THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CHINA

Professor Min Ye

Office: 156 Bay State RD, #205
Office Hour: Mon, 1-2 pm; Wed 11-12 pm; Fri, 11:30-12:30 pm
Office Phone: 617-353-8700
E-mail: ye@bu.edu

Course Description
This course will provide a comprehensive analytical and empirical discussion on China’s economic reform and globalization. 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
Please purchase the required books online. 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 22, Wed (Half class)**. 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, writing, and teamwork skills. The class will be divided into FOUR groups and each group is assigned a research subject. On the assigned topic, the group should survey all materials available, share their research and findings in class across the semester, and in the end each student writes an independent report. The last class is reserved for four presentations in groups. The individual reports are due on **May 3, Wednesday**. The final exam is scheduled for the university designated final exam time.

**Grading**

- Participation: 20%
- Mid-term: 25%
- Final exam: 25%
- Individual Report: 30%

**Special Events:**

- Group research and share: in the beginning of the semester, the professor solicits four research questions submitted by the students and divides the class into 4 groups. The groups conduct their independent research on the designated questions, and share their findings in class. In general, two teams share their experiences and findings in each class.
- Surprise visitors: when scheduling works, the professor will arrange 1-2 surprise visits by visitors.

**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 three 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 25, WEDNESDAY
MIDTERM: MARCH 22, WEDNESDAY
SPRING RECESS: MARCH 5-13
DUE DATE OF INDIVIDUAL REPORT: May 3, WENDESDAY
FINAL EXAM: UNIVERSITY TBA

SESSION SCHEDULE
(subject to change)

Week 1: Jan 25
Introduction of the Syllabus
Self-introduction; Assign the four research groups

Week 2: 2/1, History and Legacies
China’s Tradition: Naughton, 1-53 (Ch 1 &2)
Socialism: Barry Naughton, 55-82 (Ch3)

Week 3: 2/8 Openness and Economic Reforms
Barry Naughton, 85-135 (Ch 4 &5); Ch 10, Ch 12

Week 4: 2/15 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
Week 5: 2/22 Local Governments
Barry Naughton, Rural Economy, 229-246; 272-293

Week 6: 3/1 FDI in China
Min Ye. *Diasporas and FDI.*
*Student-guided reading and case analysis*

Week 7: Spring Recess

Week 8: 3/15 Globalization in China
Barry Naughton, 375-422.
Fred Bergsten, Bates Gill, Nicholas Lardy, and Derek Mitchell, chapter 4, scanned.
Debating China, Naughton-Yao Yang debate
Min Ye, China’s new Silk Roads, article.

Week 9: 3/22 Financial Reform
Barry Naughton. 451-478

Mid-term Exam

Week 10: 3/29 Labor, Democracy, and Politics in China
Mary Gallagher, “Reform and Openness: Why China’s Economic Reforms have Delayed Democracy,” *World Politics*.

**Week 12: 4/5 Logic and Limitation of Political Reforms in China**
Fewsmith, 2013

*Student-guided reading and case analysis*

**Week 13: 4/12 Challenges to the U.S**
Debating China, Lieberthal – Wang Jisi debate

U.S-China Relations in the Trumpland

**4/19: No Class**

**4/26: Synthesi and Moving forward**

**5/3: Individual reports due; group oral presentation**

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