

China in the World (PLS 497 - 004)

Monday and Wednesday 4–5:15pm

Strong Hall 0301

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Assistant Professor Michael Masterson

Email: mmasterson@missouristate.edu

Office hours: Monday 11 AM– 12 PM, Tuesday 1:15–4:15 PM, and Wednesday 11 AM– 12 PM

My office is in Strong Hall 330, and you should feel free to come in during office hours without an appointment. When scheduling a meeting outside of my office hours, please strive to contact me at least 2 days in advance. I will do my best to respond to emails by the end of the business day. There is no guarantee of a response to emails sent during non-business hours until the next business day.

Course Overview

This course will cover the major debates about China's modern global interactions. Key topics include: The Opium Wars, the Taiping Rebellion, the First and Second Sino-Japanese Wars, China's foreign policy during the Cold War, Trade, Taiwan, China's maritime disputes, and relations with the United States.

Lectures

The lectures are intentionally designed to cover content *not* included in the assigned readings to further expand student learning. For this reason, it is important that students *both* attend lecture and complete the assigned readings. Participation is a component of the grade for the course, so students should come to lecture prepared to take part in discussion.

Assignments

Quizzes

For 7 of the Wednesday class sessions, I will administer an in-class pop quiz on the required readings for that week. The quizzes will have 5 multiple choice questions. The quizzes will usually take place at the beginning of class and no one may begin a quiz after the first quiz is turned in, so be sure to come on time. A student may drop their lowest quiz grade, but there will be no makeup quizzes outside of exceptional circumstances, such as medical or family emergencies.

Big Question Project

Each student will choose one of the following big questions about Chinese foreign policy to answer in both a paper and a presentation.

- Does China's rise pose a fundamental challenge to the current global order or can it be accommodated within the existing order? Be sure to consider the Johnston 2019 reading in your answer. Choose one major foreign policy issue that China is facing today to focus on when making your argument.
- A major theme of French's book, *Everything Under the Heavens*, is that China's past and, perhaps even more importantly, how its past is remembered and interpreted today affect China's foreign policy. Is this a good framework for understanding China today, or would analysts be better off focusing on other factors, such as the distribution of power between countries or China's regime type, to understand China's foreign policy? Choose one major foreign policy issue that China is facing today to focus on when making your argument.
- One view of Chinese foreign policy under the Chinese Communist Party is that the government is monolithic and focused on a long-term strategy that is relatively consistent across time and leaders. Another way of viewing the Chinese government is that it is divided among actors who have different ideas about the kinds of policies that China should pursue and that leaders make decisions in response to challenges that arise rather than according to a long-term plan. Which view is more accurate? Choose one major foreign policy issue that China is facing today to focus on when making your argument.
- Since Reform and Opening Up, the Chinese government has relied on an economic model that is heavily dependent on exports and investment to grow its economy. Some have argued that this model is unsustainable and China should switch to a model that relies more on domestic consumers to drive growth. Others argue China needs to focus on developing key high-technology industries, which requires a continuation of the current export and investment intensive model, and worry that a change to a consumer-driven model might create more problems than it solves. Which view is closer to the truth?

Big Question Paper

The paper should explain the importance of the question, describe what the major debates and positions are, and make an argument for the student's chosen answer to the question. The paper should show that the student has researched the topic substantially and should cite at least 6 high quality sources, such as books, peer reviewed articles, and institute reports, beyond the required readings. The paper should be 5–6 doubled-spaced pages. The paper is due at the end of the day on **Friday November 15**.

Big Question Presentation

Each student will give 5–6 minute presentation to the class about their paper, covering the main debates over their question, what conclusion they reached, and what evidence led them to this conclusion. The presentations will take place on **11/20**.

Guidelines for all Written Assignments

Papers should have 1 inch margins. They should use a font size of 11 or 12 and one of the following fonts: Times, Calibri, Liberation Serif, Computer Modern, or Helvetica.

Bibliographies do not count towards page length requirements. Papers should follow the [Chicago](#) author-date citation style. Your paper should include both a parenthetical reference with page numbers in the portions of the text in which you engage with each source as well as a full bibliography at the end. The file that you upload to Brightspace should be in PDF format.

The use of AI text generation tools is a form of plagiarism and is not permitted.

Exams

The exams will cover both the lectures and readings. However, as the quizzes focus on the readings, the exams will put more emphasis on the lectures. The midterm will be on **10/2** during our normal class time, and the final exam will be on **12/9 from 3:30–5:30pm** in our normal classroom. Students will need a *Blue Book Exam Booklet* (available from the University Book Store) for each exam.

