

Lafayette College  
Government and Law

## **GOVT 270: CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY**

SPRING 2020

MWF 9:00 – 9:50 am (Kirby 106)

### **Professor Juheon Lee**

Office: Kirby Hall of Civil Rights 102

Office Hours: MW 12:00 am-2:00 pm, and by appointment

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### **Course Description**

This course is designed to give a broad understanding of Chinese foreign policy by examining its sources and conduct from both theoretical and empirical perspectives. This course addresses important questions of international relations: in what way do domestic politics influence foreign policy, and vice versa? Is China a status quo power? Will China challenge the institutions of the world? How has China's foreign policy aims changed since the 1978 opening and reforming? We will begin with exploring the domestic and international sources of Chinese foreign policy, including historical legacies, the international system, domestic political institutions, and nationalism. We then focus on the practice of Chinese foreign policy covering a wide range of issue areas such as China's relations with the United States, trade, regionalism, nuclear proliferation, energy and climate change. Students will examine the interplay of internal and external factors shaping China's foreign policy and gain a comprehensive understanding of the foreign policy making process, at elite and societal levels, in China.

### **Course Objectives**

By the completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- understand historical and cultural contexts of Chinese foreign policy and demonstrate knowledge of key events in the study of Chinese foreign policy
- identify various actors and processes involved in foreign policy making in China
- critically assess opposing theoretical arguments by evaluating the validity of empirical evidence
- apply theoretical knowledge gained from the course to a variety of issue areas and policy scenarios
- evaluate the success and challenges of Chinese foreign policy implementation

## **Course Requirements**

Completing ALL the readings and regular attendance will be required of all students. Active participation in class discussions is critical for students to succeed in this course. Students should make special efforts to arrive on time. They should inform the instructor ahead of time if they need to be late or leave before the class ends.

### *Course Grading Criteria:*

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Final exam	20%	In-class exam (TBD)
Midterm exam	20%	In-class exam (Oct. 11)
Policy Paper	20%	2,500 words (by May 1)
Reading response	15%	5 response papers (>500 words, 3% each)
Current issue presentation	15%	Case studies + discussion leading
Attendance and Class Participation	10%	

- 1. Exams (Midterm 20% / Final 20%):** Each exam will consist of 2-3 long essays. They will test your understanding of the key concepts of comparative politics and the main arguments of the assigned articles. The exams will also ask you to apply a theoretical framework to the real-world examples.
- 2. Policy Paper (20%):** You will be required to complete a policy paper on a specific issue/problem that has involved more than two countries in East Asia. A good paper will highlight effectively and logically the theoretical significance of the problem and its strategic importance to the United States or any other actors in international politics. You may use academic articles, local/national news sources, or your own knowledge to identify the issue you wish to focus on. You must use a critical thinking approach and not simply summarize the information.
- 3. Reading Response (15%):** You will choose 5 class periods (at least 2 before midterm exam) and respond to one of the assigned readings. Your response must be critical and go beyond a summary or a description of the readings. A good response paper will compare or critique the readings using some analytical tools covered in previous classes. All papers should be submitted electronically to me ([leeju@lafayette.edu](mailto:leeju@lafayette.edu)) before the class for which the reading is assigned starts.
- 4. Presentation (15%):** Students will work in groups for a slide presentation (40-45 minutes). The presentation should include an in-depth case study on a topical issue and some discussion questions. Each group will decide their own presentation topic by the end of the first week. Effective and interactive presentations will earn extra credit.
- 5. Attendance and participation (10%):** Attendance is vital to learning the material presented in this course. If you miss more than 2 of this semester's classes (without a Dean's Excuse), you will not be eligible for a final grade of A, regardless of your other assignment grades. If you miss more than 5 of this semester's classes, you will not be eligible for a final grade above a B-, regardless of your other assignment grades. Missing more than 8 of the classes will result in a failing grade for the course. If an extraordinary circumstance arises, please discuss it with me immediately. Please come to class prepared to engage thoughtfully, listen attentively, and interact with your peers respectfully.

At the end of each class, I may give a short, open-ended question to the class and collect your written responses. The purpose of this activity is for me to better understand and communicate with each student. Interesting thoughts and perspectives will be introduced and appreciated at the beginning of the next class. Answers will not be graded but may earn extra credits.

Final grade will be based on the quality of assignments listed above and will be determined using the following percentage scale:

A = 100 – 93	A- = 92 – 90	B+ = 89 – 87	B = 86 – 83	B- = 82 – 80
C+ = 79 – 77	C = 76 – 73	C- = 72 – 70	D+ = 69 – 67	D = 66 – 63
D- = 62 – 60	F ≤ 60			

### **Statement on Academic Honesty**

Students are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work. For specific examples of and College policies on academic dishonesty, both intentional and inadvertent, please consult the *Student Handbook*, available online at <https://conduct.lafayette.edu>.

### **Student Disability Services**

Lafayette is committed to assisting students with disabilities fully participate in all programs and activities at the college. In compliance with Lafayette College policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students must register with the Office of the Dean of the College for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. Students with disabilities may contact Disability Services through ATTIC. You can find more information online at <http://attic.lafayette.edu/disability-services/>.

