

POLI 4040-03 | SPECIAL TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: U.S.—CHINA RELATIONS SPRING 2019

Instructor: Michael Reed

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Classroom: Lockett 138

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, & Friday (12:30 – 1:20)

Office: Stubbs 231

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday (9:30 – 11:30) or by appointment

Course Description

Napoleon once remarked “Let China sleep; when she wakes she will shake the world.” Two centuries later, with the world’s largest population, largest standing army, and—by some measures—the largest economy, we may certainly say that China has woken. The United States has reacted by emphasizing its renewed diplomatic interest in the region with President Obama’s Asia pivot, and its military interest in the region with President Trump’s 2018 National Defense Strategy. Simply put, the Sino-American relationship will be a defining bilateral relationship in the 21st century.

This course will conduct a thorough assessment of U.S. – China Relations. In doing so, we will discuss the various opportunities for cooperation, as well as the risks of conflict, between the two states. The course will begin with a brief examination of the history of Sino-American engagement, and follow with an examination of the economic, military, diplomatic, and socio-cultural ties that bind these two states, as well as the fissures that divide them. Among other things, we will ask: Will China use its growing influence to attempt changing the liberal international rules-based order created by the United States, or will it operate under the American framework? Does China seek to become a regional great power, or a global superpower on par with the United States? In what ways can the United States encourage engagement, and discourage conflict, with China? The course will bridge theory, history, and practice, and place an emphasis on class discussion.

Required Books

Allison, Graham. 2017. *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’s Trap?* New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. ISBN: 9780544935273.

Kissinger, Henry. 2012. *On China*. New York: Penguin Books. ISBN: 9780143121312.

Class Assignments

Examination (20%): Students will take one final exam constituting 20% of the final grade. The final exam will occur on *Thursday, 2 May 2019, at 7:30am*. Students must present their student ID’s to be admitted on exam day.

Essays (60%): Throughout the semester, students will be responsible for submitting three written responses to the class readings. Late essays will not be accepted. Essays will be cumulative; students will build on historical and theoretical ideas introduced at the start of the term and conclude with policy analysis at the end of the term. The instructor will provide feedback throughout this process, allowing students the opportunity to improve their work. Writing prompts and guidance will be provided as the semester progresses.

Essay 1: History and Theory (Due *Monday, 11 February*) – 10% of final grade

Essay 2: Thucydides Trap, Conflict, and Cooperation (Due *Monday, 18 March*) – 20% of final grade

Essay 3: Policy Analysis (Due *Friday, 26 April*) – 30% of final grade

Attendance (10%): It is imperative that students attend all lectures. Lectures will always introduce new material related, but not identical, to the readings for each respective week. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences; each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a 1 point penalty applied to the final grade.

Participation (10%): It is also critical that students complete the reading assignments and contribute to class discussion. For each class meeting, one or two students will be required to summarize and critique the reading assignment for that day. Each student will be responsible for doing so twice during the semester. Students are encouraged to volunteer to contribute but will occasionally be selected at random. Each presentation will be worth 5% of the final grade.

Grading Scale

A+: 97-100

A: 93-96

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82

C+: 77-79

C: 73-76

C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69

D: 63-66

D-: 60-62

F: 59 or below

Class Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

“What we may be witnessing is not just the end of the Cold War, or the passing of a particular period of post-war history, but the end of history as such: that is, the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the universalization of Western liberal democracy as the final form of human government.” –Francis Fukuyama, 1989

- **1/9** – Course Introduction
- **1/11** – Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. “The End of History?” *The National Interest*.

Week 2: Hegemonic Stability Theory

“Here we are on top of the world. We have arrived at this peak to stay there forever. There is, of course, this thing called history. But history is something unpleasant that happens to other people.” –Arnold Toynbee, British historian, 1897

- **1/14** – Li, Eric. 2012. “Why China’s Political Model Is Superior.” *The New York Times*.
- **1/16** – Kennedy, Paul. 1987. *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, selections.
- **1/18** – Gilpin, Robert. 1983. *War and Change in World Politics*, selections.

Week 3: History of Sino-American Relations

“The policy of the Government of the United States is to seek a solution which may bring about permanent safety and peace to China, preserve Chinese territorial and administrative entity, protect all rights guaranteed to friendly powers by treaty and international law, and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese Empire.” –Secretary of State John Hay, 1900

- 1/21 – NO CLASS
- 1/23 – Kennan, George F. 1951. *American Diplomacy*, selections.
- 1/25 – Kissinger, Henry. 2012. *On China*, P. 33-56 (skim P. 5-32).

Week 4: History of Sino-American Relations cont.

“Taking the long view, we simply cannot afford to leave China forever outside the family of nations.” –President Richard Nixon

- 1/28 – P. 57-90
- 1/30 – P. 113-147
- 2/1 – P. 148-180

Week 5: History of Sino-American Relations cont.

