001.

Barry Naughton. 451-478

Mar 20, Thursday: Book Review

Week 10: International Linkage

Barry Naughton, 375-422.

Nicolas Lardy, *Integrating China into the Global Economy*, chapter 1-3

Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, chapter 4

Week 11: State and Elite Politics in the Reform Era

Joseph Fewsmith, *China since Tiananmen*. Ch 1, 3-5, 7

Week 12: Labor and Democratization in the Reform Era

Mary Gallagher, "Reform and Openness: Why China's Economic Reforms have Delayed Democracy," *World Politics*.

Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, chapter 3

Supplementary reading: Min Ye, working paper.

Week 13: Knowledge Economy and Sustainable Development

Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, chapter 2

Barry Naughton, 329-371.

Week 14: Challenges to the U.S

Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, chapter 1, 5, 6.

Zheng Bijian, "China Peaceful Rise," *Foreign Affairs* Sept/Oct 2005, pp. 18-24

Alastair Ian Johnston, "Is China a Status Quo Power," *International Security*, Spring 2003, Vol 27, No. 4

Aaron Friedberg, "The Future of U.S-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security*, Vol 30, No. 2 (Fall, 2005), pp. 7-45

Week 15: China in the World

Barry Naughton, 487-495

David Zweig and Bi Jianhai, "China's Global Hunt for Energy," *Foreign Affairs* Sept/Oct 2005.

Reading: Michael Glosny, "Stabilizing the Periphery: China's Strategy toward ASEAN," *Asian Security*, Vol 2, No 1 (2006), pp.24-57

Peter Hays Gries, "China's New Thinking on Japan," *China Quarterly*, 2005, pp. 832-850

Joshua Cooper Ramo. "The Beijing Consensus." <http://fpc.org.uk/fsblob/244.pdf>

Mauricio Mesquita Moreira. 2004. "Fear of China: Is There a Future for Manufacturing in Latin America?"

<http://129.3.20.41/eps/dev/papers/0412/0412008.pdf>

FINAL PAPER: May 1, Thursday

