CONTEMPORARY CHINESE HISTORY

Professor Li
Office: GAR 3.202
GAR 1.122
Office Hours: MWF 10:30-11:30 am
Friday 2:00-5:00
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Fall 2010
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Course Description:

This seminar examines major empirical studies and new perspectives on the history of China since 1950. Topics include state and society, ideology and discourse, the Cultural Revolution, gender and the family, population and economy, political reforms and popular resistance, democracy and human rights, globalization and nationalism, and the changing approaches of research in the field.

Books available from University Co-op:

(* Electronic version available online from PCL or via course website)

*Huaiyin Li, Village China under Socialism and Reform (Stanford, 2009)
Elizabeth Perry and Li Xun, Proletarian Power: Shanghai in the Cultural Revolution (Westview, 1997)
Mayfair Yang, Gifts, Favors, and Banquets: The Art of Social Relationships in China (Cornell, 1994)
*Yasheng Huang, Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State (Cambridge, 2008)
Merle Goldman, From Comrade to Citizen: The Struggle for Political Rights in China (Harvard, 2007)

Writing Assignments:

Three “think pieces,” due September 24, October 22, and December 14; or a single research paper due December 14.

Schedule:
(Please note that the following schedule is tentative and subject to change as the semester progresses.)

Aug. 27 Introduction: History and Historiography

Sept. 3 Transition to Socialism
H. Li, *Village China under Socialism and Reform*, Chapters 2, 3, 8, 9, 10


**Sept. 10**

**The Great Leap Forward**

H. Li, *Village China under Socialism and Reform*, Chapter 4


**Sept. 17**

**The Cultural Revolution (I): Events in the City**

E. Perry and Li Xun, *Proletarian Power* (full text)


Mobo Gao, “Debating the Cultural Revolution: Do We Only Know What We Believe?” *Critical Asian Studies*, 34:3, 419-434, 2002


**Sept. 24**

**The Cultural Revolution (II): Events in the Village**

H. Li, *Village China under Socialism and Reform*, Chapters 5-7


**Oct. 1**

**Chinese Society: Continuity and Changes**

Mayfair Yang, *Gifts, Favors, and Banquets* (full text)

Oct. 8 Post-Mao Reform and Development (I): Rural China

H. Li, Village China under Socialism and Reform, Chapters 11, 12, 13, 14
T. Bernstein and X. Lü, “Taxation without Representation: Peasants, the Central and the Local States in Reform China,” The China Quarterly, No. 163 (Sep., 2000), pp. 742-763

Oct. 15 Post-Mao Reform and Development (II): Urban China

Y. Huang, Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics (full text)

Oct. 22 Women and Gender

E. Perry and M. Selden, Chinese Society, Chapter 6 (S. Friedman, “Women, Marriage, and the State in Contemporary China”)

Oct. 29 Political Participation and Popular Rights

M. Goldman, From Comrade to Citizen (full text)


Nov. 5  
**Resistance and Protest (I)**

Nov. 12  
**Resistance and Protest (II)**
- E. Perry and M. Selden, *Chinese Society*, Chapters 7-12

Nov. 19  
**Leadership and Authority**

December 3  
**Conclusion**
Presentation of think pieces/research papers