COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science
Political Science W4871y
CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY
Spring 2014

MW 2:40-3:55
Prof. Andrew J. Nathan
931 IAB
Office Hours: Wed. 1-2:30 and by appointment

Teaching Fellows:
  H. Seung Cho
  Jérôme Doyon
  Justine Ren

Purposes. The course describes the major elements of Chinese foreign policy today, in the context of their development since 1949. We seek to understand the security-based rationale of policy as well as other factors – organizational, cultural, perceptual, and so on – that influence Chinese foreign policy. We analyze decision-making processes that affect Chinese foreign policy, China’s relations with various countries and regions, Chinese policy toward key functional issues in international affairs, how the rise of China is affecting global power relations, and how other actors are responding. The course pays attention to the application of international relations theories to the problems we study, and also takes an interest in policy issues facing decision-makers in China as well as those facing decision-makers in other countries who deal with China.

Requirements. The course grade will be based on two take-home examinations and two essays. The essays should be 5-7 pages long and may be of the following kinds. If you wish, both of of your papers can be of the same kind. For more details on the expectations attached to each kind of paper, please see the file “Essay Types Explanation.doc” on Courseworks.

(a) A critical book review. The critical essay will address two books not on the course list, relevant to the subject of the course. Please see the attached list for some suggestions, but you may also propose books that are not on the list, which you should clear with the instructor or TFs. (You can also use a book of which no more than two chapters are assigned in the course syllabus.) For ideas about books to review, you might look at the “Asia and Pacific” book review column that your instructor writes for Foreign Affairs magazine. They can be found at http://www.foreignaffairs.com/books/capsule-reviews. Your review essay should avoid summarizing the material in the books, and should offer an independent consideration of the issues the books discuss and a critique of the authors’ analyses.

(b) An explorations paper, which looks at a topic of interest to you, relevant to the subject of the course, based on published works and/or websites. We have in mind topics which are not adequately covered in the course reading, and on which you would like more information. We want to learn what information you have gathered, but we also
want to know why you think the issue is important, what conclusions you have provisionally drawn from the information you have gathered and, as appropriate, what you think are the biases or inadequacies of the sources that you used.

(c) A policy paper, which recommends a policy for China in some domain or which recommends a policy toward China in some domain for some other international actor (a government, NGO, multinational organization, etc.). A policy paper should be addressed to a specific actor (e.g., president, secretary of state, members of congress), should propose policies that are feasible for that actor, and should appeal to that actor’s interests. You may wish to run your ideas past the instructor or a TF first in order to be sure that you’re addressing the various aspects that a policy paper needs to address, such as a specific policy actor, consistency with that actor’s interests, and feasibility.

Lynn White of Princeton has produced two finding aids that are useful for all these kinds of papers. "Contemporary China: A Book List" is at http://www.princeton.edu/~lynn/chinabib.pdf. A clickable list of websites, giving access to thousands of articles about China and Southeast Asia, is at http://www.princeton.edu/~lynn/chinawebs.doc.

In your papers, please use one or another of several standard source citation formats, similar to examples you’ll see in the course reading. Here are a few standard practices that students often overlook. When citing Internet sources, it is customary to give a URL and a date accessed. If you cite a printed source – seen either in hard copy or through library e-resources – it is not necessary to annotate with the word “Print.” In footnotes, give authors’ names in the order they are found in the source, but in an alphabetized bibliography or works cited section give all names family name first.

Due dates are as follows: the first essay is due February 24; the midterm will be posted on Courseworks after class March 5 and can be handed back in class if you wish or deposited in my mailbox at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute on March 12; the second essay is due April 16; the takehome final will be handed out on the last day of class, May 5, and will be due May 12. In the spring term, we are required to submit all our grades before commencement, and we cannot give an IN for the course without the permission of the dean’s office of your school.

Grading. To the extent possible, we arrange for your four writing assignments to be graded by different graders, which we hope helps to even out the disparities that may arise from differences among graders.

The papers are more challenging than the exams. On the papers, we view B+ as a grade that represents a sound, solid, commendable job that fulfills the assignment; the paper gives a clear, structured, and reasonable presentation of whatever it sets out to do within the terms of reference of that type of of paper. The grade goes below B+ when the argument is unclear, necessary parts of the argument are missing, the research is thin, the paper is disorganized, or the presentation is otherwise flawed. It goes above B+ if the paper is in some way distinguished, original, especially thoughtful, especially persuasive, especially informative, and so on.

The exams are intended to assess whether you are doing the reading and attending the lectures. A grade of A means you answered each question accurately and fully.

The person who graded your paper or exam is identified with a name or initials someplace on the paper (near the grade, or on the front of the paper). You are welcome
to speak with that person or Professor Nathan if you’d like to get more feedback on the paper. To appeal the grade, please speak to the person who graded it first and come to Professor Nathan second if you are not satisfied with the outcome of the first conversation.

Each paper and the final exam will contribute 2/7 to the course grade, while the midterm will count as 1/7.

Readings. There are no required books for purchase. Several books from which relatively long sections have been assigned have been ordered at Book Culture www.bookculture.com for optional purchase. These are Garver, China & Iran and Protracted Contest; Mann, About Face; Nathan and Scobell, China’s Search for Security; Shambaugh, Modernizing China’s Military and China Goes Global; and Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower. Book chapters from other books, and journal articles, are available on Courseworks (www.courseworks.columbia.edu). Some are found in the “Library Reserves” section and some in the “Shared Files” section of the website.

