

*Syllabus on Nine Thought Trends in China*

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

Department of Political Science

**POLS G4407**

**The Nine Thought Trends in China  
&  
Their Positions and Relationships in China's Thoughts Spectrum Today**

Fall 2015

W 12:10Pm-02:00Pm

Office Hours: W 2:30Pm-3:40Pm

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**Course Description**

This is an elective course designed for both undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in the contemporary politics in China. The course focuses on nine major thought trends in China today that include 1) the Liberalism; 2) the New Authoritarianism; 3) the New Left; 4) Mao Left; 5) the Democratic Group within the Communist Party; 6) Governing through Confucian Theory; 7) Constitutional Socialism; 8) the so-called “ Neither-Left and Nor-Right ”Governing Theory; and 9) the New Nationalism Calling Tough Foreign Policies.

China is deep in the social and political transition process, and the thoughts and actions of intellectuals themselves have formed an important part in this transition. In this sense, the course not only helps understand the thoughts of intellectuals, but also better help understand today's China affairs as a whole.

**Purpose or Student Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, I hope to help students to be able:

- 1 To understand the social backgrounds of each of the nine thought trends, their basic concepts and their relationships with ideology in power;
- 2 To analyze their impacts on the public mass;

- 3 To describe and explain their positions and relationships each other in China's thoughts spectrum today; and
- 4 To learn to analyze different types of intellectuals' behavioral characteristics in the sense of intellectualsociology in a post-communist authoritariancontext.

### **Course Requirements**

This course will be taught in Chinese and meet once a week with a total of 14 weeks. The course requires students 1) read all assigned readings; 2) actively participate in class discussions; 3) follow close instructions in writing assignment themes; 4) submit all assignments on or before deadlines; and 5) attend class on time.

### **Student Learning Assessment /Grading**

- 1 Four writing assignments (in Chinese or English)60%
- 2 Class participation 40%

### **Teaching & Learning Activities**

#### Week 1: the Chinese Intellectual Acoustic Noise

Definition of "thought trends"; the relationship between "thought trends" and ideology in power; talk and can't talk; "Acoustic Noise" does not mean the lifting a ban of speech in China.

#### *Reading materials:*

*Ma Licheng: Eight Social Thought Trends in China* (马立诚: 当代中国八种社会思潮) <http://www.rmlt.com.cn/News/201106/201106211203562569.html>

*Xiao Gongqin: History and Future of Chinese Six Social Thought Trends* (萧功秦“当代中国六大社会思潮的历史与未来”) <http://news.qq.com/a/20100729/001354.htm>

*Zhang Feian An Analysis on China's Five Social Thought Trends* (张飞岸“评析当代中国五大社会思潮”) [http://www.360doc.com/content/12/0526/00/23620\\_213748568.shtml](http://www.360doc.com/content/12/0526/00/23620_213748568.shtml)

[http://www.360doc.com/content/12/0526/00/23620\\_213748568.shtml](http://www.360doc.com/content/12/0526/00/23620_213748568.shtml)

#### Week 2: the Liberalism

Rise and Evolution of Chinese Liberalism in past 30years;

A number of typical representatives in Chinese liberalist scholars: Li Shenzhi, Hu Ping, XuYouyu, He Weifang, Zhu Xueqin, Qin Hui, Chen Ziming.

#### *Reading materials:*

*Li Shenzhi: 50 Anniversary of the PRC* (李慎之“风雨苍黄五十年”) [http://blog.boxun.com/hero/lisz/22\\_1.shtml](http://blog.boxun.com/hero/lisz/22_1.shtml)

[http://blog.boxun.com/hero/lisz/22\\_1.shtml](http://blog.boxun.com/hero/lisz/22_1.shtml)

*Hu Ping: On Freedom of Speech*(胡平“论言论自由”) [http://blog.boxun.com/hero/huping/387\\_1.shtml](http://blog.boxun.com/hero/huping/387_1.shtml)

[http://blog.boxun.com/hero/huping/387\\_1.shtml](http://blog.boxun.com/hero/huping/387_1.shtml)

### Week 3: the Liberalism (continued)

Liberalists and Mass; Liberalists and Political Opposites.

