Course Description:

In this course we will come to terms with the dramatic rise of China through reviewing major developments in contemporary Chinese foreign policy since the establishment of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), and more specifically concentrating on major developments in Chinese foreign policy during the 1980s and 1990s. The course will thus be divided into three sections.

In the first section we will briefly examine each of the main analytical approaches to the study of Chinese foreign policy in order to prepare ourselves to analyze major themes and trends in Chinese foreign relations. In addition, in this section we will study the harsh entrance of the Chinese empire into the western international system, and outline the central events that occurred in China’s foreign relations from the early 1950s through the start of the reform and opening period in the early 1980s.

The second section of the course will concentrate on the main features of China’s foreign relations during the 1980s and 1990s. Particular interest will be paid to the impact that the Tiananmen demonstrations and the end of the Cold War had on the relationship between Beijing and the rest of the world.

The final section will focus on recent developments in China’s evolving relationship with the rest of the international system, and attempt to identify and explain China’s emerging role within the contemporary international politics. It will also consider the nature of China’s “peaceful rise” on the world stage.

This wide-ranging survey of Chinese foreign policy will involve not only a consideration of the evolution of China’s relations with its major bilateral partners, but also an investigation of how China has defined its broader relationship with the international system. In addition, students will be asked to consider which causal factors have been of primary importance in motivating Chinese behavior. To what extent is Chinese foreign
policy simply a reflection of systemic variables such as shifts in the relative balance of power? What roles do ideology, culture, leadership psychology, and domestic politics, play? Is there a single set of variables that have determined Chinese policy decisions throughout the history of the PRC, or have Chinese interests and identity changed during this period?

Course Requirements:

In addition to an in-class mid-term (20%) and a take-home final exam (30%), students will be required to write two short 3-4 page papers (30%).

Students will complete all assigned reading prior to class meetings, and regularly contribute to discussion sections.

Discussion sections are mandatory. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is of course expected (20%).

Required Texts:

Iain Johnston and Robert Ross, New Directions in the Study of China’s Foreign Policy, Stanford, 2006.


All required texts are available at the Cornell Bookstore. In addition to the required texts, students will also be asked to do readings that are available through Cornell’s electronic reserve system, or via e-journals.

In addition to these required texts, there are a number of electronic resources that examine contemporary Chinese politics, foreign relations, and national security that students may make use of to deepen their understanding of the issues considered in the course. The following list is a sampling of a few of such sources.

Asia Times Online. http://www.atimes.com
Asian Studies Virtual Library. coombs.anu.edu.au/WWVL-AsianStudies.html
Center for Nonproliferation Studies, China Database. www.nti.org/db/china
Central Asia-Caucasus Institute. www.cacianalyst.org
China Data Center (University of Michigan).  www.umich.edu/~iinet/chinadata
ChinaInfo.  www.chinainfo.gov.cn
China Documentation Center at George Washington University’s Gelman Library.  www.gwu.edu/gelman/seearr/cdc
Chinese Military Power website sponsored by the Project on Defense Alternatives.  www.comw.org/cmp/
Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  www.fmprc.gov.cn
CIA.  www.cia.gov
CIA World Factbook.  www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook
Council on Foreign Relations.  www.cfr.org
CSIS Pacific Forum.  www.csis.org/pacfor
Human Rights in China.  www.hrichina.org
Human Rights Watch.  www.hrw.org
National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.  www.ncuscr.org
National Security Archive.  www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv
NDU Center for Chinese Military Studies.  www.ndu.edu/inss/China_Center/CSCMA_frames.htm
People’s Daily (English).  www/english.peopledaily.com.cn
RAND Corporation.  rand.org
Research Resources for Asian and Chinese Politics.  www.jhunix.hcf.jhu.edu/~ktsai/researchasiachina.htm
Republic of China (Taiwan) foreign ministry.  www.mofa.gov.tw/emb忝/econtain.htm
Taiwan Security Research.  www.taiwansecurity.org
Class Schedule:

SECTION ONE: BASIC THEORETICAL APPROACHES AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

WEEK ONE: GETTING STARTED
Lectures (Beginning to Think About China’s Place in the World):
Tuesday, Jan 23: Distribution of Syllabi, Introduction to the Course- What Image of China Brings You to this Course?

Thursday, January 25: Why Study China’s Relationship to the Rest of the World (and the Current Debate about China’s Rise)?

Required Readings (Contrasting Views of China’s Current Rise):


Recommended Reading:

WEEK TWO: CONTRASTING THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS OF CHINA’S PLACE IN THE WORLD
Lectures (International Relations Theory and China):
Tuesday, January 30: Basic Theoretical Orientations: Analytical Perspectives on China’s Foreign Relations (Is The Glass Half Full/ The Glass Half Empty?)

Thursday, February 1: No Lecture Today Due to Scheduling Conflict, however, we will show the short film, Mardis Gras Made in China.

