

China and East Asian Security

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Dr. Martin KOSSA
Office/Building	

【Course Outline / Description】

China and East Asian Security exposes students to historical and contemporary issues facing the People's Republic of China's (PRC) engagement with the surrounding East Asian region. Specifically, the course will aim to analyze China's developmental trajectory and understand the impact of national identity (as rooted in China's distinctive historical experiences) on the PRC's international affairs in East Asia by studying critical junctures in contemporary Chinese history. The course is broadly divided into three sections. The first outlines the collapse of the Qing empire, the ensuing Republican years as well as the first decades of the newly established PRC. The second section analyzes China's "Reforms and Opening" (post-1978), its "rise" in international power terms and the challenges that could stall China's regional ambitions including contradictions in its economic model (e.g., excessive reliance on debt to fuel growth), environmental degradation, population aging etc. The important issue of Taiwan is also addressed in this section. The third section focuses on China's bilateral relations with the main actors in East Asia: the United States, Japan, the two Koreas, Russia and states in Southeast Asia.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify important problems and aspects of China's engagement with the countries on its periphery
- Convey an accurate understanding of the PRC's political and economic developmental trajectory to the present
- Analyze the reactions of East Asian countries to China's rise
- Explain analytically how China's distinctive historical experiences have helped shaped the PRC's identity as an international actor
- Assess the influence of economic development, technological advance, participation in globalization, and collective identity on China's evolving political system

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Class 1: Course Introduction 29/01/2020

- Read the syllabus and prepare questions regarding the course
- No other reading assigned

Class 2: Lecture – The Origins of the PRC 1 (late Qing dynasty 1839-1912) 31/01/2020

- Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, 2nd edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004), Chapter 1.

Class 3: Student Reading Discussions – The Sino-Japanese War 1894/95 05/02/2020

- Andrew Q. Greve and Jack S. Levy, "Power Transitions, Status Dissatisfaction, and War: The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895," *Security Studies* 27, no. 1 (2018): 148-178.

- Class 4: Lecture – The Origins of the PRC 2 (the Republican era 1912-1949) 07/02/2020**
- Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, 2nd edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004), Chapter 2.
- Class 5: Student Presentation 12/02/2020**
- Topic: *China's role in World War 1*
- Class 6: Lecture – Maoism 1 (establishment of the PRC and the Great Leap Forward) 14/02/2020**
- John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, 2nd edition (London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006), Chapter 18.
- Class 7: Documentary 19/02/2020**
- *Mao's Great Famine*
 - Yang Jisheng, "The Fatal Politics of the PRC's Great Famine: The Preface to Tombstone," *Journal of Contemporary China* 19, no. 66 (2010), pp. 755-776.
- Class 8: Lecture – Maoism 2 (the Cultural Revolution and rapprochement with the US) 21/02/2020**
- Sergey Radchenko, "The Sino-Soviet Split," in *The Cambridge History of the Cold War: Volume II – Crisis and Détente*, edited by Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), Chapter 17.
- Class 9: Documentary 26/02/2020**
- *Assignment: China - "The Week That Changed The World"*
- Class 10: Lecture – Reform and Opening (post-1978) 28/02/2020**
- John W. Garver, *China's Quest: The History of the Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), Chapter 13.
- Class 11: Student Presentation 04/03/2020**
- Topic: *Communists at war: China's 1979 war with Vietnam*
- Class 12: Documentary 06/03/2020**
- *Deng Xiaoping – The making of a leader*
- Class 13: Quiz 1 (in class) 11/03/2020**
- Class 14: Lecture – Understanding the Rise of China 13/03/2020**
- John W. Garver, *China's Quest: The History of the Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), Chapter 25.
- Class 15: Documentary 25/03/2020**
- *Assignment: China - Tiananmen Square*
- Class 16: Student Presentation 27/03/2020**
- Topic: *The PRC and Hong Kong*
- Class 17: Lecture – Models of China's Politics and Foreign Policy 01/04/2020**
- Steve Tsang, "Party-state Realism: A Framework for Understanding China's Approach to Foreign Policy," *Journal of Contemporary China* (2019), DOI:

10.1080/10670564.2019.1637562.

- Class 18: Student Presentation** 03/04/2020
- Topic: *Does China have soft power?*
- Class 19: Lecture – Challenges to China’s Rise** 08/04/2020
- Elizabeth C. Economy, *The River Runs Black: The Environmental Challenge to China’s Future* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2010), Chapter 1.
- Class 20: Student Reading Discussions – Can China rise peacefully?** 10/04/2020
- John J. Mearsheimer, "Can China Rise Peacefully?" *The National Interest*, October 25, 2014, <https://nationalinterest.org/commentary/can-china-rise-peacefully-10204>.
- Class 21: Lecture – Taiwan** 15/04/2020
- Robert G. Sutter, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War*, 4th edition (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), Chapter 7.
- Class 22: Student Presentation** 17/04/2020
- Topic: *Will Taiwan reunify with the Mainland?*
- Class 23: Quiz 2 (in class)** 22/04/2020
- Class 24: Lecture – China’s relations with Japan and the Koreans** 24/04/2020
- Robert G. Sutter, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War*, 4th edition (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), Chapter 8.
- Class 25: Student Presentation** 29/04/2020
- Topic: *China and international institutions*
- Class 26: Lecture – China’s relations with the US and Southeast Asia** 01/05/2020
- Robert G. Sutter, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War*, 4th edition (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016), Chapter 6.
- Class 27: Student Presentation** 08/05/2020
- Topic: *The South China Sea Dispute*
- Class 28: Lecture – China’s relations with Russia** 13/05/2020
- Alexander Gabuev, "Unwanted but Inevitable: Russia’s Deepening Partnership with China Post-Ukraine," in *Sino-Russian Relations in the 21st Century*, edited by Jo Inge Bekkevold and Bobo Lo (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave, 2019), pp. 41-66.
- Class 29: Student Presentation** 15/05/2020
- Topic: *Is China a regional hegemon?*
- Class 30: Course Revision** 20/05/2020

