

FALL 2018



Stony Brook University

DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

College of Arts & Sciences

POL/AAS 339: CONTEMPORARY CHINA - *History, Politics & Diplomacy*
This course satisfies the DEC Category 'J' & SBC categories 'GLO' and 'SBS+'

Mon & Wed : 8.30 – 9.50 AM (Frey 205)
E-Mail: harsh.bhasin@stonybrook.edu
Office hrs: Fri.10-12 Noon & 2-4 PM
(or by appointment)

Ambassador Harsh Bhasin
SBS Building, 7th Floor
Room S-747 (South)
Phone: 631-632-7632

TA information will be posted on Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will analyze the evolution of major events in contemporary China following the communist revolution that led to the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. The course, taught by a former Ambassador who served in China, will examine major political, economic, and social developments in light of both their general global impact and their particular relationship with the U.S. This course is offered as both POL 339 and AAS 339.

Course Prerequisites

Required: POL 101 or AAS 219 ; U3 or U4 standing.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims at acquiring knowledge and understanding of a society or culture outside of the US and also the interconnectedness of the world, past and present. This outcome will be achieved through

- Critical examination of major events in Contemporary China ever since the beginnings of the communist revolution that culminated in the establishment of the Peoples Republic in 1949. The historical backdrop will be briefly discussed in the early stages of the course starting with the waning years of the Qing Dynasty, contacts with the West, the advent of the 1912 Republic, and the period between 1912 and 1949. It will cover the social, political and cultural upheavals that shaped its destiny till 1949 and beyond.
- Understanding post-Mao and post-Deng reforms that have led to the emergence of China as a key player on the world stage today, eyeing a future of dominance in the Asia-Pacific region as a springboard to growing global influence, where it is increasingly challenging the political and economic supremacy of the US.
- Analyzing the underlying factors of China's rapid economic growth and rising global influence which are defining the 21st century and examining the emerging relations between the US and China – locked as they are in an increasingly intense struggle for power and influence, not only in Asia, but around the world. The bilateral relationship will be examined in the light of the different geopolitical approaches of the two Pacific powers and will include such prominent recent issues such as trade disputes, cyber security, China's growing military presence in the E&S China Sea and the crisis arising out of the acquisition of WMDs by North Korea.
- Exploring issues central to China's growing importance in world affairs, including her emerging relations with Russia, Japan, EU, ASEAN, India, Africa, interactions within BRICs, SCO and APEC, the Taiwan issue, the Belt-and-Road Initiative (BRI or OBOR). China's growing clout in the world economy and politics, and indeed the ongoing question of whether China's rise will be peaceful or otherwise, will be explored in some depth.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Make Up Policy

Issues in politics and diplomacy are constantly evolving, and hence for a sound understanding of the complex issues involved in contemporary area studies, regular class attendance is essential. With that in mind, 10% of the grade has been allocated for regular and punctual attendance. Only 2 absences will be allowed during the semester; thereafter a sliding scale will take effect, with more than 12 absences resulting in a 'F' for that portion of the grade. Two late arrivals (after 10 mts of class opening) will be treated as 1 absence.

Required readings and/or assignments

Besides lecture sessions, this class will often be conducted as a discussion forum in which active participation by students would be mandatory, and indeed will be closely monitored for purposes of assessment and grading. Issues in contemporary studies are constantly evolving. Students taking up this Course will be expected to monitor, on a day-to-day basis, major developments in China that impact on its global role in general and relations with the US in particular. Regular reading of at least one major newspaper, such as the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times*, and of regional newspapers such as *The South China Morning Post*, or *Asia Times* is therefore strongly recommended. Online versions of both are available on the web. In addition students should also try to read articles on China in *Foreign Affairs* or similar scholarly journal which are available in the Melville Library Reading Room or can be readily accessed on the worldwide web.

Assessment/Tests

Three tests, together with regular attendance, will be used for the assessment of a student's work during the semester. The first test will be in the form of a fairly simple **Quiz** early in the course. The second test will require **short answers** and will be conducted around halfway through the course. In the third and final test, students will be expected to write two short essays in a **blue-book examination format**. One of the essays will be on a general issue related to Contemporary China and the other on a currently topical aspect of US-China relations. The quality of participation in class discussions as well as attendance will also be taken into account for determining the final grade. The break up will be as follows:

GRADING

I use my signature "10+20+30+40" formula for grading, based on three tests of incremental challenge, distributed evenly through the 14-week semester

Attendance: 10% (taken at the beginning of every class session)

Test 1: 20% (At the end of week 4) will be in the form of a **Quiz**

Test 2: 30% (At the end of week 8) will be in the form of **Short Answers** to questions

Test 3: 40% (On the scheduled date during the final exams week, as notified by the Registrar's Office, which will require the writing of **two one-hour essays**:

Essay I: 20% –On a general issue related to Contemporary China

Essay II: 20% – On a currently topical issue in US-China relations

(Depending on situational factors, some minor structural changes may be introduced in the above pattern of tests. If so, these will be notified in advance in class.)

CLASS PROTOCOL

All cell phones must be switched off before entering the classroom. No texting or other use of cell phones during class will be permitted. Laptops may be allowed in class even though I prefer that students take notes with pen and paper. Use of recording devices is not permitted. Any disruptive behavior that impairs, interrupts or impacts negatively on the Instructor's ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits other students' ability to learn will be viewed seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities in the University.

