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.


Course Assignments
There are four assignments that will be graded in this class. Each reflects a critical skill and knowledge that this course strives to impart. The first component is participation, which requires you not only be present physically but also intellectually. Every student is expected to read the assigned reading before class and join in the discussion and interact with your classmates and instructor.

There will be two exams: mid-term and final. The mid-term will be administered on March 5, Wed. No exception. The final exam will be administered on the date decided by the university. These exams consist questions that challenge you to analyze the reading materials and formulate your independent and critical arguments. More instructions will be provided later.

The last part of your assignment tests your research, oral presentation, and writing skills. On a self-selected topic, you will be asked to survey Lexus-Nexis and other online journals to find the various debates presented on that particular topic in China. You will present your findings in the last three classes. On April 28 (Monday), you are expected to submit your report on that assignment. The final exam is a take-home, but due at the university designated final exam time.

Grading
Participation: 20%
Mid-term: 25%
Final exam: 25%
News survey & Presentation & Report: 30%
(can be small group projects)

Policy on Absences
You are expected to attend all classes. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. 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 five absences, excused or not.

Policy on “Incompletes”
No incomplete grades will be reported.

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.


**Important Dates!!**
FIRST DAY OF CLASS: JANUARY 15, WEDNESDAY
FIRST MIDTERM: MARCH 5, WEDNESDAY
SPRING RECESS: MARCH 8-16
DUE DATE OF RESEARCH REPORT: APRIL 28, MONDAY
FINAL EXAM: UNIVERSITY TBA

**SESSION SCHEDULE**
(subject to change)

**Week 1: Jan 15**
*Introduction of the Syllabus*
Small group discussion

**Week 2: Jan 22, Legacies**
Tradition, Barry Naughton, 1-53 (Ch 1 &2)
Socialism, Barry Naughton, 55-82 (Ch3)

**Week 3: Jan 27 & 29, Openness and Economic Reforms**
Barry Naughton, 85-135 (Ch 4 &5); Ch 10, Ch 12

**Week 4: Feb 3 & 5, The State**
Kenneth Lieberthal and David Lampton (eds.), *Bureaucracy, Politics, and Decision Making in Post-Mao China*, Chapter 1

**Week 5: Feb 10 & 12, Local Governments**
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)

Week 6: Feb 19, SOE
Edward Steinfeld. Forging Reform in China.
Small-group assignment for class presentation and research project

Week 7: Feb 24 & 26, continue SOE, Private Sector
Continue on SOE reform, present cases of steel companies from Steinfeld’s book.
Barry Naughton, 297-325

Week 8: Mar 3, continue Private sector
Chapter 1 & 5

Mar 5, Mid-term Exam

Week 9: Mar 17 & 19, Financial Reform
Barry Naughton. 451-478
Reread, Victor Shih, Financial reform in China

Week 10: Mar 24 & 26, 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: Mar 31 & Apr 2, 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

Week 12: April 7 & 9, Logic and Limitation of Political Reforms in China
Fewsmith, 2013

Presentation on cases, small groups

**Week 13: Apr 14 & 16, Challenges to the U.S**
Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, chapter 1, 5, 6.

**Week 14: April 23, China in the World**
Barry Naughton, 487-495

**April 24, 28 & 30, Presentation**

**FINAL Exam: Due on the date of final exam as designated by the Registrar**