CIEE Nanjing, China

Course name: History of U.S.-China Relations
Course number: EAST 3003 CNAN
Programs offering course: Nanjing Intensive Chinese Language and Culture
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

This course studies the relations between the United States and China from the 19th century until the end of the 20th century. By examining the most important political, economic, cultural and military interactions between these two nations, it offers a comprehensive review of how the complex U.S.-China relations constantly changed throughout history and how history shaped their current relations that may influence the future of the world. For this goal, we will use scholarly books, articles, memoirs, declassified documents and visual materials. We will also have several field trips to some important historical places in Nanjing that are specifically related to our course of study.

Learning Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Understand how the US-China relations have developed throughout history.
- Comprehend how the key issues in contemporary US-China relations are shaped by history.
- Improve the ability to evaluate various scholastic opinions on the US-China relations based on evidence.
- Gain experience and improve skills in generalizing, explaining, and interpreting specific problems in the US-China relations.

Course Prerequisites

No prerequisite.

Methods of Instruction

Lectures with PowerPoint; small and large group discussions; analysis of documents, photographs and documentaries; fieldtrips with accompanying assignments; student presentations; essay writings.
Assessment and Final Grade

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Reading journal</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final essay</td>
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Course Requirements

Class Participation
You are expected to be an active learner in this course, along with the Instructor and your fellow classmates. Informed discussion is an important instructional method in this class and you are expected to have completed the course readings by the first class meetings of the week to be fully prepared for both lecture and discussions. Your participation grade will include your active engagement in class discussions, constructive peer feedback on Student Presentations, preparation of any discussion questions, and active engagement in all in-class exercises and field trips.

Midterm
A closed-book midterm exam will be held in class. It may include short answers and essay questions, and your answer will be graded with the CIEE Grade Scale.

Essay Writing
You will write one essay in this course, and the topic will be given by the instructor within the first three weeks. You should finish the final essay by the due date. A finished essay should be 10-15 pages long, double spaced. It is expected to have an introduction with a strong thesis statement, a clear organizational structure with crisp topic sentences, a lucid conclusion, and proper source citations.

Reading Journal
In order to help you collect your thoughts on discussion topics, you need to write a concise (200-250 words) journal about the readings assigned by the instructor each week.

Academic Integrity
You may only submit your own work for credit, and must use social science or historical citation methods when utilizing the research, data, language or ideas of others. Failure to cite the work of others is considered plagiarism and will result in failure of the assignment and may result in the failure of the course.

Late Assignments
Late work will lose three points per weekday (M-F) late unless the student has an excused absence or prior arrangements have been made for an extension. Extensions are given strictly at the instructor’s discretion.

Classroom Decorum
Students are expected to treat one another and the instructor courteously, listen attentively, and maintain a respectful attitude even toward views with which they disagree. Please turn off the ringer on your cell phones. No texting or email is permitted during class.

**Weekly Schedule**

Week 1  | **The First Contact**  
          | Cohen, *America’s Response to China*, prologue

Week 2  | **The Unequal Treaty System**  
          | Cohen, *America’s Response to China*, chap. 1  
          | Salvatore Babones, “American Tianxia: The United States as the New ‘Middle Kingdom’”

Week 3  | **The Emergence of a Republican China**  
          | Cohen, *America’s Response to China*, chap. 2  
          | Chris Buckley and Keith Bradsher, “China Moves to Let Xi to Stay in Power by Abolishing Term Limit”  
          | **Writing assignment**

Week 4  | **Cultural Exchanges and the Racial Problems**  
          | Brook Larmer, “The Parachute Generation”

Week 5  | **The US and Sino-Japanese Conflicts**  
          | Cohen, *America’s Response to China*, chaps. 3 & 4  

Week 6  | **The Pacific War**  
          | Cohen, *America’s Response to China*, chap. 5  
          | China Daily, “Another side to ‘Flying Tigers’ Story.”  
          | Documentary: Why we fight  
          | Field trip: Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall

Week 7  | **Spring Break**

Week 8  | **The US and Chinese Civil War**  
          | Cohen, *America’s Response to China*, chap. 6  
          | John Leighton Stuart, *Fifty Years in China*  
          | The Associated Press, “Xi’s Tough Talk on Taiwan Backfires.”
Week 9  Midterm  
Americans in Chinese Revolution  
Documentary: China Hands: Li Dunbai

Week 10  Mao’s China in the Cold War  
Cohen, America’s Response to China, chap. 7  
Robert D. Kaplan, “A New Cold War Has Begun.”  
Stephen M. Walt, “I Know the Cold War. This is No Cold War.”

Week 11  Labor Day

Week 12  The Road to Normalization  
Cohen, America’s Response to China, chap. 8  
D. Shambaugh. “Containment or Engagement of China? Calculating Beijing’s Responses”

Week 13  The US and a Re-opened China (Human rights, Xinjiang and Tibet)  
Cohen, America’s Response to China, chap. 9  
Human Rights Watch World Report 2019: China and the US

Week 14  Collaborations and Conflicts  
Cohen, America’s Response to China, chap. 10  
Student presentations

Final essay due 5PM

Readings


- The Associated Press, “Xi’s Tough Talk on Taiwan Backfires.”

- Babones, Salvatore. “American Tianxia: The United States as the New ‘Middle Kingdom’”

- Buckley, Chris and Bradsher, Keith. “China Moves to Let Xi to Stay in Power by Abolishing Term Limit”

- China Daily, “Another side to ‘Flying Tigers’ Story”


• Human Rights Watch World Report 2019: China and the US

• Kessler, Peter (何伟) 《甲骨文》Oracle Bones.

• Kaplan, D. Robert. “A New Cold War Has Begun”


• Larmer, Brook. “The Parachute Generation.”


• Osons, Evan (欧逸文) 《野心时代》Age of Ambition.

• Pomfret, John (潘文), Chinese Lessons.


• Rob Schmitz, Street of Eternal Happiness.


• Walt, Stephen M. “I Knew the Cold War. This is No Cold War.”

• Wu, Ningkun, A Single Tear.

• Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016 China (includes Tibet, Hong Kong, and Macau)

• Progress in China’s Human Rights in 2016

• Human Rights Record of the United States in 2016
More to be announced

**Course Instructor**

刘握宇 Woyu Liu obtained his PhD in Modern East Asian History from the University of Iowa in 2012. He has taught at both public and private universities and colleges in the United States, and currently is an Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese History at Nanjing University. He is also teaching Contemporary Chinese History at Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies. His research interests are the socialist agrarian reforms and individual-state relationship in modern China.