POLICY REGARDING RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

All student absences in order to practice their faith will be viewed as an 'excused absence', with no negative consequence. For the list of such holidays and dates, see the relevant SBU website.

CLASS RESOURCES

Blackboard: Stony Brook University uses a restricted-access Blackboard platform. You are expected to log in regularly (and often) at [http://blackboard/sunysb.edu](http://blackboard.sunysb.edu) to access the syllabus, check announcements, reference materials, reading assignments; and to check grades and assignments

Electronic Communication: Email and especially email sent via Blackboard (<http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>) is one of the ways we officially communicate with you in this course. It is your responsibility to make sure that you read your email in your official University email account. For most students, that is Google Apps for Education (<http://www.stonybrook.edu/mycloud>). Please verify your official Electronic Post Office (EPO) address at: <http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/checking-or-changing-your-mail-forwarding-address-in-the-epo>.

If you choose to forward your official University email to another off campus account, we are not responsible for any undeliverable messages to your alternative personal accounts. You can set up email forwarding using these DoIT-provided instructions found at: <http://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/setting-up-mail-forwarding-in-google-mail>. If you need technical assistance, please contact Client Support at (631) 632-9800 or supportteam@stonybrook.edu

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and DSS. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>]

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

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READINGS FOR THE COURSE: Besides any handouts that may be given out by the instructor from time to time, all students taking this course would be well-advised to use the following books:

Compulsory/Prescribed Reading: Contemporary China by Kerry Brown (Macmillan Palgrave)
ISBN 978-1-137-51009

Optional /Suggested Reading

1. China's Political System by June Teufel Brown (9th Edition) - ISBN 978-0-205-98181-6
2. Global Studies: China by Zhiqun Zhu – 14th Edition (2011), ISBN 978-0-07-802619-5
3. CHINA – In transformation (1900-1949) by Colin Mackerras ISBN 978-1-40584058-3
4. CHINA – Since 1949 by Linda Benson, ISBN 978-1-40823769-4

Course Schedule

While every effort will be made to adhere to the date-wise schedule indicated below, there may be minor changes arising out of circumstances beyond the control of the Instructor, such as, for example, inclement weather leading to cancellation/rescheduling of classes etc.

POL/AAS 339 – Fall 2018

Contemporary China – History, Politics & Diplomacy

Date Wise Lecture Content

Aug. 27	1-A	Course introduction & syllabus; brief history & geography of China
Aug. 29	1-B	Introduction to the 'Pin Yin' system of Chinese pronunciation; Confucianism
Sept.3		HOLIDAY - LABOR DAY
Sept.5	2-A	Fall of Ming & rise of Qing dynasties, Opium Wars, War with Japan, Boxer Rebellion
Sept.10	2-B	End of Boxer Rebellion (1901) through the early years of the Republic & WWI
Sept.12	3-A	May 4/'New Culture' Movements; Rise of KMT & CCP; Northern Expedition, 1 st UF
Sept.17	3-B	Nanjing decade; Japanese invasion; events leading up to the 'Long March'
Sept.19	4-A	War with Japan, 2 nd UF, Dixie Mission, Civil War, defeat of KMT
Sept.24	4-B	CCP victory & proclamation of PRC; Taiwan & the 'recognition' issue, "two Chinas"
Sept.26	Test One	Quiz: Counts towards 20% of your overall grade for this course
Oct.1	5-A	Review of Quiz; Korean War, Tibet, 'leaning to one side'; antagonism with US
Oct.3	5-B	Consolidation of CCP rule, Ideological cleansing, Land & Marriage reforms
Oct.8		MIDTERM (FALL) BREAK
Oct.10	6-A	Hundred Flowers, Anti-Rightist movements; Domino Theory, Taiwan Straits Crisis
Oct.15	6-B	Great Leap, Rural Communes, Fall of Peng, India-China War, Sino-Soviet split
Oct.17	7-A	Readj & recovery, SEM, 4-Clean-ups, China goes nuclear, US policy of containment
Oct.22	7-B	GPCR (1966-76), Nixon visit, 'Gang of 4', Mao & Zhou's death, Deng's rise
Oct.24	8-A	Post-Mao China: end of 'Gang of Four', rapid reforms under Deng
Oct.29	8-B	TianAnMen Square protests (1989) & its aftermath; one-child policy
Oct.31	Test Two	Short Answers: Counts towards 30% of your overall grade for this course
Nov.5	9-A	Basic elements of China's Foreign Policy - the quest for great power status
Nov.7	9-B	China's quest for dominance – economic (BRI) and cultural (Confucius Institutes etc.)
Nov.12	10-A	China - the 'Taiwan' issue, Hong Kong & Macau
Nov.14	10-B	China-US Relations; can China's rise be peaceful?
Nov.19	11-A	China-Russia Relations
Nov.21		THANKSGIVING BREAK
Nov.26	11-B	China's relations with its Asian neighbors – India, Japan, Korea
Nov.28	12-A	China's claims to islands in the East and South China Seas; the 9-Dash Line
Dec.3	12-B	China's relations with the rest of the world - Mideast, Africa & LAC
Dec.5	13-A	Last Class: Life beyond POL 339 - Careers & opportunities in international affairs
Dec.19	Test Three	8-10.45 AM - Two Essays: Count towards 40% of your overall grade for this course

Please note that the three tests during the semester add up to 90%

The remaining 10% counts towards attendance