Course Description

When you look at China, what do you see? A fearsome dragon out to upset the global balance of power? Or a cuddly panda seeking to integrate itself into the extant world order? This course seeks to move beyond such egocentric caricatures, providing a comprehensive introduction to Chinese foreign policy. With over a fifth of the world’s population (over 1.3 billion people), an enormous economy, 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.

As a graduate seminar, this course focuses on the key debates that animate the field of Chinese foreign policy. The focus of each seminar meeting will be on close analysis of readings and debates. Student-scholars are expected to do the readings carefully, and attend class ready to discuss them. In some cases, students will be assigned to present and debate different sides of an argument.

Grading

Your final grade will be based upon a research paper, a policy memo, and class participation:

- **40%** Research paper and presentation (due week 14)
- **30%** Policy memo and presentation (due week 13)
- **30%** Class participation (including leading class discussions of readings)

1. You will write a 20 page double spaced research paper. See details below.
2. You will write and present a two page policy memo, and lead a class on the subject. See below.
3. The class participation grade will be based upon the quality, not quantity, of your contributions to group discussions. You will be asked to lead class discussions of readings.
Research Paper

A 20 page (double spaced, 12 point font) research paper will be 40% of your grade, but will be broken down into manageable chunks, some of which will contribute to the final paper grade. Each step of the process will be shared with the class, including a final ppt presentation.

- **Week two:** please choose one of the following broad “traditional” (bilateral and regional) foreign policy topics:
  - Sino-American relations
  - Sino-Japanese relations
  - Sino-Korean relations
  - Cross-Strait relations (Taiwan)
  - Sino-Russian relations
  - Sino-Indian relations
  - Sino-Southeast Asian relations
  - Sino-European relations

- **Week 3:** please narrow down to a subtopic, presenting a clear question to guide your initial research. The question should be analytic (Why?) not empiric (Who? What? When? Where?), and should not have an immediately obvious answer. It should not yet be an argument/thesis.

- **Week 4:** submit a one page bibliographic outline of key materials you will use in your research.

- **Week 5:** submit a three page review of existing scholarship on your topic. (25% of final paper grade)

- **Week 6:** submit a revised analytic question.

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- **Week 11:** submit a final thesis statement.

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- **Week 14:** Papers due. ppt presentations. (25% of final paper grade)

Policy memo

**Policy memo** (25%). In the second week of class, you will choose one of the following ‘new’ global issues on which to present a ppt briefing, and write and present a two page policy memo, due and presented to the class on week 15:

- Energy and resource security
- Environment/global warming
- Terrorism
- Cybersecurity & intellectual property
- Human security/health/human rights
- Nuclear proliferation
- Global trade and finance
- Global governance/international organizations
You are required to address a real challenge facing the world today, so will need to narrow your topic. For instance, if you are interested in global warming, you might first present China’s policies towards the global climate change talks, and then in your US memo address how the US might better engage China in those talks.

You will first present a ten minute ppt on the Chinese approach to this ‘new’ global issue. You will then play the part of a policy analyst at the US Department of State, and direct your two page, single spaced policy memo to me, Secretary of State John Kerry, and my top advisors, the rest of you. Your brief should include a:

1) **Statement of the issue**: Introduce your topic, make a case for its importance, how it affects the US and the world at large, and why new policies can help.

2) **Policy options**: discuss the advantages and disadvantages of three or four different policy options to address the challenge.

3) **Policy Recommendation**: explain what your policy option is, why it should be implemented, and why it is better than the current policy and other policy options. What are its intended outcomes? Why it is good for the USA and the international community?

4) **Sources**: List the sources you used in your research.

A sample policy brief, which you can use as a rough template, is attached to the end of this syllabus. Helpful tips on writing policy briefs can be found online [here](#). Due week 13.

**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 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 the instructor immediately. Harassment anywhere on the OU campus should be reported to the OU [Office of Equal Opportunity](#).

**Plagiarism & Cheating**

Academic honesty is presumed and required of all students at OU. 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/](http://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.
Lecture and Reading Schedule (debates in italics)

I. QUESTIONS AND CONCEPTS

WEEK 1 COURSE INTRO; CHINA THROUGH AMERICAN EYES
(South Park 2008; Daily Show 2008; Gries 2014)

WEEK 2 THE PUZZLE: CHINA’S 21st CENTURY FOREIGN POLICY
(Brzezinski vs. Mearsheimer 2005; Zhang vs. Buzan 2010; Twomey vs. Xu 2014; Shambaugh 2014; Wu 2014)

WEEK 3 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (IR) THEORIES & CHINA’S RISE

II. HISTORICAL LEGACIES

WEEK 4 IMPERIAL / PRE-MODERN: ‘HIERARCHY,’ ‘HARMONIOUS WORLD,’ & THE TRIBUTARY SYSTEM

WEEK 5 ANTI-IMPERIAL / EARLY MODERN: THE ‘CENTURY OF HUMILIATION’ & POPULAR NATIONALISM TODAY
(Gries 2004: Intro, Chs. 1-3; Callahan 2010: Chs. 1-4; Rose 2009 vs. Glosney & Saunders 2010)

