FALL 2014

DEPT. OF ASIAN & ASIAN-AMERICAN STUDIES

College of Arts & Sciences

AAS/Pol.339: CONTEMPORARY CHINA - History, Politics & Diplomacy

This course satisfies the DEC Category ‘J’ & SBC category “SBS+”

Tu, Th: 10.00 –11.20 AM (Hum.1023)  
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Office hrs: Fri.10-12 Noon & 2-4 PM  
Ground Floor - Room 1046  
(or by appointment)  
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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, 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 AAS 339 and POL 339.

Course Prerequisites

One previous course in AAS or POL; U3 or U4 standing

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course aims at demonstrating 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 a 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 a quiet but 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 cyber security, China’s growing military presence in the E&S China Sea and the US response by way of its ‘Asian Pivot’

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, her growing clout in the world economy 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 International Herald Tribune or the New York Times, and of a regional newsmagazine such as The Far Eastern Economic Review, or Asia Times is therefore strongly recommended. Online versions of both are available on the web. In addition students should also try to read Foreign Affairs or similar scholarly journal which are available in the Melville Library Reading Room or can be readily accessed on the worldwide web.

Exams
Besides one Quiz early in the course, students will be expected to write a Term Paper midway through the course (2000-2500 words) and two short essays in a blue-book examination format at the end of the course. Of the two essays, one 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
- Quiz: 15% (At the end of week 3 or 4)
- Mid-Term Paper: 20% (At the end of week 6 or 7)
- Essay I: 20% (During Finals Week) – On a general issue related to Contemporary China
- Essay II: 20% (During Finals Week) – On a currently topical issue in US-China relations
- Class participation: 15% (may include debate/presentation on a critical current issue)
- Attendance: 10%

(N.B :Please note that no mix-n-match will be allowed in any form whatsoever. For example, if you miss the quiz, you simply lose the grade and cannot substitute it with a writing assignment, or seek permission to write 1 or 2 papers in lieu of the two Blue Book exam essays)

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.

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 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.

**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*

*Optional /Suggested*

**Meeting Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Introduction**

A. A brief background to the recent history and political geography of China. Why the study of China is important to an understanding of global developments in general and Asia in particular? An introduction to Chinese systems of Romanization. (E&P: Introduction: A cultural framework for understanding China – Pp.1-25)

(Each participant would be expected at this introductory session to outline why he/she has enrolled for the Course and their expectation from the course)
B. Background: Fall of Ming & rise of the Qing Dynasty, arrival of European powers, war with Japan, the Boxer Rebellion, end of the imperial monarchy, the 1911 Revolution and advent of the first Republic (E&P: Chapters 1 through 12 but concentrate only on the relevant portions as taught in class)

Week 2
Revolution & Republic
(E&P: Chapters 13 through 18 but concentrate only on the relevant portions as taught in class)

A. From the end of the Boxer Rebellion (1901) through the early years of the Republic to end of WWI
B. From the end of WWI to rise of KMT and birth of CCP, First UF, launch of the Northern Expedition
C. Events leading up to, and including, the Long March (1934-35)

Week 3
The war years
(E&P: Chapters 19 through 21 but concentrate only on the relevant portions as taught in class)

A. Resistance against Japan, 2nd KMT-CCP UF and the Sino-Japanese War (1937-45),
B. The Chinese Civil War (1946-49), exodus of KMT to Taiwan & setting-up of ROC

Week 4
Red star over China
(E&P: Chapters 22 & 23)

A. Events leading to the establishment of PRC Govt. in Beijing (1949)
B. Early days of CCP rule on the mainland; Consolidation of CCP power; Annexation of Tibet; Korean War

--------------------------- QUIZ ---------------------------

Week 5
The difficult road to communism-1
(E&P: Chapter 24)

A. The Hundred Flowers Movement (1956-57)
B. The Great Leap Forward (1958-60), The Great Famine (1959-61)

Week 6
The difficult road to communism-2
(E&P: Chapter 25)

A. The Period of Readjustment and Recovery (1961-65), Sino-Soviet split, Sino-Indian War
B. The Cultural Revolution Decade (1966-76) – issues and outcome; the Gang of Four

--------------------------- Short Paper Announced ---------------------------

Week 7
The post-Mao order
(E&P: Chapter 26)

A. Beginnings of reform under Deng; the 'Four Modernizations' (1979-82)
B. Consolidation of the reform process (1980-88)
Week 8
The rocky road to reforms
(E&P: Chapter 27)

A. Tiananmen incident (1989): Origin & background
B. Tiananmen incident: Causes & effects

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Short Paper Due--------------------------------

Week 9
One country-Two systems: Capitalism with Chinese characteristics

A. Hong Kong and acceptance of the ‘One Country, Two Systems’, the Basic Law
B. Setting up of East Coast SEZs & beginnings of a market economy

Week 10
Resurgent China
(E&P: Chapter 28)

A. The economic explosion: Globalization and the consumer boom
B. Open door policy and growing FDI inflows; Entry to WTO

Week 11
Foreign policy issues-1
(E&P: China in transition)

A. Relations with the US and the Taiwan question
B. Relations with neighbors: Japan, Russia & the Koreas

Week 12
Foreign Policy issues -2

A. Relations with India; the 1962 Sino-Indian War
B. Relations with ASEAN, EU, Africa & Latin America

Week 13
Interactive discussion sessions
A. China’s growing stature in the world – potential threat or factor for stability
B. S. China Sea conflicts: Securing borders or reaching beyond them?

Week 14
China’s rise – will it be peaceful?
Foreign Affairs: March/April 2011
A. Whither China? Can political repression & economic freedom co-exist?
B. Final Exam (writing of two essays in class)
   Of the two essays, one will be on a general issue related to Contemporary China and the other on a currently topical aspect of US-China relations

FINAL EXAM: Will be held on Friday, Dec.13 from 11.15 AM to 1.45 PM