

HISTORY 4611F
Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China
Fall/Winter 2023-24

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description:

This course will examine the foreign relations of the People's Republic of China from its inception in 1949 through to the present Xi Jinping era. The focus of the course will be on China's political and security relations with global powers, including the Soviet Union/Russian Federation, Japan, India, Iran and the USA. The complexities of international relations will require further attention to spheres of mutual and conflicting influence, including Korea, Vietnam and Pakistan.

Prerequisite(s):

2.0 courses in History at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

Living in this world means understanding that China is a part of it, and that China – its people, government, banks, armed forces – have a seat at the proverbial table. Students enrolled in this course will examine international relations from the Chinese perspective. They will be tasked with explaining how world events of the latter part of the 20th and the early 21st century were shaped by Chinese influence, and how China adapted to international challenges.

Course Materials:

John W. Garver, *China's Quest: The History of the Foreign Relations of the People's Republic of China*, Oxford University Press, 2018.

Although the course relies on a single text, the reading is nonetheless substantial. Students will be required to read on average 65 pages per week.

Students may be asked on occasion to listen to podcasts, or to read breaking news items that are of relevance to the course material.

Methods of Evaluation:

Essay Proposal (10%): Due Sept. 27

The essay proposal defines the essay topic, establishes the research question and preliminary thesis, and briefly outlines the draft Research Essay (see below).

Annotated Bibliography (10%): Due Oct. 11

The annotated bibliography will be the second step in writing the capstone term paper for the course. Once the student determines the essay topic in consultation with the professor, they will compile a bibliography of ten to fifteen texts (books and academic articles) that relate to the same topic. Each entry is to be accompanied by a paragraph that briefly outlines the position of the author and describes how the text relates to the essay topic.

Research Essay (50%): Due Nov. 29

As the capstone assignment for the course, the Research Essay develops the Annotated Bibliography into a comprehensive historiographical discussion and develops the Essay Proposal into a fully articulated scholarly discussion of 20 pages in length. Students must receive a passing grade on the essay to pass the course.

Essay Presentation (10%): Dec. 6

The last class of the term will be treated as a symposium in which students deliver a "3 Minute Thesis" based on their research papers. Students will be graded on both content and delivery.

Professionalism (20%)

This is not a lecture course. Students are expected to arrive in class fully prepared, and ready to make ongoing contributions to the discussion. To reinforce the atmosphere of professionalism, equal portions of the Professionalism grade will be assigned to attendance, preparation (judged on the basis of a short weekly quiz), and participation.

***Late assignments will not be accepted, except on the advice of Academic Counselling.**

***Students are strongly advised against using Artificial Intelligence to generate papers, as the student will be held responsible for all errors, biases, falsifications, and plagiarism committed by the AI.**

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1

Garver, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2

Soviet Union, Korea, and the Bandung Era

Garver, Chapter 2-4

Week 3

Sino-Soviet Split and Sino-Indian Conflict

Garver, Chapter 5-6

Week 4

Vietnam and the Cultural Revolution

Garver, Chapter 9-10

Week 5

Managing the USA and USSR

Garver, Chapter 11-12

Week 6

Opening Up, China VS Vietnam

Garver, Chapter 13-14

Week 7

Modernizing and Normalizing

Garver, Chapter 15-16

Week 8

Surviving the Collapse of Communism

Garver, Chapter 17-19

Week 9

China and the USA

Garver, Chapter 21-24

[Cai Xia](#). "China-US Relations in the Eyes of the Chinese Communist Party". Hoover Institution¹

Week 10

China and its Neighbors

Garver, Chapter 26, 27

Week 11

China as a World Power

Garver, Chapter 25, 28, 29

Week 12

Conference Week

Student Papers

Use of Electronic Devices:

Electronic Devices are encouraged for use in classroom activities, where appropriate.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.