### **On Electronics and Courtesy**

All electronic messaging devices must be turned off and stowed away by the time class begins: no e-mail/Facebook/text message checking, net surfing, etc. during class time. The use of laptops and tablets is prohibited in class except when explicitly permitted by the instructor. Out of courtesy to your classmates and your instructor, please come to class on time and do not leave until the class ends, unless you obtained prior permission, and do not engage in private conversations in class.

### **Textbooks**

1. Andrew J. Nathan & Andrew Scobell. 2012. *China's Search for Security*, Columbia University Press.
2. Thomas J. Christensen. 2016. *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power*, W.W. Norton & Company.

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: Introduction**

*What are the central tenets of the mainstream international relations theories? Why the explanations differ widely when the facts are the same? Are domestic politics driving the interstate relations? Has an identity crisis influenced state behavior? How about norms and ideas?*

Monday, January 27

- Introduction (No reading)

Wednesday, January 29

- Snyder, J. (2004). One world, rival theories. *Foreign policy*, (145), 52. (posted online)
- V. I. Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. (posted online)

Friday, January 31

- Nathan and Scobell: Introduction (pp. xi-xxiii)
- Christensen: Prologue (pp. xiii-xxii)

### **Week 2: Historical Legacies**

*How have historical circumstances shaped China's foreign policy and East Asian international politics? What accounts for China's attitudes towards Japan and other neighboring countries? What is the tribute system? Is China's rise real?*

Monday, February 3

- Kang, D. C. (2010). Hierarchy and legitimacy in international systems: The tribute system in early modern East Asia. *Security Studies*, 19(4), 591-622. (posted online)
- Christensen: Introduction (pp. 1-12)

Wednesday, February 5

- Kristof, N. D. (1998). "The Problem of Memory," *Foreign Affairs*, 77(6), 37-49 (posted online)
- Hiroshi Mitani, "Why Do We Still Need to Talk about 'Historical Understanding' in East Asia?" (posted online)

Friday, February 7

- Christensen: Chapter 1 (pp. 13-36)

### **Week 3: Analytical Approaches to China's Foreign Policy**

*How can outside observers explain Chinese foreign policy? What are the factors that drive Chinese foreign policy? Are those factors internal or external to China?*

Monday, February 10

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 1 "What Drives Chinese Foreign Policy?" (pp. 3-36)

Wednesday, February 12

- Ng-Quinn, M. (1983). "The Analytic Study of Chinese Foreign Policy," *International Studies Quarterly*, 27(2), 203-224. (posted online)

Friday, February 14

- Student Presentation 1

#### **Week 4: The International System**

*History tells us that the rise of a great power is accompanied by great violence. Do you think this time will be different? Why or why not? Will Chinese power surpass U.S. power anytime soon? Why do you think so?*

Monday, February 17

- Christensen: Chapter 2 (pp. 37-62)
- Er, L. P. (2016) China, the United States, Alliances, and War: Avoiding the Thucydides Trap? *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, 43(2), 36-46 (posted online)

Wednesday, February 19

- Christensen: Chapter 3 (pp. 63-94)

Friday, February 21

- Student Presentation 2

#### **Week 5: Domestic Politics**

*How does Chinese domestic situation change the country's foreign policy orientation? What are the domestic factors of Chinese foreign policy? Who runs Chinese foreign policy? Politicians, diplomats, or party leaders?*

Monday, February 24

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 2 (pp. 37-62)

Wednesday, February 26

- Zhao, Q. (1992). Domestic Factors of Chinese Foreign Policy: From Vertical to Horizontal Authoritarianism. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 519(1), 158-175. (posted online)
- Sun, J. (2017). Growing Diplomacy, Retreating Diplomats—How the Chinese Foreign Ministry has been Marginalized in Foreign Policymaking. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 26(105), 419-433. (posted online)

Friday, February 28

Student Presentation 3

**Deadline for policy paper proposal**

#### **Week 6: Sovereignty and Nationalism**

*What does sovereignty mean in China? What is the "one-country-two-system" and how does it work in China? Is Chinese nationalism rising?*

Monday, March 2

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 8 (pp. 195-221)
- Grossman, D. (2019) "One Country, Two Systems, Lots of Problems," *Foreign Policy* (June 21). (posted online)

Wednesday, March 4

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 9 (pp. 222-239)
- Johnston, I. A. (2016) "Is Chinese Nationalism Rising? Evidence from Beijing," *International Security* 41(3), 7-35. (posted online)

Friday, March 6

Student Presentation 4

### **Week 7: Sino-U.S. Relations During and After the Cold War**

*Does China's rise pose a threat to the United States? Have China's behaviors posed strategic challenges the leadership of the United States? How so?*

Monday, March 9

- Nathan and Scobell: Chapter 4 (pp. 89-113)
- Christensen: Chapter 4 (pp. 95-114)

Wednesday, March 11

- Midterm exam review

Friday, March 13

- Midterm exam

### **Week 8: Fall Break**

- Fall Break (March 16 – 20)