*Reading materials:*

*Qin Hui: The Forming and the Future of China Wonders* (秦晖“中国奇迹的形成来”) <http://finance.sina.com.cn/economist/jingjixueren/20080221/11294530834.shtml>

*Chen Ziming: Constitutional System in Future China* (陈子明“未来的中国宪政民主体制”) <http://www.aisixiang.com/data/31526.html>

*Zhang Boshu: Thinker and Actor--- The Dual Tasks of Chinese Critical Theorists.* (张博树“思考者与行动者：中国批判理论家的双重使命”)

[http://www.chinesepen.org/Article/hyxz/201111/Article\\_20111111201622.shtml](http://www.chinesepen.org/Article/hyxz/201111/Article_20111111201622.shtml)

*The First Writing Assignments:*

*Please choose any topics from below and finish it. The number of words should not be less than 2500 (Chinese or English).*

1, *Do you agree that “acoustic noise” does not mean the lifting a ban of speech in China? Please give your reasons.* (你是否同意“‘众声喧哗’并不意味着中国思想界的解禁”并说明理由)

2, *Please choose a liberalist’s article and write a critical review on it.* (请选择你熟悉的一位中国自由主义代表人物的文章或著作写一篇评论)

### Week 4: the New Authoritarianism

“the New Authoritarianism is a reverse movement to radical liberalism”;

Take Xiao Gongqin as an example: the basic idea of the New Authoritarianism

*Reading materials:*

*Zhang Qiang: the New Authoritarianism in China* (张强“‘新权威主义’在中国”) [http://www.360doc.com/content/08/1207/15/85772\\_2071417.shtml](http://www.360doc.com/content/08/1207/15/85772_2071417.shtml)

*Xiao Gongqin: Overstep the Limits of Both Radical Leftism and Radical Rightism*(萧功秦“超越左右激进两极思维”)

[http://www.21ccom.net/articles/sxwh/shsc/article\\_2012100968930.html](http://www.21ccom.net/articles/sxwh/shsc/article_2012100968930.html)

### Week 5: the New Left

“Left” and “Right” in Chinese Context;

New Left scholars who criticize“capitalism” but evade dictatorship;

Wang Hui, Cui Zhiyuan.

*Wang Hui: Modern Chinese Thoughts and the Problems of Modernity* (汪晖：“当代中国的思想状况与现代性问题”) <http://www.aisixiang.com/data/detail.php?id=689>

*Cui Zhiyuan: What Should be Affirmed is Chongqing Experiences but not Chongqing Model*(崔之元：肯定重庆经验而非重庆模式)

<http://www.aisixiang.com/data/49370.html?page=1>

## Week 6: the New Left (continued)

Wang Shaoguang's view on democracy.

### *Reading materials:*

*Wang Shaoguang: Overstep Election: a Reflection of Modern Democratic System*(王绍光: 超越选主——对现代民主制度的反思)

[http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/xzmj/article\\_2010080715164.html](http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/xzmj/article_2010080715164.html)

Wang Shaoguang: Break Down the Myth of "Civil Society" (王绍光: 破除“公民社会”的神话)

[http://opinion.huanqiu.com/opinion\\_china/2013-07/4193729.html](http://opinion.huanqiu.com/opinion_china/2013-07/4193729.html)

## Week 7: Mao Left

From "10000-Word Statements" to the Website named Utopian Village;

Mao Left's critic on ideology in power;

Mao Left's calling: Return to Cultural Revolution;

### *Reading materials:*

*A Open Letter to the Central Committee of CPC by Ma Bin , Li Chengrui and Others* (马宾、李成瑞等 2012 年 7 月 15 日致中共中央公开信)

