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 2006 nominal GDP of over 2.68 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 data collection, class participation & pop quizzes, two papers, and a final exam:

- 5% Survey research/data collection project
- 15% Class participation and pop quizzes
- 25% Paper I (March 8)
- 25% Paper II (April 14)
- 30% Final exam (Thursday, May 13, 8-10 AM)

1. You will administer about a half dozen online surveys about China.
2. 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.
3. A hardcopy of your first paper will be due at the beginning of class on March 8. Late papers will not be accepted.
4. A hardcopy of your second paper will be due at the beginning of class on April 14. Late papers will not be accepted.
5. The final exam will be held on Thursday May 13 from 8-10am. It will be comprehensive. Anyone with a scheduling conflict should inform me no later than April 13.

**Papers**

Two five page analytic papers will be due on March 8 and April 14. 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)
- 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 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, then 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 as soon as possible 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 20) Course Introduction
   • South Park, “Olympic Nightmare”
   Optional:

2 (Jan 25) A China Threat?
   • “Chasing the Dragon - Authoritarian State,” Daily Show with Jon Stewart
   Optional:
   • Ross, Robert S. “Beijing as a conservative power,” Foreign Affairs 76.2 (1997).

3 (Jan 27) Culture and Conflict in the Study of Chinese Foreign Policy
   Optional:

II. THE IMPERIAL LEGACY

4 (Feb 1) The “Tributary System” and the Early Modern Encounter with Western Imperialism
5 (Feb 3) The “Century of Humiliation”

6 (Feb 8) The “Century of Humiliation” and Popular Nationalism Today
- Lu Xun, “Preface,” *A Call to Arms*
  Optional:

### III. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY

7 (Feb 10) Level I (System-Level Analysis): Balance of Power approaches to the Rise of China
  Optional:

8 (Feb 15) Level I (regional systems): A Taiwan Security Dilemma?

9 (Feb 17) Level II (State-Level Analysis): Domestic Politics and Chinese Foreign Policy
  Optional:

10 (Feb 22) 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 24) 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 (March 1) Level III: Personality and Chinese Foreign policy

IV. POSTWAR GREAT POWER RELATIONS

13 (March 3) 1950s
• Chen Jian. 2001. Mao’s China and the Cold War; Chs. 3, 4.

14 (March 8) 1960s (PAPER I DUE)
• Chen Jian. 2001. Mao’s China and the Cold War; Chs. 7, 8.

15 (March 10) Early 1970s Rapprochement:
• Chen Jian. 2001. Mao’s China and the Cold War; Ch. 9 & Epilogue.
• The Shanghai Communiqué: I (1972)

March 15, 17: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

16 (March 22) Late 1970s Normalization
• The second (Normalization, 1979); and third (Shanghai II, 1982) Communiqués.

17 (March 24) 1980s
• Mann, Jim. 1999. About Face, Chs. 6-8.
  Optional:

18 (March 29) The Tiananmen Massacre and US-China relations
• Frontline: The Tank Man
• James Lilley, China Hands: Nine Decades of Adventure, Espionage, and Diplomacy in Asia (PublicAffairs 2004), Chapter 19 “Stepping on a Volcano.”

19 (March 31) 1990s
• Mann, Jim. 1999. About Face, Chs. 9-end.
  Skim / surf
V. CHINA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

20 (April 5) post 9-11 U.S.-China relations

Skim / surf

21 (April 7) The Olympic Effect on U.S.-China relations

22 (April 12) Sino-Japanese Relations I

23 (April 14) Sino-Japanese Relations II (PAPER II DUE)
- Readings TBA

24 (April 19) Taiwan Revisited
- Readings TBA

25 (April 21) China and Southeast Asia
- Barry Buzan and Ole Waever, *Regions and Powers* (Cambridge, 2003), Part II.

26 (April 26) China and South Asia

27 (April 28) Energy Security and U.S.-China relations
- Reading TBA

28 (May 3) Forecasting China’s Future Foreign policy

29 (May 5) Review session

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 13, 8-10 AM