

Foreign Policy of China –IR, 820 (Elective Course)

Course Description: This course examines the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China within the context of contemporary international relations. Students will explore the evolution, principles, and strategies that shape China's interactions with the international community through a combination of historical analysis, theoretical frameworks, and case studies. The course begins with a historical overview of Chinese security policy, emphasizing key concepts of national identity, international status, and modernization. It explores the domestic sources of China's security policy, China's security relations in the Asia Pacific, and particular case studies of crisis diplomacy, such as the South China Sea, the Mekong River Delta, and the Himalayan-Tibetan Plateau.

Course Objectives: This course surveys China's rise and its implications for Asian and international security. It covers a wide range of topics, including China's strategic priorities, regional engagements, global economic strategies, security policies, and role in global governance institutions.

Learning outcome: Upon successful completion, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

- A comprehensive knowledge of the evolution of China's foreign relations and security policies.
- A critical understanding of the key drivers of Chinese security policy behavior in the Asia Pacific.
- Deeper insights into regional foreign policy and security challenges from a Chinese perspective.
- A developed capacity to present strong arguments in their written and oral work and to link relevant concepts and theories to actual practice skills (as developed through written assessments, in-class discussions, and tutorial-based activities).

Course Content

Week 1:	Overview of Chinese foreign policy: historical perspective and critical milestones
Week 2:	Fundamental principles and guiding ideologies (e.g., Marxism-Leninism, Deng Xiaoping Theory, Xi Jinping Thought)
Week 3:	Domestic politics and leadership dynamics: influence on foreign policy decision-making
Week 4:	Economic imperatives and their impact on foreign relations (e.g., trade policies, Belt and Road Initiative)
Week 5:	Nationalism and public opinion: implications for China's external behavior
Week 6:	Evolution of strategic thought: Maoist era to contemporary developments
Week 7:	Military modernization and its implications for regional and global security
Week 8:	Relations with neighboring states: Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea, and Central Asia; South China Sea disputes and regional security dynamics
Week 9:	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
Week 10:	Economic interdependence and strategic competition
Week 11:	Evolution of Sino-American relations since the Cold War
Week 12:	Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Objectives, Challenges, and Global Impact
Week 13:	Soft power and cultural diplomacy: Confucius Institutes and Cultural Exchanges
Week 14:	China's Diplomatic Initiatives
Week 15:	China's Security Policies
Week 16:	<i>Final Exams</i>

Reading Material

- Wang, Gungwu, *China and the World since 1949: The Impact of Independence, Modernity and Revolution* (1977).
- Whiting, Allen S., "Chinese Nationalism and Foreign Policy After Deng", *The China Quarterly*, 142, 1995 (June): 295-316.
- Woodrow Wilson Centre, Cold War International History Project documents at <http://www.cwihp.org>
- Yahuda, Michael, *China's Role in World Affairs* (1978).

- Yahuda, Michael, *"The End of Isolationism: Chinese Foreign Policy After Mao"* (1984).
- Yong, Deng, "The Chinese Conception of National Interest in International Relations," *The China Quarterly* No. 154 (June 1998) pp 308-329.
- Yu, George T., *China's African Policy: A Study of Tanzania* (1975).
- Zagoria, Donald S, *The Sino-Soviet Conflict, 1956-1961* (1962).
- Zhao, Gancheng, "Assessing China's Impact on Asia-EU Relations in *The Post-Cold War World*, Shanghai Institute for International Studies (2000).
- Zhao, Quansheng, "Domestic Factors of Chinese Foreign Policy: From Vertical to Horizontal Authoritarianism", *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 1992, 519 (January): 159-176.
- Zhao, Quansheng, "Patterns and Choices of Chinese Foreign Policy," *Asian Affairs*, 20 (1) (Spring): 1-5.
- Zheng, Yongnian, *Discovering Chinese Nationalism in China: Modernization, Identity and International Relations* (1999).
- Zhao, Suisheng, *Power Competition in East Asia: From the Old Chinese World Order to Post-Cold War Regional Multipolarity* (1998).
- Zhao, Suisheng, *China and the United States: Cooperation and Competition in Northeast Asia* (2008).