<http://critiqueandtransformation.wordpress.com/2012/08/07/1644%E5%90%8D%E4%B8%AD%E5%85%B1%E8%80%81%E5%B9%B9%E9%83%A8%E5%A0%85%E6%B1%BA%E8%A6%81%E6%B1%82%E5%88%B6%E6%AD%A2%E5%BE%B9%E5%BA%95%E6%90%9E%E5%9E%AE%E5%9C%8B%E6%9C%89%E4%BC%81%E6%A5%AD%E4%B8%A6/>

Zhang Hongliang: *To Set Up a Political System Embodied People's Democracy* (张宏良“建立人民民主的大众政治制度”) <http://www.china-week.com/html/3482.htm>

### *The Second Writing Assignments:*

*Please choose any topics from below and finish it. The number of words should not be less than 2500 (Chinese or English).*

1, *Give an analysis on the Common and different points between the New Left and Mao Left. (试析新左派和毛左派之间的异同)*

2, *How do you see the statements of the New Authoritarianism? Is their critic of "Radical Leftism" and "Radical Rightism" rational or objective? (你如何看待新权威主义的主张? 新权威主义对左、右“激进主义”的批评是否有道理?)*

## Week 8: the Democratic Group within the Communist Party

To set up a constitutional system as well as a democratic socialism is the basic idea of the Democratic Group within the Communist Party;

Li Rui, Hu Jiwei, Zhu Houze, Xie Tao, and He Fang.

The influence of *Yan Huang Chun Qiu*

### *Reading materials:*

*Zhu Houze: My Considerations on the Path Choice of Modern China* (朱厚泽 “关于近现代中国路径选择的思考”)

[http://blog.china50plus.com/blog/article\\_view.php?blog\\_id=2585&msg\\_id=857613](http://blog.china50plus.com/blog/article_view.php?blog_id=2585&msg_id=857613)

*Xie Tao: It is Only Democratic Socialism Which can save China.* (谢韬 “只有民主社会主义才能救中国”)

<http://www.dscn8.info/ds/thread-2807-1-1.html>

#### Week 9: Governing through Confucian Theory

The basic idea of Jiang Qing's Political Confucianism;

Gan Yang's statement on “Confucius, Mao and Deng as three great traditions”;

*Reading materials:*

*Jiang Qing: Confucian Politics is the Direction of Chinese Politics Today.* (蒋庆 “王道政治是当今中国政治的发展方向”)

[http://www.chinarujiao.net/w\\_info.asp?Pid=7024&Page=1](http://www.chinarujiao.net/w_info.asp?Pid=7024&Page=1)

*Gan Yang: An New Times: Put Three Great Traditions together.* (甘阳 “新时代的‘三通’”)

<http://jiefang.jinbushe.org/index.php?doc-view-86.html>

*The Third Writing Assignments:*

*Please choose any topics from below and finish it. The number of words should not be less than 2500 (Chinese or English).*

1, *What's your understanding and evaluation of “governing through Confucian theory”*

(谈谈你对“儒学治国论”的理解和评价)

2, *Please choose any of democratic socialist s article and write a critical review on it.*  
(请任选一位党内民主派或民主社会主义主张者的文章写一篇评论)

#### Week 10: Constitutional Socialism

The Rise of Constitutional Socialism in recent years;

Deferent versions of “Constitutional Socialism”: Hu Xingdou, Wang Zhanyang, and HuaBingxiao.

*Reading materials:*

*Speeches by Hu Xingdou and Wang Zhanyang in the Academic Meeting of Socialist Constitutional Construction in New Reform Times.* (胡星斗、王占阳在“新改革时期的社会主义宪政建设”学术研讨会上的发言)

<http://www.21ccom.net/plus/view.php?aid=51749>

*HuaBingxiao: Thought Path of Constitutional Socialism and the Top Design.* (华炳萧 “宪政社会主义的思想进路与顶层设计”)

[http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/xzmj/article\\_2011100146341.html](http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/xzmj/article_2011100146341.html)

#### Week 11: “Neither-Left and Nor-Right” Governing Theory

Who is Liu Yuan and Zhang Musheng?

