

**IR 563: Chinese Foreign Policy**  
University of Southern California  
Fall 2018

Instructor: Erin Baggott Carter  
Office: VKC 355  
Email: [baggott@usc.edu](mailto:baggott@usc.edu)

Course meetings: Thursdays 2pm-4pm  
Location: VKC 151  
Course website: Blackboard  
Office hours: Thursdays 4pm-5pm

Version: August 23, 2018

### **Description**

This graduate level seminar reviews the political science literature on the international relations of China. It asks students to apply analytical tools from international relations and comparative politics to China, including approaches that involve systemic theories, identity, ideology, domestic factors, and psychology. In particular, it focuses on how China's domestic conditions – political and economic, as well as popular and elite – motivate its foreign policy. Methodologically, the course reviews case study, archival, survey, field, and computational approaches to studying China. The course presumes familiarity with basic qualitative and quantitative methods in political science. It aims to prepare students to conduct original research on Asian security issues, international relations, and comparative politics.

### **Requirements**

The course has three requirements, listed below.

1. Participation, 30%
2. Research Presentation, 10%
3. Research Paper, 60%

First, students are expected to have carefully read all assigned materials prior to class. Class discussions will be devoted to analyzing the theoretical and empirical contributions of the readings. Seminar participants should approach the readings as political science reviewers at an academic journal or university press. What is the argument of the article or manuscript? How does it contribute to the field? How does it relate to existing works? Is the data collection novel? Is the methodological approach sound? Is it well organized and written? What revisions or extensions would you recommend to improve the work?

Second, students will write a 20-30 page work on a topic related to Asia. This can be a dissertation prospectus or a research paper. If a dissertation prospectus, the work should clearly

outline the research question, the preliminary theory, and the observable implications of the theory. It should then discuss the data to be gathered, and the methodological approach to testing the observable implications of the theory. It should explain why there is a gap in the field, and how this dissertation project will advance current scholarship. If a research paper, the work should be a publishable contribution to the field.

Throughout the semester, considerable time in the seminar will be devoted to discussing and refining students' research projects. Students will prepare a research presentation for the final class, and will incorporate suggestions into their final paper, submitted at the end of exam period.

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards.<sup>1</sup> Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct.<sup>2</sup> If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the course. If you aid someone else's misconduct, you will fail the course.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity<sup>3</sup> or to the Department of Public Safety.<sup>4</sup> This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men<sup>5</sup> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage<sup>6</sup> describes reporting options and other resources.

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute,<sup>7</sup> which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs<sup>8</sup> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information<sup>9</sup> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

---

<sup>1</sup><https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>

<sup>2</sup><http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>

<sup>3</sup><http://equity.usc.edu>

<sup>4</sup><http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/>

<sup>6</sup><http://sarc.usc.edu>

<sup>7</sup><http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>

<sup>8</sup>[http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html)

<sup>9</sup><http://emergency.usc.edu>

Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213.740.0776.

### **Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview**

Date: August 23

### **Week 2: No Class (APSA)**

### **Week 3: China and Comparative Politics Theory**

Date: September 6

Jennifer Gandhi, *Political Institutions Under Dictatorship*, Ch. 1-2.

Milan Svobik, *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*, Ch 1-2.

Andrew J. Nathan, "Authoritarian Resilience" *Journal of Democracy* 14:1 (2003): 6-17.

Kenneth Lieberthal (2010), "Reflections on the Evolution of the China Field in Political Science," in Carlson, ed., *Contemporary Chinese Politics*, pp. 266-277.

Kevin J. O'Brien (2011), "Studying Chinese Politics in an Age of Specialization," *Journal of Contemporary China* (September 2011): 535-41

Elizabeth J. Perry (2007), "Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to Revolution?" *The China Journal* No. 57 (January), 1-22.

### **Week 4: China and International Relations Theory**

Date: September 13

Samuel Kim (1998). "Chinese Foreign Policy in Theory and Practice." In Samuel Kim, ed, *China and the World: Chinese Foreign Policy Faces the New Millennium*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chapter 1.

Alastair Iain Johnston (1998). "International Structures and Chinese Foreign Policy." In Samuel Kim, ed, *China and the World: Chinese Foreign Policy Faces the New Millennium*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chapter 3.

Thomas J. Christensen, Alastair Iain Johnston, and Robert S. Ross (2006). "Conclusions and Future Directions." In Alastair Iain Johnston and Robert S. Ross, eds., *New Directions in the Study of China's Foreign Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Chapter 13.

Alastair Iain Johnston (2012). "What (If Anything) Does East Asia Tell Us About International Relations Theory?" *Annual Review of Political Science*.

Jessica Chen Weiss (2015). "Crossing the Domestic-International Divide in Chinese Politics: A Lens on Nationalism and Public Opinion in China's Foreign Relations." In Robert Scott and Stephen Kosslyn, eds., *Emerging Trends in the Behavioral and Social Sciences*, Kosslyn, Wiley and Sons.

## **Week 5: Research Idea Presentations**

Date: September 20

Students will present their research idea and receive theoretical and methodological feedback from seminar participants.

## **Week 6: Public Opinion**

Date: September 27

Jessica Chen Weiss (2014). *Powerful Patriots: Nationalist Protest in China's Foreign Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Jessica Weeks (2008). "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve." *International Organization*.