Mode:

This course combines lectures, student presentations, student reading discussions as well as documentaries. Each lecture class will include a presentation by the course instructor (one hour) followed by a class discussion. Each lecture also has one main reading assignment which the students are required to read before the class in order to actively participate in class discussions that will follow the lecture.

Student presentation and reading discussion sessions will be, for the most part, student-led classes. At the beginning of each of these classes, two to three students (depending on the class size) will give a short (5 minute) oral report on an analysis or op-ed they read regarding China (preferably within the area of China's foreign affairs) and explain the issues and challenges at stake. Students can use the websites listed below (but are not limited to them only). These short oral reports will also be required before classes with documentaries. Students will be selected for this assignment one class before the oral report delivery. They will also be asked to coordinate among themselves so as to ensure that each student covers a different topic. This will be counted towards the participation mark.

After these short oral reports, students will have a presentation on a pre-selected topic or will be asked to discuss the selected reading material during the reading discussion session or watch a documentary (depending on the class schedule). These classes – student presentations, the reading discussion sessions and the documentaries – are designed to expand on the topic of the lecture.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Students are not required to purchase any textbooks for this course. Weekly reading assignments will be posted on blackboard. That said, some of the main source material will come from the following books:

- Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform*, 2nd edition (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2004).
- Robert G. Sutter, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War*, 4th edition (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016).
- John W. Garver, *China's Quest: The History of the Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject:

- John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History*, 2nd edition (London: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2006).
- Roderick MacFarquhar and Michael Schoenhals, *Mao's Last Revolution* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006).
- Daniel Lynch, *China's Futures: PRC Elites Debate Economics, Politics, and Foreign Policy* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2015).
- Yasheng Huang, *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008).
- Wang Feng, "The Future of a Demographic Overachiever: Long-Term Implications of the Demographic Transition in China," *Population and Development Review*, no. 37 (2011), pp. 173-190.
- Marc Lanteigne, *Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction*, 4th edition (New York: Routledge, 2019).
- David Shambaugh, *China's Future* (Cambridge, UK and Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2016).
- David Shambaugh, *China Goes Global: The Partial Power* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).
- Linda Jakobson and Dean Knox, "New Foreign Policy Actors in China," *SIPRI Policy Paper 26*, (2010): 1-51.
- Elizabeth C. Economy, *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).
- Cheng Li, *Chinese Politics in the Xi Jinping Era: Reassessing Collective Leadership* (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2016).

Students are also encouraged to familiarize themselves and to read the following

websites that offer detailed analyses on Chinese domestic and international issues:

- The China Leadership Monitor (CLM <https://www.prcleader.org/about>) – analysis focused on current trends in China’s leadership politics and in its foreign and domestic policies.
- East Asia Forum (<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/>) – economics, politics and public policy in East Asia and the Pacific
- RAND (<https://www.rand.org/topics/china.html>) – examining a wide range of issues, including China’s military, political, and trade relations, especially with Taiwan and Japan; its environmental, economic, and health policies
- Jamestown Foundation’s China Brief (<https://jamestown.org/programs/cb/>)
- Center for Strategic and International Studies’ China Power Project (<https://www.csis.org/programs/china-power-project>)
- Brookings Institution (<https://www.brookings.edu/topic/china/>)
- South China Morning Post (<https://www.scmp.com/hk>)

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Class participation (20%)

Quizzes 1, 2 (30%)

Student presentation (30%)

Final examination (20%)

Class participation: Active class participation (not simply attendance) entails asking questions of seminar presenters, raising issues from lectures, and generally contributing to the intellectual environment of the course.

Quizzes: There will be two quizzes throughout the semester – Quiz 1 on 11/03/2020 worth 15% and Quiz 2 on 22/04/2020 worth 15%. These will be in class, essay style quizzes covering the lectures and main reading materials. They will be closed-book, with no external reference materials allowed. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Student presentation: Students will be required to give an in-class seminar on the topic. Each presentation should run for 30 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. All topics must be covered. Quality questions from the audience are expected and will count towards participation marks.

Final examination: This will be conducted during the examination week at the end of the semester. The final examination will be in the form of an in-class essay style quiz covering selected lectures and reading material. It will be closed-book, with no external reference materials allowed.

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Class etiquette:

- Make sure that you are always on time
- Noisy behavior, eating, drinking etc. during the class must not take place in such a manner that it causes inconveniences to others
- People tend to have strong and differing opinions about some of the topics discussed in the course. Please be respectful towards your classmates and the lecturer.
- Smartphones need to be on silent once students enter the classroom. You may use your laptops but only for class-related activities.