Local Governance in Comparative Perspective

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Course Description

This seminar addresses two key aspects of grassroots politics in post-reform China: local elections and sociopolitical movements. By exploring forms and patterns of interest articulation in grassroots China, this course aims to deepen your understanding of the state-society relations in China.

Most of required readings are available through Jstor or the electronic journals at the Fudan Library. It is essential for you to read the required materials before class and attend all class sessions.

Course Assessment

1. Participation (10%)
   - On your evident grasp of the readings as indicated by your questions in classroom discussion.

2. Class Presentation/discussion (20%)
   - There will be one 45-minutes discussion session for each special topic. Each session will be led by one study group. It is also essential for the group to create a list of discussion questions for the day’s class.

3. Hypertext Comment (20%)
   - A hypertext comments (3-4 double space pages) is based on a piece of editorial related to the main themes of this course from major China media (such as South China Morning Post, China Daily and Xinhua News) and make critical dialogues.

4. Final Paper (50%)
   - A substantial final paper (10-15 double spaced pages) should be independently produced by each student. The paper should be related to one of the lecture topics and be submitted to the course essay seminar. The papers should respond to all of the points asked in the proposed outline, and should incorporate relevant literatures, and should be written in a clear manner.

Course Schedule/Reading Assignments (* for required readings)

1. Introduction and administrative issues

2. Why Grassroots Democracy
3 Villager Committee Election


4 Urban Residents Committee Election

Local People’s Congress Election


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Understanding Political Contentions


Maoist Mobilization


3

8 “Democratic Movement”


9 “Labor Protest”


10 “Peasant Resistance”


Environmental Activism


Homeowner Mobilization


*Deborah S. Davis and Hanlong Lu (2003). Property in Transition: Conflicts over Ownership in Post-socialist Shanghai. European Journal of Sociology. XLIV.1


Other Forms of Contention and Wrap-up Discussions