The main idea of *To Reform Our Cultural and Historical Outlook*

*Reading materials:*

Liu Yuan: *Reading ZhangMusheng---Preface of To Reform Our Cultural and Historical Outlook* (刘源“读张木生——《改造我们的文化历史观》序言”)

<http://www.21bcr.com/a/shiye/renwusixiang/2010/0907/1561.html>

Interview with Zhang Musheng by Gongshi Website (共识之途——访谈张木生)

<http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/gmq/2011/0514/35451.html>

Week 12: the New Nationalism Calling Tough Foreign Policies

From *China Says “No” to China is not Happy*;

The Definition of New Nationalism in China;

Former liberalist Mo Luo and PLA officer Dai Xu.

*Reading materials:*

*The Main Standpoints of “China is not Happy”* (《中国不高兴》重磅观点)

[http://vip.book.sina.com.cn/book/index\\_85822.html](http://vip.book.sina.com.cn/book/index_85822.html)

*Yan Xuetong’s View on China-US Relation in the Next 10 Years* (阎学通论未来十年的美中关系)

[http://news.ifeng.com/shendu/gjqdb/detail\\_2013\\_07/30/28075562\\_0.shtml](http://news.ifeng.com/shendu/gjqdb/detail_2013_07/30/28075562_0.shtml)

*Zhang Boshu: Critique on New Nationalism* (张博树《新国家主义批判》)

<http://minzhuzhongguo.org/ArtShow.aspx?AID=52441>

*The Fourth Writing Assignments:*

*Please choose any topics from below and finish it. The number of words should not be less than 2500 (Chinese or English).*

1, *How do you see the rise of constitutional socialism? (你怎样看“宪政社会主义”成为显学这种现象?)*

2, *Try to analyze the new nationalism rising in today’s China (试析近年来日益高涨的中国民族主义或新国家主义)*

Week 13: Conclusion 1: the Reflection of History and Logics Embodied inChina’s Thoughts Spectrum

“extremely Left”, “middle Left”, “middle Right”, and “extremely Right” in today’s Chinese Thoughts Spectrum;

Political -social evolution and the changes of thought trends;

Thought trends as a reflection of post-communist authoritarian politics.

*Reading materials:*

*Chen Ziming: To Set Up a Left-Right United Front Under the Flag of Constitutional*

*Politics.* (陈子明 “宪政旗帜下的左右翼联合阵线”)

<http://www.aisixiang.com/data/16562.html?page=1>

*Zhou Duo: Seven Tools to Understand China.* (周舵 “理解中国前途的七件工具”)

[http://www.snzg.cn/article/2008/0328/article\\_9672.html](http://www.snzg.cn/article/2008/0328/article_9672.html)

#### Week 14: Conclusion 2: Arts of Rebel and Flattery vs. Intellect Sociology

Arts of Rebel: Take Liberalist scholar Zhang Ming, Lei Yi and GaoQuanxi as examples;

Arts of Flattery: Take some New Left scholars as examples who have “returned” to official system;

Intellectual sociology in a post-communist authoritarian context in China.

*Reading materials:*

*Lei Yi: Toward Revolution* (雷颐: 《走向革命》读书会 (全文))

<http://book.sohu.com/20110513/n280569481.shtml>

*RongJian: Scholars Coming to Chong Qing.* (荣剑 “奔向重庆的学者们”)

[http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/gmq/article\\_2012042858663.html](http://www.21ccom.net/articles/zgyj/gmq/article_2012042858663.html)

*Zhang Boshu: On Times Maturation and Thinking Maturation.* (张博树 “密涅瓦的猫头鹰黄昏才起飞——时代成熟与思想成熟”)

<http://www.newcenturynews.com/Article/gd/201102/20110209105915.html>

*Zhang Boshu: Why Does We Need a Chinese Critical Theory?* (张博树 “中国的批判学术为何缺位?”)

<http://www.aisixiang.com/data/14001.html?page=1>