“Observe carefully; secure our position; cope with affairs calmly; hide our capacities and bide our time; be good at maintaining a low profile; and never claim leadership.” –Deng Xiaoping

- 2/4 – P. 202-235
- 2/6 – P. 377-404
- 2/8 – P. 405-439

Week 6: Thucydides’s Trap

“To the question why they broke the treaty, I answer by placing first an account of their grounds of complaint and points of difference, that no one may ever have to ask the immediate cause which plunged the Hellenes into a war of such magnitude. The real cause, however, I consider to be the one which was formally most kept out of sight. The growth of the power of Athens, and the alarm which this inspired in Sparta, made war inevitable.” –Thucydides

- 2/11 – Allison, Graham. 2017. *Destined for War*, P. vii-xx, 3-24
- 2/13 – P. 27-40
- 2/15 – P. 41-54

Week 7: Thucydides’s Trap cont.

“According to the law of nature one rules whatever one can. We did not make this law. We found it when we came to power, and we shall leave it to those who come after us.” –Thucydides

- 2/18 – P. 55-85
- 2/20 – P. 89-106
- 2/22 – P. 107-132

Week 8: Thucydides’s Trap cont.

“Contemplate the great contrast between the two national characters, a contrast of which you have little perception, having never yet considered what sort of antagonists you will encounter in the Athenians, and how widely, how absolutely different they are from yourselves.” –Thucydides

- 2/25 – P. 133-153
- 2/27 – P. 154-184
- 3/1 – P. 187-213

Week 9: Thucydides's Trap cont.

"The greatest Chinese dream is the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation." –Xi Jinping, 2012

- 3/4 – NO CLASS
- 3/6 – P. 214-231
- 3/8 – P. 232-240

Week 10: Interdependence: Force for Peace or Conflict?

"The elaborate financial interdependence of the modern world has grown up in spite of ourselves. Men are fundamentally just as disposed as they were at any time to take wealth that does not belong to them. But their relative interest in the matter has changed." –Norman Angell

- 3/11 – Keohane, Robert, and Joseph Nye. 2011. *Power and Interdependence*, selections.
- 3/13 – Copeland, Dale. 2014. *Economic Interdependence and War*, selections.
- 3/15 – Rosecrance, Richard. 1986. *The Rise of the Trading State*, selections.

Week 11: Economic Statecraft

"War and commerce are but two different means of arriving at the same aim, which is to possess what is desired." –Benjamin Constant

- 3/18 – Hachigian, Nina, ed. 2014. *Debating China*, selections.
- 3/20 – Griswold, Daniel. 1998. "America's Misunderstood Trade Deficit." Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on International Relations. <https://www.cato.org/publications/congressional-testimony/americas-misunderstood-trade-deficit>
- 3/22 – Blackwill, Robert and Jennifer Harris. 2017. *War by Other Means*, selections.

Week 12: Economic Statecraft cont.

"In one brief sentence...monetary policy is foreign policy." –Helmut Schmidt, former German chancellor

- 3/25 – Blackwill, Robert and Jennifer Harris. 2017. *War by Other Means*, selections.
- 3/27 – Blackwill, Robert and Jennifer Harris. 2017. *War by Other Means*, selections.
- 3/29 – Skaff, Rebecca, Lincoln Webb, and Kyle Clahane. "Understanding China's Currency Manipulation."

Week 13: Modern Issues

- 4/1 – Bataineh, Bushra, Michael Bennon, and Francis Fukuyama. "Beijing's Building Boom." *Foreign Affairs*.
- 4/3 – Cavanna, Thomas. 2018. "What Does China's Belt and Road Initiative Mean for US Grand Strategy?" *The Diplomat*.
- 4/5 – Hachigian, Nina, ed. 2014. *Debating China*, selections.

Week 14: Modern Issues cont.

- 4/8 – Golden, Daniel. 2017. *Spy Schools*, selections.
- 4/10 – Posen, Barry. 2003. "Command of the Commons." *International Security* 28 (1).
- 4/12 – McElwee, Lily. 2018. "US-China Cooperation: The Shadow of Legitimacy." *The Diplomat*.

:: Spring Break: 4/15 – 4/19 ::

Week 15: Modern Issues cont.

- 4/22 – Glaser, Bonnie, and Gregory Poling. 2018. “Vanishing Borders in the South China Sea.” *Foreign Affairs*.
- 4/24 – Robertson, Jordan, and Michael Riley. 2018. “The Big Hack.” *Bloomberg Businessweek*.
- 4/26 – Course Wrap-up

Academic Misconduct Statement

Integrity, not industry or ingenuity, is the highest academic virtue. Lying, cheating, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

According to section 10.1 of the LSU Code of Student Conduct, “A student may be charged with Academic Misconduct” for a variety of offenses, including the following: unauthorized copying, collusion, or collaboration; “falsifying” data or citations; “assisting someone in the commission or attempted commission of an offense”; and plagiarism, which is defined in section 10.1.H as a “lack of appropriate citation, or the unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's words, structure, ideas, or data; failure to identify a source, or the submission of essentially the same work for two assignments without permission of the instructor(s).”

Disability Services Statement

According to the General Catalog, “The *Office of Disability Services* assists students in identifying and developing accommodations and services to help overcome barriers to the achievement of personal and academic goals. Services are provided for students with temporary or permanent disabilities. Accommodations and services are based on the individual student's disability-based need.” Students seeking accommodations must provide current documentation of their disabilities to the course instructor. Students should contact the office early so that necessary accommodations can be arranged.

Humanities and Social Sciences Competency Statement

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.