Seminar on the Political Economy of the People’s Republic of China
--Outline of the Course

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Course Description

This graduate-level course explores various dimensions of the political, economic, and social developments of the People’s Republic of China since 1979. In addition to familiarizing the students with the empirical evidence and relevant methodology of such developments, this course also introduces the theoretical evolution/debates both in China studies and authoritarianism in comparative politics. An extended goal of this course is to prepare the students for delving into new research topics and conducting independent field research in China in the future. Specifically, the topics covered in this class comprise four parts: (1) political development of China; (2) economic reform and transition of China; (3) issues of governance in China; and (4) China and comparative politics.

Students are required to finish all the required readings and be prepared for heavy class participation before each class meeting. Lectures by the instructors where necessary play a supplementary role only.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

- Written summary of readings and oral presentation thereof, and class participation (50%).
- Term paper or in-class final examination (50%).

Weekly Topics and Required Readings

1. Historical Overview and the State of the Field
1. **Political Development**

2. **Elite Politics**

3. **Central-Local Relations**

II. **Economic Reform and Transition**

4. **General Perspectives on China’s Overall Development and Economic Transition**

5. **Property Rights, FDI/Foreign Trade, and China’s Economic Reform**


7. The Party-State and Economic Transition

8. The Economic, Political, and Social Aspects of China’s Private Sector

III. Issues of Governance

9. Social Change and State-Society Relations

10. Political Reform and Democratization at the Systemic Level
- Wei Pan, “Towards a Consultative Rule of Law Regime in China,” Journal of Contemporary China 12(34) (February 2003), pp. 3-43. （台大圖書館電子期刊全文電子檔）

11. Local Governance (II): Rural Issues

IV. China and Comparative Politics

12. China and Comparative Political Economy

13. Perspectives from Studies on Authoritarianism
14. **China and Authoritarianism (I): The Communist Party and the Cadres**

15. **China and Authoritarianism (II): The Legislatures, the Courts, and the Elections**