**CHINESE POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY**

This is a Ph.D.-level seminar that will introduce students to key questions and debates in the study of Chinese domestic politics and foreign policy. The first half of the course will focus on China’s international relations. Topics covered will include China’s rise as a regional and global power, and its implications for regional and global politics; the impact of domestic political dynamics on Chinese foreign policy; China’s behavior in regional and global institutions; the degree to which a rising China is able to exert influence abroad; and China’s role in regional maritime and territorial disputes. The second half of the course focuses on China’s domestic politics. Topics covered include Chinese political institutions; China’s political economy; the functions of legislatures and elections; the role of information; and contentious politics and civil society. The course will be taught as a seminar; students are expected to do the readings in advance and to come to class prepared for active discussion.

**Course Requirements:**

Research Paper (45%)—The main written requirement will be a 15 page research paper. A short preliminary summary of the project (with preliminary bibliography) will be due October 10, and the final paper will be due December 12. We will discuss this assignment in more detail during the first class.

Response Papers (15%)—Students are required to write four papers (approximately 3 pages in length) that respond to the readings for a particular week. Each week will have two papers/discussion leaders. For each student, two of these weeks should be in the IR section of the course, and two in the domestic politics section. (On the weeks that students write papers, they will also be expected to help lead class discussion.)

Class Participation (35%)—Please do all readings in advance and be prepared to discuss in class.

Presentation (5%)—Students will present to the class a brief summary of their research paper on December 5.

**Books Ordered**


**Course schedule**

Week 1: August 29  
Introduction

**Part I: China’s International Relations**

Week 2: September 5  
China’s rise and its implications for regional and global politics

A. General theoretical perspectives

B. Power Transition Theory

C. Security dilemma
Week 3: September 12

**Domestic political dynamics and foreign policy**

A. **Institutions**

B. **Nationalism**

C. **Audience costs**

Week 4: September 19

**China in International Institutions**

- Johnston, *Social States*.
Week 5: September 26

Assessing China’s global influence

A. Financial influence

B. Foreign policy consequences of trade

C. Perspectives on assessing China’s regional influence
   - Evelyn Goh, ed., *Rising China’s Influence in Developing Asia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), chapters 1 (Goh), 2 (Glosny), 10 (Ciorciari) and 11 (Foot and Inboden).

Week 6: October 3

Territorial and maritime disputes

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

B. Other territorial and maritime disputes

Week 7: October 10

**Research methods and China, and some basics on ideology and history**

[Hand in short description of research project for the course, and bibliography.]

  o Ch 6 on media content, by Daniela Stockmann
  o Ch 10 on survey research, by Melanie Manion
• Pan, Jennifer and Yiqing Xu. Forthcoming. “China’s Ideological Spectrum.” *Journal of Politics*

**Part II: China’s Domestic Politics**

Week 8: October 17

**Foundations of China’s Regime: Comparative Theories, Theories Developed for the PRC**

**A. Authoritarian Regime Survival – comparative literature**


**B. Bureaucratic Structure, Policy-Making**

• Andrew C. Mertha, “‘Fragmented Authoritarianism 2.0: Political Pluralization of the Chinese Policy Process,” *The China Quarterly* 200 (December 2009): 1-18
C. Informal Politics, Factions


D. In What Ways is Culture Significant?


Week 9: October 24

Institutions (Potentially) Unique to China

A. Cadre Promotion


B. Central-Local Relations/Decentralization


Week 10: October 31

**Authoritarian Power Sharing: The Function of Legislatures and Elections**

A. Review of the comparative literature

B. Legislatures – compare approaches of Truex and Manion, 2 books published at about the same time.

C. Elections

Week 11: November 7

**Information**


**Week 12: November 14**

**Political Economy**

A. Institutions and Growth

B. Linkages between economic and political reform
• Kellee S. Tsai (2007), *Capitalism without Democracy: The Private Sector in Contemporary China* (Cornell Univ. Press), chs. 1, 2 (pp. 1-43).

**Week 13: Thanksgiving.**
Week 14: November 28

**Contentious Politics/Civil Society/Collective Action**


Week 15: December 5

Student presentations

Final paper due: December 12