Iain Johnston (2016/17). "Is Chinese Nationalism Rising? Evidence from Beijing." *International Security* 41(3).

Junyan Jiang and Dali Yang (2016). "Lying or Believing? Measuring Preference Falsification From a Political Purge in China." *Comparative Political Studies*.

## **Week 7: Elite Opinion**

Date: October 4

David A. Steinberg and Victor C. Shih (2012). "Interest Group Influence in Authoritarian States: The Political Determinants of Chinese Exchange Rate Policy." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(11): 1405-1434.

Victor Shih, Christopher Adolph, and Mingxing Liu (2012), "Getting Ahead in the Communist Party: Explaining the Advancement of Central Committee Members in China," *American Political Science Review*. Vol. 106, No. 1, 166-187.

James Kai-sing Kung and Shuo Chen "The Tragedy of the Nomenklatura: Career Incentives and Political Radicalism during China's Great Leap Famine," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 105 (2011), pp 27-45.

Rory Truex (2014), "The Returns to Office in a Rubber Stamp Parliament," *American Political Science Review*.

Erin Baggott Carter (2016). "Diversionary Aggression and Elite Welfare Shocks in Autocracies: Evidence from China." Manuscript.

## **Week 8: Censorship and Propaganda**

Date: October 11

Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts, "How Censorship in China Allows Government Criticism but Silences Collective Expression." *American Political Science Review*.

Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts (2016). "How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument." Forthcoming, *American Political Science Review*.

Bei Qin, David Stromberg, and Yanhui Wu (2017). "Why Does China Allow Freer Social Media? Protests vs. Surveillance and Propaganda." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 31(1): 117-140.

Erin Baggott Carter and Brett Carter (2018). "Chinese Propaganda and Protest." Working paper.

## **Week 9: Military Affairs**

Date: October 18

Michael D. Swaine and Zhang Tuosheng with Danielle F.S. Cohen, eds. (2006). *Managing Sino-American Crises: Case Studies and Analysis*. Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. China chapters (not 2, 6, 7, 11).

M. Taylor Fravel (2008). *Strong Borders, Secure Nation: Cooperation and Conflict in China's Territorial Disputes*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1.

Christensen, Thomas J. (2006). "Windows and War: Trend Analysis and Beijing's Use of Force." In Alastair Iain Johnston and Robert S. Ross, eds., *New Directions in the Study of China's Foreign Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Chapter 3.

For reference:

US Department of Defense (2017). *Annual Report to Congress: Military and Security Developments Involving the Peoples Republic of China*. Washington: Office of the Secretary of Defense.

## **Week 10: Foreign Economic Policy**

Date: October 25

Axel Dreher, Andreas Fuchs, Roland Hodler, Bradley C. Parks, Paul A. Raschky, and Michael J. Tierney (2016). "Aid on Demand: African Leaders and the Geography of Chinas Foreign Assistance." World Bank.

Julia Bader (2014). "China, Autocratic Patron? An Empirical Investigation of China as a Factor in Autocratic Survival." ? 59(1): 23-33.

## **Week 11: Regional Dynamics and Alliances**

Date: November 1

Thomas J. Christensen, "Worse than a Monolith: Disorganization and Rivalry within Asian Communist Alliances and U.S. Containment Challenges, 1949-69," *Asian Security* Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 2005), pp. 80-127

Suisheng Zhao (2011), "China's Approaches toward Regional Cooperation in East Asia: Motivations and Calculations," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 20, No 68, pp. 53-67

Peter Dutton (2011). "Three Disputes and Three Objectives: China and the South China Sea. Naval War College Review, Autumn, Vol. 64, No. 4, pp.42-67

M. Taylor Fravel (2011). "Chinas Strategy in the South China Sea." Contemporary Southeast Asia, Vol. 33, No. 3.

Amitav Acharya (2014). "Power Shift or Paradigm Shift? China's Rise and Asia's Emerging Security Order." International Studies Quarterly 58(1).

## **Week 12: International Institutions**

Date: November 8

Rawi Abdelal et al, "Identity as a Variable" Perspectives on Politics 4:4 (December 2006) pp.695-701.

Alastair Iain Johnston (2007). Social States: China in International Institutions, 1980-2000. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters TBD.

Elizabeth Economy (2001). "The Impact of International Regimes on Chinese Foreign Policy-Making: Broadening Perspectives and Policies... But Only to a Point." In David M. Lampton ed., The Making of Chinese Foreign and Security Policy (Stanford University Press), pp.230-253.

Wang Hongying, "Multilateralism in Chinese Foreign Policy: The Limits of Socialization," Asian Survey, Vol. 40, No. 3 (May - Jun., 2000), pp. 475-491

## **Week 13: The Revisionism and Assertiveness Debate**

Date: November 15

Lorenz Luthi, The Sino-Soviet Split: Cold War in the Communist World (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2008)

Thomas J. Christensen, "Worse than a Monolith: Disorganization and Rivalry within Asian Communist Alliances and U.S. Containment Challenges, 1949-69," Asian Security Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 2005), pp. 80-127

## **Happy Thanksgiving Break!**

Date: No class

## **Week 14: Research Presentations**

Date: 29

Read circulated work, email reviewer comments to presenters.