

BLS 412 01

China and the United States: Friends or Foes?

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Daytime Phone: (703) 670-3001

Meeting: By Appointment

Class: Thurs, 5:20-7:45PM

Place: Georgetown Downtown Campus

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This course is in **non-Western studies** because it deals primarily with China and other Asian nations during the late 20th and early 21st centuries and how the United States interacted with them in war and peace.

Overview:

2017 finds China a global power on the rise. At times the People's Republic of China (PRC) acts as a responsible member of the international community, taking part in anti-piracy, peacekeeping, and humanitarian missions around the globe. China and the United States are closely linked through trade, cultural exchanges, diplomacy, and military-to-military contacts. Every year, thousands of Chinese students graduate from American institutions of higher learning and American tourists crowd the Great Wall of China and other historic sites in this cradle of civilization.

But China increasingly concerns the U.S. government and America's allies and friends throughout Asia. Beijing has refused to condemn acts of aggression by the warlike and repressive government of North Korea and built a powerful and potentially destabilizing military establishment. China has asserted sovereignty over the entire South China Sea and islands mutually claimed by other Asian nations. Americans have witnessed the government of the PRC suppress the desires of many Chinese citizens for political and religious expression, representative government, cultural and ethnic diversity, and individual privacy.

The purpose of this course is to provide understanding of the interaction between the United States and the PRC since 1949 with emphasis on recent years. In particular, the course will explore how the two countries have dealt with each other in diplomatic, military, and ideological terms. Individual cases will include the wars in Korea and Vietnam, China's development of nuclear weapons, the policies of the Nixon, Clinton, Obama, and other U.S. administrations, Taiwan Strait crises, and China's expansive claims to the South China Sea and other disputed maritime areas.

Class Requirements: This class will consist primarily of lectures but with time set aside for in-class discussion of the issues and readings (20% of overall grade). In addition to assigned readings, students are expected to maintain awareness of current major developments affecting the U.S. and China through daily reference to a domestic news source such as the *Washington Post* and a foreign news source such as the BBC or on-line news information source. **During the**

first two weeks of the semester, each student will be required to report verbally on a major current event relating to the interaction between China and the United States. This report will be graded and incorporated into the 20% grade identified in this paragraph.

Students are encouraged to invest in up-to-date maps in order to familiarize themselves with the locations and geography related to the United States and Asia. Students with two or more absences may receive a failing grade for the course. Students must also complete class requirements within the stated time limits. Requests for extensions will be considered for emergency situations only.

Examinations: There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The exams will consist primarily of essay responses to questions designed for you to demonstrate knowledge of the subject matter. These exams are closed-book. (25% each)

Papers: Each student will be required to write a 10-page paper (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt) that describes and analyses a particular episode or event, diplomatic negotiation, armed forces, economic interaction, or similar topic relating to the U.S.-PRC confrontation and related subjects. Each student will also be required to write a 5-page paper (double-spaced, 1" margins, 12 pt) focused on a key person, American or otherwise, relating to the U.S.-PRC interaction. Lists of acceptable topics from which the student may choose will be made available. The 10-page paper will be (20%) and the 5-page paper (10%) of the grade. **Both papers will follow APA style.**

Late Submissions: The late submission of a student's paper, unless approved by the professor, will impact unfavorably on the grading of the paper.

Incompletes: Incompletes will not be allowed.

Grading Conversion:

93 to 100 = A
90 to 92 = A minus
87 to 89 = B plus
83 to 86 = B
80 to 82 = B minus
77 to 79 = C plus
73 to 76 = C
70 to 72 = C minus
67 to 69 = D plus
64 to 66 = D
0 to 63 = F

Learning Objectives:

Learning Objective 1: Be able to compare/evaluate historical research relating to modern U.S.-China relations.

This skill will be demonstrated and documented through successful completion of the 10-page and 5-page term papers based on both primary and secondary sources.

Learning Objective 2: Explain the limits/weaknesses of research approaches to knowledge of that relationship.

An understanding of the limits/weaknesses of research approaches will be demonstrated and documented through term papers prepared in line with the instructor's advice on the perils of inaccurate and/or unethical sources.

Learning Objective 3: Identify various types of historical research (documentary; oral history; secondary materials) and describe their strengths/weaknesses.

The ability to identify various types of historical research will be demonstrated and documented through term papers prepared in line with the instructor's advice on how to discern the most valuable archival materials, documentaries, books, journals, and newspaper accounts.

Learning Objective 4: Describe the process of historical research as it relates to study of the U.S.-China relationship.

