

Political Culture and Public Opinion in Contemporary China

<i>Course Code:</i>	<i>POLI170006</i>
<i>Course Title:</i>	<i>Political Culture and Public Opinion in Contemporary China</i>
<i>Credit:</i>	<i>2</i>
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Course Description

After the Reform and Opening Up, China has experienced tremendous transformation in both political and socioeconomic fields. During this process, ordinary citizens are becoming more and more important in the country's political life. Political culture and public opinion research concerns about how ordinary citizens think about politics, government performance, and specific public policies. This course explores the nature and dynamics of the political culture and public opinion in contemporary China, it is divided into three major parts: theories of political culture and factors that affect public opinion; the rise of public opinion in contemporary China; and how public opinion affect political behavior and governmental policy in the end. Through this course, students are expected to gain a better understanding of political culture and public opinion in contemporary China.

Course Requirement

Course attendance is required. Please read the readings before the class and you are strongly encouraged to participate in the class discussion.

This course tolerates no plagiarism, any acts of plagiarism will be punished in accordance with the university's policy.

Grading

Attendance and class participation: 20%

Reading presentation: 20%.

The presentation should cover all the readings of a specific lecture. You are suggested

to summarize the content of the required readings first, and then present your comments, criticisms, and thoughts. Each presentation will have 15 minutes in maximum, followed by 5 minutes Q & A. The reading presentation is conducted within each lecture, it starts from Lecture 3.

Proposal presentation: 20%.

Each presentation will have 15 minutes in maximum, followed by 5 minutes Q & A. The proposal presentation is conducted at Lecture 9.

Final research proposal: 40%.

The proposal should be an empirical topic, and related to the issues introduced in this course.

Learning Resources

All the reading materials will be uploaded to the E-learning system (<http://elearning.fudan.edu.cn/portal>).

English Journals and Articles: <http://scholar.google.com.hk/>; <http://www.jstor.org/>.

Survey Data: World Value Survey (www.worldvaluessurvey.org); Asian Barometer Survey (<http://www.asianbarometer.org/>), etc.,

Course Schedule

Lecture 1: Theories of Political Culture

Readings: Almond, Gabriel A. Almond and Sidney Verba, *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1963. Chapter I.

Lisa Wedeen, "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science," *American Political Science Review* 96(4): 713-728, 2002.

Lecture 2: The Rise of Public Opinion in Contemporary China

Readings: Wenfang Tang, *Public Opinion and Political Change in China*, Stanford University Press, 2005, Chapter 1-2.

Melanie Manion, "A Survey of Survey Research on Chinese Politics: What Have We Learned?" in *Contemporary Chinese Politics: New Sources, Methods, and Field Strategies*, edit by Allen Carlson, Mary Gallagher, and Melanie Manion, Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Lecture 3: Attitudes towards Authority

Reading: Tianjian Shi. *The Cultural Logic of Politics in Mainland China and Taiwan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015, Chapter 2 "Cultural Norms East and West".

Lecture 4: Political Trust

Readings: Lianjiang Li, "Political Trust in Rural China," *Modern China* 30: 228-258, 2004.

Lianjiang Li, "The Magnitude and Resilience of Trust in the Center: Evidence from Interviews with Petitioners in Beijing and a Local Survey in Rural China," *Modern China* 39(1): 3-36, 2013.

Lecture 5: Attitudes towards Democracy and Rule of Law

Readings: Zhengxu Wang, "Public Support for Democracy in China," *Journal of Contemporary China* 16(53): 561-579, 2007.

Shi, Tianjian, and Jie Lu, "The Shadow of Confucianism." *Journal of Democracy* 21(4): 123-130, 2010.

Lecture 6: Movie

Lecture 7: Attitudes towards Inequality and Distributive Justice

Reading: Martin Whyte, *Myth of the Social Volcano: Perceptions of Inequality and Distributive Injustice in Contemporary China*, Stanford University Press, 2010.

Lecture 8: Attitudes towards Foreign Countries

Readings: Tianjian Shi, Jie Lu, and John Aldrich, "Bifurcated Images of the US in Urban China and the Impact of Media Environment." *Political Communication* 28 (3): 357-76, 2011.

Haifeng Huang, "International Knowledge and Domestic Evaluations in a Changing Society: The Case of China," *American Political Science Review* 109(3): 613-634, 2015.

Lecture 9: Proposal Presentation

Lecture 10: Political Participation

Readings: Tianjian Shi, *Political Participation in Beijing*, Harvard University Press, 1997, Chapter 1-2.

Lianjiang Li, "Political Trust and Petitioning in the Chinese Countryside," *Comparative Politics* 40(2):209-226, 2008.

Lecture 11: Government Response and Political Development

Readings: Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret Roberts, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression," *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 326-343, 2013.

Wenfang Tang, *Populist Authoritarianism: Chinese Political Culture and Regime Sustainability*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016, Chapter 1.

Lecture 12: Course Summary