Quite a few course readings come from Foreign Affairs magazine. You can sign up for a one-year subscription to Foreign Affairs for $18, which comes with full archive access to the magazine’s website, by downloading and submitting the form at http://www.foreignaffairs.com/files/attachments/Student_Sign_Up.pdf.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

January 22 & 27. WHAT DRIVES CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY? – GEOSTRATEGY, CULTURE, NATIONALISM
Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, China’s Search for Security (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), hereafter CSS, “Introduction” and Ch. 1
John J. Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (N.Y.: W.W. Norton, 2001), Chs. 1-3, 10
Susan Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower (NY: Oxford University Press, 2007), Chs. 1, 5, 7, 9

January 29. WHO RUNS CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY? – CHANGES IN CHINESE POLICY-MAKING FROM MAO TO JIANG TO HU
Lecturer: Jérôme Doyon
CSS, Ch. 2
David Shambaugh, *China Goes Global: The Partial Power* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), Ch. 2

*February 3, 5, 10 & 12. LIFE ON THE HINGE: PUZZLES AND TURNING POINTS*

CSS, Ch. 3


James Mann, *About Face: A History of America’s Curious Relationship with China, From Nixon to Clinton* (N.Y.: Knopf, 1999), Chs. 1-6, 11-12, 16, 18


*February 17 & 19. THE U.S. FACTOR AND CHINA’S GRAND STRATEGY*

CSS, Ch. 4


Shirk, *Fragile*, Ch. 8


February 24 & 26 and March 3 & 5. CHINA IN SIX REGIONAL SYSTEMS
CSS, Chs. 5, 6
John W. Garver, *Protracted Contest: Sino-Indian Rivalry in the Twentieth Century* (Seattle: Univ. of Washington Press, 2001), Chs. 1, 2, 7-9
Shambaugh, *China Goes Global*, Ch. 3

March 10 & 12. POLICIES IN THE FOURTH RING
CSS, Ch. 7
John W. Garver, *China & Iran: Ancient Partners in a Post-Imperial World* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2006), Chs. 1, 6-10

March 24, 26 & 31. GLOBALIZATION, INTERDEPENDENCE, AND INTERNATIONAL REGIMES: CHINA’S ROLE IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND OTHER FIELDS
CSS, Ch. 10
Chen Jie, “The NGO Community in China,” *China Perspectives* No. 68 (November-December 2006), pp. 29-40
Shambaugh, *China Goes Global*, Ch. 4-5

April 2 & 7. HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOFT POWER IN CHINA’S FOREIGN POLICY
CSS, Ch. 12
“Communiqué on the Current State of the Ideological Sphere,” April 22, 2013, 

Bonnie S. Glaser and Melissa E. Murphy, “Soft Power with Chinese 
Characteristics: The Ongoing Debate,” in Carola McGiffert, ed., Chinese Soft Power and 
Its Implications for the United States: Competition and Cooperation in the Developing 
World (Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2009), pp. 10-

Quarterly 35:1 (Winter 2012), pp. 41-63

Shambaugh, China Goes Global, Ch. 6

April 9, 14 & 16. MILITARY MISSIONS AND MILITARY MODERNIZATION

CSS, Ch. 11

Thomas J. Christensen, “Posing Problems without Catching Up: China’s Rise and 

M. Taylor Fravel, “China’s Search for Military Power,” The Washington 
Quarterly 31:3 (Summer 2008), pp. 125-141

Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China 
2011, Office of the Secretary of Defense, at 

David Shambaugh, Modernizing China’s Military: Progress, Problems, and 
Prospects (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), pp. 60-107, 108-173, 196-224, 
241-283, 307-327

April 21, 23 & 28. THE HONGKONG, TAIWAN, XINJIANG, AND TIBET 
ISSUES IN PRC FOREIGN POLICY AND THE MAINLAND AND FOREIGN 
Policies of Taiwan (Republic of China)

CSS, Chs. 8, 9

Rémi Castets, “The Uyghurs in Xinjiang: The Malaise Grows,” China 
Perspectives 49 (September-October 2003), pp. 34-48

Bruce Gilley, “Not So Dire Straits: How the Finlandization of Taiwan Benefits 
U.S. Security,” Foreign Affairs 89:1 (January/February 2010), pp. 44-60

Lee Teng-hui, “Understanding Taiwan,” Foreign Affairs 78: 6 (Nov/Dec 1999), 
pp. 9-14

April 30. CHINA AND TIBET

Guest speaker: Robbie Barnett, Director, Modern China Studies Program, 
Columbia University

(2009), pp. 6-23.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, “Strasbourg Proposal 1988,” 

Melvyn C. Goldstein, “The Dalai Lama’s Dilemma,” Foreign Affairs 
(January/February 1998), pp. 83-97
**LONGTERM STRATEGIC CHANGE IN ASIA AND THE “CHINA THREAT”**

CSS, Ch. 13

Michael Beckley, “China’s Century? Why America’s Edge Will Endure,” 
*International Security* 36:3 (Winter 2011/12), pp. 41-78


**POSSIBLE BOOKS FOR REVIEW**


Rebiya Kadeer with Alexandra Cavelius, *Dragon Fighter: One Woman’s Epic Struggle for Peace with China* (Carlsbad, CA: Kales Press, 2009)


Andrew Scobell, *China’s Use of Military Force* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)


Nancy Bernkopf Tucker, *Strait Talk: United States-Taiwan Relations and the Crisis with China* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009)