WEEK 6 MAOIST / MODERN: TRIANGULAR PRC-US-USSR RELATIONS DURING THE COLD WAR
(Johnston 1996; Dittmer 1992: 147-55; Chen 2001: Intro, Chs. 4 [Korea], & 7 [Taiwan Strait]; Lüthi 2008: Conclusion [Sino-Soviet split]; Mann 1999: Chs. 1-3 [norm. US-China])

WEEK 7 POST-MAO / REFORM: TIANANMEN & 9-11

III. KEY BILATERAL AND REGIONAL RELATIONS TODAY

WEEK 8 ‘G2’? POWER TRANSITIONS AND THE UNITED STATES
(Lebow & Valentino 2009; Shifrinson 2012 vs. Beckley 2012; Khong 2013/14; Pei 2014)

WEEK 9 TAIWAN STRAITS: SECURITY DILEMMA? FINLINDIZATION?
(Christensen 2002; Bush 2005: Ch. 5; Gilley 2010 vs. Chang & Mouritzen 2010)

WEEK 10 JAPAN AND POPULAR NATIONALISM
(Gries 2004: Chs. 5, 6; Gries 2005b; Nie 2013; TBA)
WEEK 11 A ‘STRING OF PEARLS’? SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIA
(SE Asia: Roy 2005; Goh 2007/8; Goh 2014;
South Asia: Harding 2004; Kaplan 2010 vs. Drezner 2013)

WEEK 12 A) THE KOREAN PENINSULA, AND B) EUROPE
(Korea: Gries 2012; Hao 2012; Rozman 2004: conc; Europe: Fox & Godement 2009; TBA)

IV. PRESENTATIONS

WEEK 13 PPT & POLICY MEMOS ON ‘NEW’ GLOBAL ISSUES
(Energy, environment, terrorism, cybersecurity, nuclear nonprolif., human security, etc.)

WEEK 14 PAPERS ON ‘TRADITIONAL’ BILATERAL & REGIONAL RELATIONS

V. CONCLUSIONS

WEEK 15 FORECASTING CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY IN THE 21ST CENTURY
(Mearsheimer 2006; Chong & Hall 2014; Gries 2006; CIA?)

Bibliography

China through American Eyes
- “Olympic Nightmare,” South Park, August 2008

The Puzzle: China’s 21st Century Foreign Policy
- Twomey V.s. Xu 2014. Debating China, Hachigan

International Relations (IR) Theories & China’s Rise
- Stephen Walt 2014. “How to Get a B.A. in International Relations in 5 Minutes” Foreign Policy column.
• Trine Flockhart 2012. “Constructivism and foreign policy,” in Foreign Policy, Steve Smith, et al eds.

Imperial / Pre-Modern: ‘Hierarchy,’ ‘Harmonious World,’ & The Tributary System

Anti-Imperial / Early Modern: The ‘Century of Humiliation’ & Popular Nationalism Today
• Callahan 2009: Intro, Chs 2-4

Maoist / Modern: Triangular PRC-US-USSR Relations during the Cold War
• Johnston, Iain. 1996. “Cultural Realism and Strategy in Maoist China”
• Chen Jian. 2001. Mao’s China and the Cold War, The New Cold War History. Intro & Ch. 4, 9?

Post-Mao / Reform: Tiananmen & 9-11
• James Lilley, China Hands: Nine Decades of Adventure, Espionage, and Diplomacy in Asia (PublicAffairs 2004), Chapter 19 “Stepping on a Volcano.”

‘G2’? Power Transitions and the United States
• Pei Minxin, “How China and America See Each Other—And Why They Are on a Collision Course,” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2014

Taiwan Straits: Security Dilemma? Finlindization?
• Bush, Richard, Untying the Knot: Making Peace in the Taiwan Strait (Brookings, 2005), Ch. 5 “The Security Issue.” (skim)
• Gilley, Bruce “Not So Dire Straits: How the Finlandization of Taiwan Benefits U.S. Security,” *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2010
• Chang, Vance, Hans Mouritzen, and Bruce Gilley. “Is Taiwan Selling Out to China?” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010

Japan and Popular Nationalism
• Gries, Peter Hays. *China’s New Nationalism: Pride, Politics, and Diplomacy*, Chs. 5, 6

A ‘String of Pearls’? South & Southeast Asia
• Daniel Drezner 2013 “China’s string of fake pearls,” *Foreign Policy* online.
A) The Korean Peninsula and B) Europe

- Hao, Yufan. 2012. “China’s Korea Policy in the Making.” In China’s Foreign Policy, Gilbert Rozman, ed.
- Fox and Godement. 2009. “A Power Audit of EU-China Relations.” ECFR.
- TBA…

Forecasting Chinese Foreign Policy in the 21st Century

- CIA?