Grading

- Quizzes 20%
- Attendance and Participation 20%
 - Students' attendance scores are based on attending each class and arriving on time. Students must earn participation points from participating in class discussions that will take place during each lecture. However, *if you are sick and may be contagious, please do not come to class.* Instead, seek medical attention from your doctor or at Mager's Health and Wellness Center. They can provide you a medical excuse and advise you when it is safe to return to class. Contact me to let me know that you are sick and will not be in class. We can work together to ensure you will be able to keep up with readings and assignments through the Brightspace course site.
- Midterm 10%
- Final 20%
- Big Question Paper 20%
- Big Question Presentation 10%

Late Work Policy

If you believe you may be late turning in an assignment because of an event, such as a medical or family emergency, then you should email me as far as possible in advance of the due date of the assignment to request an extension. Late assignments not granted an

extension prior to the due date will lose 10 percentage points and an additional 10 percentage points for each day late after the first day. Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted, and late quizzes will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

Course Readings

Required Books

Everything Under the Heavens: How the Past Helps Shape China's Push for Global Power by Howard W. French and *Overreach: How China Derailed Its Peaceful Rise* by Susan L. Shirk

Other Readings

All of the readings, except those from the two required books, are available through Brightspace.

University Policies

Please see the [University Policy Statement Page](#) for up-to-date university policies that apply to this and all courses on the following issues: Nondiscrimination, Disability Accommodation, Title IX Policy, Lauren's Promise, Religious Accommodation, Mental Health & Stress Management, Chosen Name Policy, Suicide Prevention, Student Requirements for Technology, Academic Integrity, Cell Phone Policy, Audio/Video Recording of Course Activity, Dropping a Class, Emergency Response, and Cultural Competence Statement.

Campus Closure Policy

When the university is closed due to an emergency or inclement weather situation, classes will move to remote learning. I will communicate with you over email about the precise means of remote learning, which will vary depending on what day we miss. Material used for remote learning will be posted on Brightspace, and any synchronous meetings will take place on Zoom. If you are not able to participate in the remote learning activities as described (for example, due to a power outage), you should contact me as soon as you can so alternative arrangements can be made.

Reading and Lecture Schedule

The dates listed below give the final class day of each week by which you should have completed the readings. All of these fall on a Wednesday. The lectures listed below will generally begin on Monday of the week listed and conclude on Wednesday with additional time for discussion.

Week 1 August 21

Lecture: Overview and Theories of China's Foreign Policy

Reading: No readings

Week 2 August 28

Lecture: Opium Wars

Reading: *French Everything Under the Heavens* Intro and Ch 1

Week 3 September 4

Lecture: Taiping Rebellion

Reading:

- French *Everything Under the Heavens* Ch 2
- Platt *Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom* Dramatis Personae, Chronology of Major Events, Preface, and Epilogue

Week 4 September 11

Lecture: First Sino-Japanese War

Reading:

- *French Everything Under the Heavens* Ch 3
- Wang *Never Forget National Humiliation* Ch 2

Week 5 September 18

Lecture: Boxer Rebellion, Qing Collapse, and Early Republican Period

Reading: Spence *The Search for Modern China* Ch 11—Ch12

Week 6 September 25

Lecture: Second Sino-Japanese War and Chinese Civil War (CCP vs. GMD)

Reading:

- Van de Ven *China at War* Introduction
- Westad *Decisive Encounters* Introduction
- Tuchman *Stilwell and the American Experience in China* Prologue and Ch 20

Week 7 October 2

Lecture: Korean War and Revolutionary Foreign Policy

Reading:

- Mertha *Brothers in Arms* Ch 1
- French *Everything Under the Heavens* Ch 4

Week 8 October 9

Lecture: Sino-Soviet Split and Rapprochement with US

Reading:

- Lüthi 2008 *The Sino-Soviet Split* Introduction
- Yang *The World Turned Upside Down* Ch 28
- “The Shanghai Communique”

Week 9 October 16

Lecture: Foreign Policy During Reform and Opening

Reading: Shirk *Overreach* Prologue, Ch1, and Ch2

Week 10 October 23

Lecture: Modern China and the Global Order (What is China’s Type?)

Reading: Shirk *Overreach* Ch 3 and 4

Week 11 October 30

Lecture: Trade and One Belt One Road

Reading:

- USTR *Report on China’s WTO Compliance* pages 1–23
- “Will Xi’s Manufacturing Plan Be Enough to Rescue China’s Economy?”
- Shirk Ch 5

Week 12 November 6

Lecture: China’s Military and Intelligence Strategies

Reading: Shirk *Overreach* Ch 6 and 7

Week 13 November 13

Lecture: Taiwan

Reading: Shirk *Overreach* Ch 8 and 9

Week 14 November 20

Lecture: China’ Maritime Disputes (East and South China seas)

French *Everything Under the Heavens* Ch 5, 6, and Conclusion

Week 15 November 27: No Class Thanksgiving Break

No readings (Thanksgiving break)

Week 16 December 4

Lecture: Relations with US

Reading: Shirk *Overreach* Ch 10 and Conclusion