Honors Seminar: China and the World

In this course we will explore the development and execution of Chinese foreign policy, with emphasis on the post-1978 era, in which the PRC has emerged as an important global actor. After briefly examining China’s dramatic rise as an economic and military power, we will explore some of the domestic drivers of China’s international behavior in weeks 3–4. We will then consider topics including: whether China’s continued rise is likely to be peaceful; how much influence China has regionally and globally; how we can account for China’s behavior in regional and global institutions; China’s approach to regional issues such as the Taiwan issue and the Korean nuclear issue; and China’s approach to the developing world and development assistance.

Requirements

This course will be conducted primarily as a discussion seminar, though there will be some lectures. As such, participation in course discussions and in-class group projects will constitute an important part of the final grade, and students must come to class prepared, having completed the readings for the week. The reading load is heavy, as this is an honors class.

Students will write a research paper (approximately 12-15 pages in length) on a topic approved in advance by the instructors. A short proposal will be due in class on October 11. Students will present their findings to the class during the final two weeks of the course (November 29 and December 6). The paper will be due on the scheduled date of the final exam (December 16).

Students will also be expected to write a reaction paper to one week’s readings (approximately 5 pages in length), and will be expected to present their arguments to the class.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Class participation (including participation in in-class group projects and discussions): 35%
Research paper (due on December 16): 35%
Reaction paper: 15%
In-class presentations: 15%

Grades will be assessed on a letter (A, A-, B+ etc.) scale, not a point scale, even when grades posted on ELMS may be converted by the ELMS software to points. Grades will not automatically be curved. Late work will be assigned a penalty, usually a half grade per day.
Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should have a better understanding of China’s foreign relations. The course also aims to improve research skills, writing and communication skills, critical thinking skills, and analytical skills.

Readings

The following book is required and has been ordered at the campus bookstore:


Additionally, numerous articles are assigned. Some of these are book chapters that will be posted on ELMS course reserves. But most are journal articles: students are responsible for downloading journal articles themselves via the library webpage.

Class policies and other important information

Cheating:

We take cheating very seriously, and will not hesitate to forward a case to the Office of Student Conduct if we suspect academic misconduct.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit: http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

Laptops, cellphones, and other distractions:

Using electronic devices in class not only undercuts your ability to learn, but also distracts others (including the instructors!), thus affecting the ability of other students to learn.

Students wishing to use laptops in class must first sign a statement indicating that they will only use their laptops for legitimate course-related reasons such as taking notes, and that they will sit near the front of the class while using their laptop. Failure to comply (such as by surfing the web, checking email, etc.) will result in loss of laptop-using privileges.
Cellphone use (including texting) will not be tolerated. Please silence your cellphone and refrain from using it during class.

Violation of these policies will negatively affect your course participation grade.

Absences, etc.

For information on University policies regarding excused absences for medical or other reasons, and information on other course related policies, please refer to the Office of Undergraduate Studies webpage on course related policies: http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html.

DAILY READING ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: August 30

Introduction to the Course

Week 2: September 6

The Parameters of China’s “Rise”

- Shambaugh, Chapter 1.

Week 3: September 13

Domestic Drivers of Foreign Policy I: China’s Political System and the making of Chinese foreign policy

- Susan L. Shirk, China, Fragile Superpower: How China’s Internal Politics Could Derail its Peaceful Rise (New York, NY: Oxford University Press,
2008), chapter 3 [ELMS].


**Week 4 September 20**

**Domestic Drivers of Foreign Policy II: Nationalism and Public Opinion**

- Shambaugh, Chapter 2.


**Week 5: September 27**

**Power Transition and the Security Dilemma: Can China’s rise be peaceful?**


Week 6: October 4

Assessing China’s Overseas Influence

- Shambaugh, chapters 3, 5 & 6.

Week 7: October 11

China and International Institutions I: Regional Institutions


Week 8: October 18

China and International Institutions II: Global Institutions

- Shambaugh, chapter 4.
- Fuzuo Wu, “Shaping China’s Climate Diplomacy: Wealth, Status, and


Week 9: October 25

**The Taiwan Strait**

- “Correspondence: Stability or Volatility across the Taiwan Strait?” *International Security* 41, vol. 2 (Fall 2016), pp. 192-197.


Week 10: November 1

**The Korean Peninsula**


Week 11: November 8

Territorial and maritime disputes


Week 12: November 15

China and the Developing World

• Yun Sun, Africa in China’s Foreign Policy (Washington: Brookings), online at: https://wlv.ac.uk/media/departments/faculty-of-social-sciences/documents/Africa_in_China_Brookings_report.pdf
Week 13: Thanksgiving Break (university closed November 22-24)

Week 14: November 29
Student Presentations

Week 15: December 6
Student Presentations