Course Description

Is China a fearsome dragon out to upset the global balance of power? Or is China a cuddly panda seeking to integrate itself into the extant global system? This course provides a comprehensive introduction to Chinese foreign policy. With over a fifth of the world’s population (over 1.3 billion people), an enormous economy (a 2011 nominal GDP of close to 7 trillion), and the world’s largest standing army, China is intrinsically important. Anyone who wishes to understand 21st century world politics needs to engage the China question.

The course is divided into five sections. It begins with key issues and concepts. It then reviews China’s external relations prior to “Liberation” in 1949. The focus here will be twofold: interrogating the idea of a “Tributary System” with China at the center, and the narrative of a “Century of Humiliation.” The third section introduces basic concepts from international relations theory. The fourth section turns to the history of the PRC’s foreign relations, with an emphasis on Sino-American relations. The fifth and final section explores vital foreign policy issues confronting China in the 21st century: China’s relations with the U.S., Japan, south and southeast Asia, the Taiwan issue, and forecasting China’s future global role.

Grading

Your final grade will be based upon class participation & pop quizzes, two papers, and a final exam:

20% Class participation and pop quizzes
25% Paper I (March 14)
25% Paper II (April 18)
30% Final exam (Thursday, May 7, 1:30-3:30, HH 183)

1. The class participation grade will be based upon the quality, not quantity, of your contributions to group discussions, as well as short homework assignments, and pass/fail pop quizzes on the readings given at the beginning of class on random days throughout the semester.
2. A hardcopy of your first paper will be due at the beginning of class on March 14. Late papers will be penalized.
3. A hardcopy of your second paper will be due at the beginning of class on April 18. Late papers will be penalized.
4. The final exam will be held on Thursday May 7 from 1:30-3:30pm in HH 183. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling conflict should inform me no later than April 7.

Papers

Two five page analytic papers will be due on March 14 and April 18. Late papers will not be accepted. The first paper should address the question, “Which of the three levels of analysis in international relations theory is most useful for understanding China's rise?” The second paper will address the question, “What are the primary determinants of insecurity in U.S.-China relations?”

Readings

You are expected to attend class having completed the readings assigned for that day. Random pop quizzes will test whether you have read them. Lectures will not cover the same ground as the readings, and are no substitute for them. Three books are available for purchase at the OU bookstore and online, but will also be held on reserve at Bizzell Library:

- Chen Jian, Mao's China and the Cold War, The new Cold War history (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001)
- Peter Hays Gries, China’s New Nationalism: Pride, Politics and Diplomacy (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004)
- James Mann, About face: A history of America's curious relationship with China from Nixon to Clinton (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1999)

Additional readings will be available on the course website and from the OU library website.

All readings assigned for class make arguments. You are therefore expected to read critically. What are the author’s arguments? Are they persuasive? Why do you think that the authors take the positions that they do? Do you agree or not?

Classroom Policies

Respect is required. While the discreet consumption of coffee and other beverages is permitted, eating, which might disrupt your classmates, is not. Please turn off all cell phones, laptops, and other devices that might disrupt class. Disparaging comments or behaviors towards your classmates will not be permitted. Anyone disrupting the educational atmosphere of the classroom will be asked to leave.

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Anyone experiencing harassment in the classroom should contact me immediately. Harassment anywhere on the OU campus should be reported to the OU Office of Equal Opportunity, (405) 325-3546.

Plagiarism & Cheating

Academic honesty is presumed and required on the part of all students. Use of the work of others is positively encouraged and is central to scholarship, but it must always be properly credited. When it is not credited, and when the thoughts/words/ideas of others are passed off as your own, that is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the appropriate university office; penalties are severe. Visit www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/ for details of the
university’s academic honesty code. If you are in doubt about how to handle quotations or citations, please consult the instructor.

**Disabilities**

Any student who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally within the first two weeks of class so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Lecture and Reading Schedule**

**I. ISSUES AND CONCEPTS**

1 (Jan 15) Course Introduction

2 (Jan 17) American Views of China (guest lecturer David Stroup)
  - *South Park, “Olympic Nightmare”*

3 (Jan 22) A China Threat?

**II. THE IMPERIAL LEGACY**

4 (Jan 24) The “Tributary System” and the Early Modern Encounter with Western Imperialism

5 (Jan 29) The “Century of Humiliation”
6 (Jan 31) The “Century of Humiliation” and Popular Nationalism Today
- Lu Xun, “Preface,” A Call to Arms
- Gries, Peter Hays. China’s New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy, Chapters 3-5.
  Optional:

III. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY

7 (Feb 5) Level I (System-Level Analysis): Balance of Power approaches to the Rise of China
  Optional:

8 (Feb 7) Level I (Regional systems): A Taiwan Security Dilemma?

9 (Feb 12) Level II (State-Level Analysis): Domestic Politics and Chinese Foreign Policy
  Optional:

10 (Feb 14) Level II (State-Level Analysis): Domestic Politics and Chinese Foreign Policy
- Peter Hays Gries, China’s New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy. Chapters 6-8.
  Optional:

11 (Feb 19) Level III (Individual-Level Analysis): People Matter
  Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung (The “Little Red Book” 1966), Chapters 3-5, “The Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People,” “War and Peace,” and “Imperialism and All Reactionaries are Paper Tigers.” (Skim)

12 (Feb 21) Level III: Personality and Chinese Foreign Policy
IV. POSTWAR GREAT POWER RELATIONS

13 (Feb 26) 1950s

14 (Feb 28) 1960s

15 (March 5) Early 1970s Rapprochement:
  Skim / surf
- The Shanghai Communiqué: I (1972)

16 (March 7) Taiwan revisited (Shelley Rigger talk @ symposia in OU Art Museum basement auditorium)

17 (March 12) Late 1970s Normalization
- The second (Normalization, 1979); and third (Shanghai II, 1982) Communiqués.

18 (March 14) 1980s (PAPER I DUE)
  Optional:

March 19, 21: NO CLASS SPRING BREAK

19 (March 26) The Tiananmen Massacre and US-China relations
- *Frontline: The Tank Man*

20 (March 28) 1990s
  Skim / surf

V. CHINA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

21 (April 2) post 9-11 U.S.-China relations

**Skim / surf**
• Secretary of State Colin Powell at TAMU Conference on China-U.S. Relations, Nov. 5, 2003.

22 (April 4) Protestants, Nationalism, and the State in Contemporary China
• (visiting lecture, Carsten T. Vala (Loyola University Maryland) on)

23 (April 9) The Olympic Effect on U.S.-China relations
• “The Olympic effect on American attitudes towards China: Beyond personality, ideology, and media exposure,” Journal of Contemporary China, Vol. 19, No 64, 2010. Peter Hays Gries, H. Michael Crowson, Todd Sandel

24 (April 11) Energy Security and U.S.-China relations
• Reading TBA

25 (April 16) Sino-Japanese Relations I

26 (April 18) Sino-Japanese Relations II (PAPER II DUE)
• Readings TBA

27 (April 23) China and South Asia

28 (April 25) China and Southeast Asia
  optional
• Barry Buzan and Ole Waever, Regions and Powers (Cambridge, 2003), Part II.

29 (April 30) Forecasting China’s Future Foreign policy

30 (May 2) Review session

**FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 7, 1:30-3:30 pm Hester Hall 183**