Required Readings:

Goldstein, Rising to the Challenge, pp. 1-101.
WEEK THREE: THE LONG SHADOW OF THE PAST: CONSIDERING HISTORY’S IMPRINT ON CHINA’S PRESENT

Lectures (From The Center of the World to Peripheral Status):
Tuesday, February 6: The Sinocentric System- China at the Center (And Echoes of Such A Past)

Thursday, February 8: Becoming Part of the Western International System: The Fight for Sovereignty and Independence (And The Possible Implications of Such a Struggle for Today’s China)

Required Readings (Considering China’s Past):


Recommended Reading:

WEEK FOUR: CHINA STANDS UP (AND FIGHTS)

Lectures (The PRC’s Rocky Start):
Tuesday, February 13:  The Sino-Soviet Alliance’s Rise, War in Korea and the Sino-Soviet Split

Thursday, February 15: Chaos at Home, Threats Abroad:  The Cultural Revolution and Chinese Foreign Policy

Required Readings:
Ross and Johnston, chapters 3, 4.


Recommended Reading:
SECTION TWO: CHINESE FOREIGN RELATIONS DURING THE INITIAL REFORM AND OPENING ERA

WEEK FIVE: EMERGING FROM THE SHADOWS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Lectures (China Starts Over):
Tuesday, February 20: The Normalization of Sino-US Relations
Thursday, February 22: Deng’s Move from Self-Reliance to Opening

Required Readings:


WEEK SIX: NEW INFLUENCES ON POLICY MAKING DURING THE REFORM PERIOD

Lectures (Elites, Masses, Institutions and Ideas):
Tuesday, February 27: The Decision Making Process: Who (or Hu) is Calling the Shots?
Thursday, March 1: The Broader Context of Foreign Policy Making: Nationalism and Societal Influences

Required Readings:
Ross and Johnston, chapters 11-13.

Recommended Reading:

WEEK SEVEN: TIANANMEN AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR

Lectures (Change at Home, Change Abroad):
Tuesday, March 6: Tiananmen and China’s Foreign Relations
Thursday, March 8: The End of the Cold War and China’s Return from Isolation (Great Power Relations)
Required Readings (Recovering from Unexpected Changes):


Mike Lampton, Same Bed, Different Dreams, pp. 1-64. Available via Cornell’s Electronic Reserve.

Recommended Reading:
Zweig, Internationalizing China, pp. 161-279. SKIM.

WEEK EIGHT: CHINA’S NEW BORDERS AND MIDTERM EXAM

Lecture:
Tuesday, March 13: MID-TERM (In Class)

Thursday, March 15: Border Treaties and Confidence Building in the 1990s

Recommended Readings (Making Friends, Drawing Lines):

SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS MARCH 20+22.

SECTION THREE: CHINA ENTERS INTO THE 21st CENTURY

WEEK NINE: INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS I

Lectures (Human Rights, Intervention, Integration with International Society?):

Tuesday, March 27: China and the International Human Rights Regime

Thursday, March 29: China’s Evolving Stance on Multilateral Intervention

Required Readings:
Ross and Johnston, chapters 8, 10.

WEEK TEN: CHINA IN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS II
Lectures:
Tuesday, April 3: Beijing’s Drive for Membership in the WTO (and the Implications of Membership)

Thursday, April 5: Soft Power and a New Global Presence

Required Readings:
Ross and Johnston, chapter 9.


Recommended Readings:


WEEK ELEVEN: THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL UNITY NOW

Lectures (One China?):
Tuesday, April 10: Contested Territory- Tibet and Taiwan (Independence, Deterrence, and the Prospects for Dialogue)

Thursday, April 12: Muslims in the Middle Kingdom- How Different Are They?

Required Readings (Talking with the Dalai Lama, and Deterring Conflict Across the Strait):
Ross and Johnston, chapter 2.


Recommended Readings:

**WEEK TWELVE: CHINA’S NEW ROLE IN ASIA**

**Lectures** (A New Regional Power?)
Tuesday, April 17: China in Asia I: Making Friends?

Thursday, April 19: China in Asia: Making Enemies?

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**
Ross and Johnston, chapters 5-7. SKIM.

**WEEK THIRTEEN: EMERGING TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES**

**Lectures** (New Threats, New Opportunities):
Tuesday, April 24: Looming Environmental Crisis and Potential Solutions

Thursday, April 26: Non-Traditional Security Challenges

**Required Readings:**


Recommended Readings:


WEEK FOURTEEN: FINISHING UP
Lectures (A Critical Juncture in US-China Relations?):
Tuesday, May 1: Still A Threat I?
Thursday, May 3: Still A Threat II?

THE TAKE HOME FINAL WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE END OF THIS CLASS, DUE DATE TBA.

Required Readings:

Goldstein, Rising to the Challenge, pp. 102-204.

Recommended Reading: