In this course we will examine contemporary Chinese politics, covering regime institutions and processes, policies and their effects, and the dynamics of political development. We will begin with a brief overview of Chinese political history since the founding of the People's Republic, then discuss the reform era beginning in 1978. We will address the role of the Chinese Communist party and central government, as well as the role of subnational government. We will examine state-society relations and political participation and protest as well as economic and social policy. We will briefly cover China's international political and economic relations before concluding with a discussion of the policy challenges China faces in the future.

No prior background in the study of China is expected. However, POLS 120 or its equivalent is a prerequisite.

Two required textbooks are assigned:
   Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, paperback


Other assigned readings will be available on Blackboard.

Grading:

There will be one mid-term and one final exam, each counting 30% toward the final grade. Each will consist of short identification questions and an essay. In addition, a research paper (approximately 20 pages in length) will be required. Students will be required to submit, in writing and by specified deadlines throughout the semester, a statement of the topic of the paper; an outline; a bibliography; and a final draft. The grading is as follows:

1. statement of topic: not graded. Due January 30
2. outline: 10% of course grade. Due March 2
3. bibliography: 10% of course grade. Due April 1
4. final draft: 20% of course grade. Due April 27
5. total: 40% of course grade
Class attendance and participation, as well as improvement over the semester, will be taken into account in determining the final grade.

January 14. introduction to course

January 16. Overview--regional diversity
   Saich, GPC, chs. 1-2

   Saich, GPC, ch. 3;
   Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China: From Revolution through Reform, 2nd ed., ch. 4, pp. 84-122

Jan. 23. Mao and the post-Mao era

Jan. 26. Political history since 1978
   Ezra Vogel, Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China (Harvard University Press, 2011), ch. 24, "China Transformed"

Jan. 28. Political history since 1978, con't
   Saich, ch. 4

Jan. 30. Xi Jinping and the consolidation of power. **Paper topic statement due.**
   Elizabeth Economy, "China’s Imperial President," Foreign Affairs, Nov./Dec. 2014
   Xi Jinping, "The Governance of China," China Watch, China Today

Feb. 2. Communist Party structure
   Saich, GPC, ch. 5.
   Fewsmith, "Elite Politics," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 8.

Feb. 6. Factionalism and Ideology
   Ren Jiantao, "Ideology," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 10
   Dickson, Bruce J., Wealth into Power: The Communist Party’s Embrace of China’s
Feb. 8. Central govt and policy-making
   Saich, GPC, ch. 6

Feb. 11. Central govt and policy-making, con’t

Feb. 13. Toward pluralism?

Feb. 16. Subnational government
   Saich, GPC, ch. 7
   Minxin Pei, China’s Trapped Transition (Harvard University Press, 2006), ch. 4, "Transforming the State: From Developmental to Predatory," pp. 132-166.

Feb. 18. Market-preserving federalism?

Feb. 20. No class.

Feb. 23. Market-corroding federalism?
   Hongbin Cai and Daniel Treisman, "Did Government Decentralization Cause China’s Economic Miracle?," World Politics 58: 505-535.

Feb. 25. Local government and accountability
   Zheng, "Center-Local Relations," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 11.
   Yawei Liu, "Local Elections," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 9. (Yawei Liu to visit)

Feb. 27. Local government and accountability, con’t

Mar. 2. Village elections. Paper outline due
Martinez-Bravo et al., “Elections in China”

Mar. 4. Midterm review

Mar. 6. Midterm exam

Mar. 18. Economy
Saich, GPC, ch. 10
Naughton, "Economic Growth," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 4.

March 20. Economy, con’t
Heilmann, "Economic Governance," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 6.

March 23. Inequality
Riskin, "Inequality," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 5.

March 25. Labor relations
Saich, GPC, ch. 11

March 27. Labor relations, con’t
Remington & Cui paper on labor contract law

March 30. Religion and ethnicity
Weller and Sun, "Religion," in Fewsmith, CTCT
Susan McCarthy, Communist Multiculturalism, ch. 3, "Dharma and Development among the Xishuangbanna Dai"

Apr. 1. Political participation and protest. Paper bibliography due
April 15. Policy challenges 2: Urbanization

April 17. No class (MPSA)

April 20. Policy challenges 3: energy and environment
Cunningham, "Energy Governance" ch. 12 in Fewsmith, CTCT
Lewis, "Environmental Challenges," ch. 13 in Fewsmith, CTCT

Apr. 22. Policy challenge 4: rule of law
   Horsley, "Rule of Law," in Fewsmith, CTCT, ch. 3

Apr. 24. Policy challenges 5: pluralism and governance
   Saich, GPC, ch. 13.
   Yu Keping, "Democracy Is a Good Thing" (excerpts on Blackboard)

April. 27. last day of class. Final exam review.

Wednesday, May 6: 11:30 - 2:00. Final exam (in-class blue-book exam. Bring blue books)