This course is designed for those students who have done previous work in the China field and have some basic knowledge on the history, politics, economy and sociology of the People's Republic of China. It familiarizes students with the important and current literature on China as a way of enhancing understanding of the critical developmental and political issues facing contemporary China.

The course provides a historical perspective for the study of Chinese politics and development. Current issues in the Economic Reform era are emphasized. Theoretical critique on party state and socialist system are introduced as the structural frame for discussion. A review of political evolution covering the First Five-Year Plan, Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution, and Economic Reform, gives a chronology of development policy changes. Key Reform political and development issues, including development constraints, industrialization & urbanization, legal system, income & economic disparity, social unrest & protest, production enterprise, provincial governance, leadership succession, political civilization are discussed. These topics are relevant to not only the discipline of political economy, development and planning, but also social sciences in general. Such an approach allows for comparisons with experiences and policies in other developing countries.

COURSE REQUIREMENT

This is a course for reading and seminar discussion. Student's participation is essential. Course grades are based on one reading presentation and review, and one research paper.