### **Week 9: China's Growing Assertiveness and Global Governance**

*What are some serious security challenges facing the international community? How has China cooperated with other countries? Has China's behavior become more assertive or even offensive? Since when?*

Monday, March 23

- Christensen: Chapter 5 (pp. 115-168)
- Friedberg, A. L. (2014). The sources of Chinese conduct: Explaining Beijing's assertiveness. *The Washington Quarterly*, 37(4), 133-150. (posted online)

Wednesday, March 25

- Christensen: Chapter 8 (pp. 242-287)
- Liao, N. C. C. (2016). The sources of China's assertiveness: the system, domestic politics or leadership preferences? *International Affairs*, 92(4), 817-833. (posted online)

Friday, March 27

- Student Presentation 5

### **Week 10: China, Russia, and Central Asia**

*How has China-Russia relationship evolved since after the WWII? What makes them cooperate in the central Asian region? How is China perceived by Central Asian countries?*

Monday, March 30

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 3 (pp. 65-88) & Chapter 6 (pp.164-169)

Wednesday, April 1

- Wilhelmsen, J., & Flikke, G. (2011). Chinese–Russian convergence and central Asia. *Geopolitics*, 16(4), 865-901. (posted online)
- Dadabaev, T. (2014). Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) regional identity formation from the perspective of the Central Asia States. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 23(85), 102-118. (posted online)

Friday, April 3

- Student Presentation 6

### **Week 11: China's Approach to Japan and the Two Koreas**

*What prevents China and Japan from building a strong relationship? What does China expect to see in the Korean peninsula? What has China done in North Korean nuclear negotiations?*

Monday, April 6

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 5 (pp. 114-138)
- Self, B. (2003). "China and Japan: A Façade of Friendship," *The Washington Quarterly*, 26(1), pp. 77-88 (posted online)

Wednesday, April 8

- Shambaugh, D. (2003), "China and the Korean Peninsula: Playing for the Long Term," *The Washington Quarterly*, 26 (2), pp. 43-56. (posted online)
- Cumings, B. (2003). "North Korea: The Sequel," *Current History* 102, pp. 147-151. (posted online)
- Wu, A. (2005). What China Whispers to North Korea. *Washington Quarterly*, 28(2), 35-48. (posted online)

Friday, April 10

- Student Presentation 7

### **Week 12 China's Regional Strategy and Southeast Asia**

*What does China expect to see in the Southeast Asian region? What does it want from the South China Sea? Are there any feasible solutions to the increasing tensions in the region?*

Monday, April 13

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 6 (pp. 139-164)

Wednesday, April 15

- Fravel, M. T. (2011). "China's Strategy in the South China Sea," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 33, 3, pp. 292-319. (posted online)
- Zhao, S. (2011) "China's Approaches toward Regional Cooperation in East Asia: Motivations and Calculations," *Journal of Contemporary China*, 20(68), pp. 53-67 (posted online)

Friday, April 17

- Student Presentation 8

### **Week 13: China's Global Strategy I**

*What is China's "One-Best-One-Road" project, and how does it affect the United States? Should the United States and other countries be afraid of China's creating of its own multinational organizations?*

Monday, April 20

- Nathan and Scobell, Chapter 7 (pp. 170-192)

Wednesday, April 22

- Ferdinand, P. (2016). Westward ho—the China dream and 'one belt, one road': Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping. *International Affairs*, 92(4), 941-957. (posted online)
- Lipsky, P. (2015) "Who's Afraid of the AIIB," *Foreign Affairs: Snapshot*, May 7. (posted online)

Friday, April 24

- Student Presentation 9

**Week 14: China's Global Strategy II**

*What are China's strategies for its soft power? What is "Beijing Consensus"? Does Chinese development model work in other countries?*

Monday, April 27

- Watch: American Factory

Wednesday, April 29

- Ding, S. (2008). To build a "harmonious world": China's soft power wielding in the global south. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 13(2), 193-213. (posted online)
- Kennedy, S. (2010). The myth of the Beijing Consensus. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 19(65), 461-477. (posted online)

Friday, May 1

- Student Presentation 10
- **Policy Paper Due (Midnight)**

**Week 15: China's Search for Energy and Climate Change**

*How does China respond to climate change? How has China's energy policy evolved? How does it affect China's neighboring countries?*

Monday, May 4

- Dembicki, G. (2017). "The Convenient Disappearance of Climate Change Denial in China," *Foreign Policy*, May 31 (posted online)
- Gallagher & Zhang. (2019). <http://theconversation.com/china-is-positioned-to-lead-on-climate-change-as-the-us-rolls-back-its-policies-114897>.

Wednesday, May 6

- Biba, S. (2012). China's continuous dam-building on the Mekong River. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 42(4), 603-628. (posted online)
- Vasconcelos, D (2018). The Stumbling blocks to China's green transition. *The Diplomat* <https://thediplomat.com/2018/04/the-stumbling-blocks-to-chinas-green-transition/>

Friday, May 8

- Final Exam Review

**Final Exam (May 11-18)**