COURSE DESCRIPTION

With continuous China’s growth the general picture of the world is undergoing transformation that one could have hardly anticipated a few decades ago. With its expanding economy and ever-deeper international integration China is playing an increasingly significant role in the world affairs. Under such circumstances it is nearly impossible to foresee further international developments without understanding how China approaches the world and what shapes its behavior.

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of Chinese foreign policy. Each class is designed along two dimensions – case-study based analysis of China’s relations with a particular actor, as well as a theoretical concept, which enhances the students’ understanding of foreign policy making in China. In this way the students are expected to both become familiar with Chinese foreign relations and enhance their conceptual understanding of the logics behind it.

As the course is intended for graduate students, the participants are expected to already have certain background knowledge of Chinese history and political system, as well as sufficient understanding of the key concepts and developments in international relations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND ASSESMENT

This course is designed in an attempt to:

- Enhance the students’ understanding of contemporary Chinese foreign policy (hereinafter CFP) and its historical development through the study of China’s relations with major countries and regions of the world, and also exploring the key issues in these relations.
- Provide students with structured knowledge of CFP and enable them to independently explain CFP decisions by presenting the key principles and factors shaping CFP.
- Build students’ analytical skills; facilitate their ability to formulate and clearly express arguments in writing and oral presentations.

COURSE FORMAT

The course consists of 10 weekly 3-hour meetings. The first two weeks are dedicated to general introduction to Chinese foreign policy. The core of the course analyses China’s relations with selected countries and regions. Here each weekly meeting is divided into two by topic (e.g. week 6) or is conducted as a lecture followed by a seminar, arranged as a class discussion on a specific question. The course will be wrapped up in the final debate on the future of China’s position in the global scene.

As the course is designed for foreign students, selected reading materials are in English. During the lecture the Instructor will also introduce Japanese scholarship on the topics presented. The reading materials may be update during the course in case a newer valuable publication appears.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation. The students are expected to read the assigned materials beforehand, and be ready to participate in class discussions. Whenever possible, it will be arranged as a debate on a particular issue/question. The students are expected to be able back up their arguments referring to the weekly reading assignments or additional relevant literature, not only express their opinions.

2. Critical review of 2 books or journal articles to be submitted on week 7 (up to 3 pages). Upon a
consultation with the Instructor, the students should choose two books, academic journal articles or book chapters relevant to the course. The reviews should avoid summarizing the texts but compare theoretical approaches and research methods employed for the analysis and arguments presented. Students are encouraged to express their evaluation of the readings and compare them (some recommendations on how to write a critical review will be given in the beginning of the course).

3. Policy paper (7-8 pages), as a final assignment of the course, recommends a policy for China or a policy toward China for some other international actor (a government, multinational organization, etc.) in regards to a specific issue. The policy paper should present the status quo, overview feasible policies, and propose specific policy line, providing an explanation of a particular policy choice (some recommendations on how to write a critical review will be given in the beginning of the course).

All written assignments should be written in Times New Roman 11pt font, 1.5 spacing with standard margins.

FINAL GRADING
The final course grades are to be calculated as follows:

- Class participation: 35%
- Book review: 25%
- Policy Paper: 40%

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION: HISTORICAL OVERVIEW AND CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY MAKING

Week 1. Introduction to the course. Historical background of CFP.
Introduction to the course; course requirements.
Historical overview of CFP. Identity in CFP, fundamental principles and goals of CFP: China’s approach to peace and conflict, sovereignty and intervention, sensitive issues in CFP. The main domestic debates on foreign policy.


Documents:


Additionally:
**Week 2. The process of CFP making: key sources and actors.**

Institutional design and the process of the CFP making: main actors and their interaction. Key factors defining CFP: personal, domestic, and international dimensions.

International debates on China’s rise and its global presence. Introduction to China-US relations.


Additionally:

**Week 3. China and the US. Taiwan issue. Power transition and power diffusion.**

Development of China-US relations. The concept of multipolar world and the power transition theory. US military presence in Asia; Obama Administration’s pivot to Asia. The main issues in China-US relations: Taiwan, economy-related issues; US arm sales to Taiwan. Taiwan Strait crisis.

“One country-two systems approach” in CFP; Mainland and Taiwan’s foreign policy.


Documents:

Additionally:

**Week 4. Living in the Present Past: Japan and the CFP. Domestic opinion in foreign policy making.**

*Historic overview (1930s~; normalization of diplomatic relations). Japan’s ODA to China. The role of history in China-Japan relations, Yasukuni Shrine visits and history textbooks: nationalism in CFP. Can deepening economic engagement erase historic-memory issues between the two countries?*


Documents:

**Additionally:**

**Week 5. Security in East Asia: Korean Peninsula, marine territorial disputes.**

*China’s approach to sovereignty and international sanctions.*


Additionally:

Week 6. From Soviet Union in the Cold World Era to Russia and Central Asia.
China’s relations with European countries: anything beyond economics?
Historic overview. China-Russia relations; Xi Jinping’s first overseas trip as a President of China. The Shanghai Five, Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Separatist movements in Western China. Chinese definition of terrorism. Energy Cooperation in the Region and China’s “resource diplomacy.”


Additionally:

Week 7. China’s Relations with other Asian Countries. Points of tension. China’s soft power.
Relations with Myanmar, India, and ASEAN countries. “Good Neighbor” diplomacy, areas of regional cooperation. China as a responsible international/regional player vs “assertive China.” Military’s role in CFP. China’s soft power.


Additionally:
1. Ming-Te Hung and Mei Hsien Lee. 2012. “China’s Relations with Southeast Asia (ASEAN),”


**Book review to be submitted**

**Week 8. Latin America and Africa in CFP. China’s relations with the Middle-East countries.**

*State-business relations in China’s foreign policy.*

*What is the main force behind CFP in these regions? What implications does it have for China’s relations with the Western countries and stability in the region?*

*Beijing Consensus. China’s development foreign policy.*

*The framework of state-business relations in China’s overseas investment projects.*


**Week 9. China’s Participation in International Structures.**

*China’s membership in major international organizations. China’s approach to the UN.*

*Regional cooperation on non-traditional security issues.*

*How does China’s participation in international frameworks change/constrain its foreign policy? Is China a “rule-taker” or a “rule-maker”? (chose one international organization/cooperation framework and research on China’s participation in it. Based on this, we will attempt to identify the general pattern in China’s behavior in our class discussion).*


**Week 10. Future directions of CFP and China’s place in the world.**

*Lecture and debate based on the week’s readings and previous classes: Is China going to challenge the existing world order?*


Policy paper to be submitted.