This course provides a graduate level introduction to the study of Chinese politics. The course explores both the content of 20th and 21st century Chinese political history with an emphasis on the past thirty years of reform as well as the methods and approaches used by scholars trying to peer into this often opaque society. Substantive topics include the transition to Communist rule, economic reforms, contemporary social movements, development, urbanization, and inequality. Methodologically, the course focuses on how to conduct research in today’s China by assessing the tools of “China Hands” past and present.

**Course Requirements**

1. Reactions and Participation  
   50%
2. Research Prospectus  
   50%

Each student is responsible for writing short reactions (< 2 pages) to the readings each week of the quarter to be shared with the class and instructor by noon on Monday before the session. They should be full of questions, comments, and synthesis (not summary) on the readings of the week and your take on them. The research prospectus is described in the Week 1 piece by Roeder with the addendum that I would like for you to at least begin some analysis of data if possible.

**Policies and Procedures**

This course follows all normal University procedures, including those related to disability services and academic misconduct. Language regarding those policies is below.

**Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)).

**Disability Services**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; [http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/).
Schedule of Readings
Available on Carmen, linked, on reserve at the library, or available at a bookstore of your choosing. If you have a problem obtaining the materials, please let me know immediately. The following two textbooks may be useful for those without extensive background in Chinese politics.


Week 1
Mar. 29

Introduction
Film
[1] Phil Roeder, On Writing a Research Prospectus

Week 2 – Introduction
Apr. 5


Week 3 – Data Sources and Resources
Apr. 12

Week 4 – Factions and Elite Politics
Apr. 19

[6*] Special Issue of the China Journal 34 (July 1995)

Week 5 – Fiscal Reforms
Apr. 26


Week 6 – Industrialization and Reform
May 3


Week 7 – Protests & Social Movements
May 10

Week 8 – China in Top Journals Today
May 17


Week 9 – International Relations
May 24

Week 10 – Presentations and Future Directions
May 31