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PSC 328H.01: Politics of China

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Political Science 328
Politics of China

Autumn 1995
Office Hours: 9:30-11:00 MWF
or by appointment
Office: LA 349

Text: Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China

Course Requirements:

The study of government and politics in China requires an approach different from that taken with most countries. It is difficult, and not always rewarding, to focus on description of institutions and processes. Hence, the orientation of this course is toward analysis and interpretation of China's 20th century political experience with particular emphasis upon the distinctive stages of transformation from a classical monarchy to a modern state.

There will be two one-hour exams. The first will be on October 5 and the second on November 9. Each exam counts for 20% of the final grade. A two-hour comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 18 at 10:10-12:10. The final exam counts for 40% of the final grade. NO EARLY FINALS WILL BE GIVEN! Exams will consist mainly of essay type questions but there will also be some short identification questions.

Additional work consists of a presentation and a paper addressed to some aspect of contemporary Chinese politics (contemporary means post-World War II.) The presentation should be approximately 10 minutes long. The material of the presentation should be written up in a paper (5-10 pages long) which in addition to describing the topic and summarizing the information in the presentation contains a bibliography. The mechanics of the paper must follow the Turabian manual of style (fifth edition). Papers which fail to conform to Turabian will be returned for correction. The presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. All papers are due November 30. The presentation/paper counts for 20% of the final grade. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR ANY REASON INCLUDING PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPUTERS AND WORD PROCESSORS. THEREFORE IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT BEFORE THE DEADLINE. EARLY PAPERS ARE WELCOME!

In order to make the experience of this course as congenial as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read the Kaimin, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

TOPIC OUTLINE

READING ASSIGNMENT

I. Foundations of Chinese Politics

Introduction

Lieberthal, preface

The Imperial System

Lieberthal, Ch. 1

Impact of the West

II. The Chinese Revolution: Part I

Collapse of the ancien regime

The Republican Era

Lieberthal, Ch. 2

World War II

III. The Chinese Revolution: Part II

Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought

Lieberthal, Ch. 3

The Maoist Era

Lieberthal, Ch. 4

First Exam -- October 5

IV. The Chinese Revolution: Part III

The Reform Era

Lieberthal, Ch. 5

Market Socialism

V. The Political System

Organization and Structure

Lieberthal, Ch. 6

The Chinese Approach to Politics

Lieberthal, Ch. 7

After Deng, Who?

Lieberthal, Ch. 8

Second Exam-- November 9

VI. Policy Issues

Economic Development

Lieberthal, Ch. 9

The Environment

Lieberthal, Ch. 10

State Building

Lieberthal, Ch. 11

Future Challenges

Lieberthal, Ch. 12, Conclusions

VII. Foreign Relations

Final Exam-- December 18 ((10:10-12:10 UH 210)

Note: October 9 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.