

An Introduction to Contemporary Chinese Political Economy

University of Göttingen, Department of East Asian Studies

June 24-26, 2011

Course Instructor: Sarah Eaton

Objectives:

This course is a brief introduction to the study of Chinese political economy in the reform era (1978-present). The course aims to develop students' basic knowledge of the subject while also engaging them on key questions in the study of Chinese political economy including: What are the most significant historical legacies of the pre-reform period? What are the politics of economic "reform and opening" (*gaige kaifang*) in the early (1978-1989) and later (1989-present) periods? How is China's "going forth" (*zou chu qu*) into global markets affecting China's own development path and those of other countries? How have the imperatives of single-party rule shaped the reform process?

Course Textbooks:

Barry Naughton (2007), *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, Boston: MIT Press.

Kenneth Lieberthal (2004), *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, New York: W.W. Norton

Naughton and Lieberthal's text will serve as the core references for this course. Additional readings are included as per the "topics" sections below. Students may also find the following sources helpful in preparing their class presentations:

Media:

The China Daily <http://www.eeo.com.cn/ens/>
The Global Times <http://www.globaltimes.cn/>
The Economic Observer <http://www.eeo.com.cn/ens/>
China Digital Times <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/>
Caijing <http://english.caijing.com.cn/>

Scholarly Journals:

The China Quarterly
The China Journal
The Chinese Economy
China & World Economy
China Economic Journal
Asian Survey

Course Assessment:

<i>Class Participation</i> The instructor will evaluate both the quantity and quality of student contributions to class discussions.	[Prüfungsvorleistung]
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<p><i>Class Presentation</i></p> <p>Students should form groups of 4-5 and organize a presentation on one of the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Topic 1:</i> From Mao to Deng: Legacies of the Pre-Reform Era and the Beginnings of Change • <i>Topic 2:</i> The Chinese Approach to Economic Reform • <i>Topic 3:</i> Exploring the Links Between Economic and Political Reform • <i>Topic 4:</i> Growth of the Private Sector • <i>Topic 5:</i> Going Forth: The Beginnings of China’s Expansion Abroad • <i>Topic 6:</i> Examining Chinese Capitalism • <i>Topic 7:</i> China’s New Transition: Facing up to the Environmental Challenge <p>The presentations should aim to: 1) summarize key findings from the assigned readings, and; 2) address key questions and major points of debate in the literature. Each group should select three topics and the instructor will assign the final topics. Use of powerpoint is encouraged but not mandatory.</p> <p>The presentations should be <i>*no longer*</i> than 20 minutes long and each will be followed by 10 minutes of discussion and Q&A. Each presentation should include 2-3 questions for class discussion.</p>	<p>[Prüfungsvorleistung]</p>
<p><i>Final Exam</i></p> <p>The exam will be a mix of short answers and essay questions.</p>	<p>100%</p>

Timeline

When?	What?	Who?
Friday, June 24		
13.00	Introduction & First Lecture “China’s Approach to Economic Reform in Comparative Perspective”	Instructor
14.30	Break	
14.45-15.15	Student Presentation: Topic 1 20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	TBD
15.30-16.00	Student Presentation: Topic 2 20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	TBD
16.00	Wrap up and Outlook on Day 2	
Saturday, June 25		
9.00	Lecture “Exploring the Politics of Chinese Reform”	Instructor
10.30	Break	
10.45-11.15	Student Presentation: Topic 3 20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	TBD
11.30-12.00	Student Presentation: Topic 4	TBD

	20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	
12.00	Lunch	
13.30	Lecture "Globalization of the Chinese Economy"	Instructor
14.30	Break	
14.45	Video Presentation	TBD
16.00	Wrap up and outlook on day 3	
Sunday, June 26		
9.00	Lecture "New Transitions: Where is China Headed?"	Instructor
10.10	Student Presentation: Topic 5 20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	TBD
10.50	Student Presentation: Topic 6 20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	TBD
11.30	Student Presentation: Topic 7 20 mins presentation; 10 mins. class discussion	TBD
12.00	Feedback and Wrap Up	

Topics:

Topic 1: From Mao to Deng: Legacies of the Pre-Reform Era and the Beginnings of Change

Key Questions: What economic problems did China's economic reformers face in 1978? What impact have geographic, political and historical realities had on shaping China's approach to reform?

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, pp. 3-83.

Kenneth Lieberthal (2004) *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform*, pp. 84-131

(n.b. students with particular interest in China's 20th century politics are advised to read earlier chapters in Lieberthal).

Topic 2: The Chinese Approach to Economic Reform

Key questions: What are the key features of China's gradual approach to economic reform? What are the pros and cons of this approach?

Barry Naughton (2007) *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, pp. 85-110.

Kenneth Lieberthal (2004) *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform*, pp. 127-166; 245-272.

Pei Minxin (2006) *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* (Cambridge: Harvard UP), pp. 1-16.

Topic 3: Exploring the Links Between Economic and Political Reform

Key question: What impact have economic reforms had on the prospects for democracy in China?

Kenneth Lieberthal (2004) *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform*, pp. 289-314.

Kellee Tsai (2007) *Capitalism without Democracy* (Ithaca: Cornell UP), pp. 1-16.

Bruce Gilley (2004) *China's Democratic Future: How it Will Happen and Where it Will Lead* (New York: Columbia UP), pp. 3-94.

Topic 4: Growth of the Private Sector

Key question: What are the key features of China's private sector development? How did it originate? What imprint has Communist Party rule left on the private sector?

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, pp. 297-326.

Bruce Dickson (2008) *Wealth into Power: The Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector*, pp. 1-100.

Topic 5: Going Forth: The Beginnings of China's Expansion Abroad

Key question: What impact is China's rise having on parts of the developing world?

Deborah Brautigam (2009) *The Dragon's Gift: The Real Story of China in Africa* (Oxford: Oxford UP), pp. 1-19; 71-127.

Harry G. Broadman (2008) "China and India go to Africa: New Deals in the Developing World" *Foreign Affairs* 87(2): 95-109.

Rhys Jenkins, Enrique Dussel Peters and Mauricio Mesquita Moreira (2008) "The Impact of China on Latin America and the Caribbean" *World Development* 36(2): 235-253.

Topic 6: Examining Chinese Capitalism

Key questions: What are the key features of China's emerging economic system? What, if anything, is new about Chinese capitalism?

Huang Yasheng (2008) *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*, pp. ix-50.

Ian Bremmer (May/June, 2009) "State Capitalism Comes of Age: The End of the Free Market" *Foreign Affairs*: 11 pages.

John Cassidy (December 13, 2010) "Enter the Dragon: Why 'State Capitalism' is China's Biggest Knockoff" *The New Yorker*, 3942 words.

Richard McGregor (2010) *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers* (London: Allen Lane), pp. 34-69.

Topic 7: China's New Transition: Facing up to the Environmental Challenge

Key question: What does the effort to "green" China's economy mean for economic growth?

Barry Naughton (2007) *The Chinese Economy*, pp. 487-503.

Kenneth Lieberthal (2004) *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, pp. 275-288.

Elizabeth Economy (2010) *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China's Future*, 2nd edition (Ithaca: Cornell UP), pp. 59-134.