An understanding of the process of historical research will be demonstrated and documented through term papers prepared in line with the instructor's advice on how one goes about identifying, exploiting, and incorporating information for use in an historical project.

Learning Objective 5: Describe how theory and research complement one another to produce a written work.

An understanding of how theory and research complement one another to produce a written work will be demonstrated and documented through preparation of term papers based on the instructor's advice on how to buttress or refute theory via empirical measures.

Learning Objective 6: Be able to recognize ethical issues in historical research, for example the morality evident in U.S.-China relations.

Be able to recognize, demonstrate, and document ethical issues in historical research relating to the U.S.-China relationship by preparing term papers based on the instructor's advice about the dangers of untrustworthy source materials and materials produced by entities with self-serving motives.

Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown.edu.

Turnitin.com

Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers can be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity

During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university's Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings.

The university recently has acquired the capability to send text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.

Georgetown Honor System

All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at www.georgetown.edu/honor, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking.

Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Plagiarism

In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail.

If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances

The following is university policy:

Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed

for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.

Readings: The required texts are available at the University bookstore and also at major online book retailers. Some reserve readings will be made available by the instructor.

Chang, Jung and Jon Halliday, *The Unknown Story of Mao* (New York: Anchor, 2005). ISBN: 0679746323

Marolda, Edward J., *Ready Seapower: A History of the U.S. Seventh Fleet* (Washington: Naval History and Heritage Command/Government Printing Office, 2012); **Free PDF copy** at: http://www.history.navy.mil/pubs/Ready%20Seapower_A%20History%20of%20the%20US%207th%20Fleet.pdf ISBN: 978-0-945274-67-4

Shen, Zhihua and Danhui Li, *After Learning to One Side: China and Its Allies in the Cold War* (Washington/Stanford, CA: Woodrow Wilson Ctr Press/Stanford Univ. Press, 2011). ISBN: 978—0-8047-7087-3

Sutter, Robert, *U.S.-Chinese Relations: Perilous Past, Pragmatic Present* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013). ISBN: 9781442218062

Westad, Ode Arne, *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750* (New York: Basic Books, 2012). ISBN: 978-0-465-01933-5

Zhai, Qiang, *China and the Vietnam Wars, 1950-1975* (Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 2000). ISBN: 0-8078-2532-8

Other pedagogical activities in the course: Exploitation of internet information, including videos of key events in U.S.-China relations, documentaries, and photo galleries of key Chinese and American figures in history.

Class Schedule:

- 1) The Early Years of American Contact with China (12 Jan)

Sutter, pp. 1-38
Westad, pp. 1-17; 87-122

- 2) Nationalism and Communism in Early 20th Century China (19 Jan)

Chang and Halliday, pp. 118-54

- 3) China, America, and World War II (26 Jan)

Sutter, pp. 39-47
Westad, pp. 247-84

- 4) The Chinese Civil War (2 Feb)

Sutter, pp. 48-54
Westad, pp. 285-304
- 5) The U.S. and China in the Korean War, 1950-1953 (9 Feb) ***5-page paper due**

Shen and Li, pp. 3-50
- 6) The Indochina War (16 Feb)

Zhai, pp. 1-64
- 7) **Mid-Term Exam (23 Feb)**
- 8) Crises in the Strait of Taiwan (2 Mar)

Westad, pp. 304-32
Marolda, pp. 37-52

Spring Break (week of 5 Mar)

- 9) Upheaval in China and Southeast Asia, 1959-1975 (16 Mar)

Chang and Halliday, pp. 493-516
Westad, pp. 333-63
Shen and Li, pp. 119-46
- 10) Post-Vietnam Conflicts and Changing Allegiances (23Mar)

Sutter, pp. 65-76
- 11) China and the U.S. Under Deng Xiaoping and Ronald Reagan (30 Mar)

Sutter 76-94
Westad, pp. 365-86
- 12) U.S.-Chinese Relations during the Bush and Clinton Years (6 Apr)

Sutter pp. 95-122
Westad, pp. 386-400
Marolda, 113-23

Easter Break (week of 9 Apr)

13) 21st Century Challenges (20 Apr) ***10-page pager due**

Sutter, pp. 123-89; 267-77

Marolda, pp. 123-26; 150-66

14) Review for Final (27 Apr)

15) Final Exam (Date TBD)

***Note: Make up classes related to inclement weather cancellations will be held on the Monday evening (5:20-7:45PM) following the cancelled class. The classroom for this makeup TBD.**