

Course	HIST 3150/50 – International Affairs: China’s Foreign and Economic Policies
Term	Fall I, 2009
Instructor	Name: Dr. Karin Kneissl Phone: 0676 52 83 104 Email: karin@kkneissl.com
Course Description	This course explores the historical basis of Chinese foreign policy, clashes with the West and nationalism. The focus will be on the People’s Republic of China, but the role its dynasties, political philosophy and Chinese notion of empire and government will have to be studied in order to understand today’s self-perception of China. Its international role is determined by the importance of the Chinese economy. Demand for energy and commodities has tremendous impact on international relations. China’s role on the African continent and in Central Asia do reflect this fact. In the light of the transformation of the global economic system students the changing role of China will be examined.
Prerequisites	POLT 1050 or permission of the instructor. Students with a sound knowledge of history will be able to follow the course. You should have studied the textbook before week 1..
Learning Outcomes	Being able to understand and analyze China’s role in international relations. We will simulate an international conference on a topic of Chinese national interests. Students will be familiarized with Chinese economic and political ambitions and strategies.
Textbook and other Materials	Jonathan D. Spence: The Search for Modern China, London and New York 1990 A reader with additional texts will be prepared.

Class Participation 15% (which includes active debating with our guest speakers) Midterm exam (which includes a research paper in preparation of the delegation you will represent) 45 %, Final Exam 40%

The midterm is an essay to be written in class on a topic related to the visits, lectures (in class and guest speakers). Students will have three hours at their disposal. They should demonstrate their analytical skills in writing about a wider issue concerning China, such as its role as international donor; for instance.

The final exam is a simulated negotiating session. Students play delegates of states respectively organizations they have chosen. They prepare a text in the form of a politico-legal statement to be read at the session. This text comprises 600-1000 words. Furthermore, they will prepare a list of arguments to be used during the negotiations. The quality of the prepared papers and the active participation during the negotiations will determine the grade.

Activities

4 hours in class per week, 6 hours home work (reading). Active inputs in class such as analysis of case studies and discussions with guest speakers. You should follow high-quality reporting on international politics since we will discuss current affairs in class.

University Policies

Cheating

Any student found cheating on any part of the course work (homework assignment, term paper, quiz, exam, etc.) will automatically be given an "F" for the course. Any student found to be helping another student to cheat will likewise be given an "F" for the course. In each case, the student will also be put on disciplinary probation for the remainder of her or his stay at Webster. If the student is found to have engaged in cheating a second time, s/he will be automatically expelled from the University.

Attendance

Class attendance is obligatory. Instructors will take attendance at each class session and reduce a student's course grade by half a letter grade for each full week of class missed. Any student who misses three or more full weeks of class will automatically be given an "F" for the course.

Course Policies

You are not allowed to miss more than one class, otherwise you should drop the course.

Weekly Schedule

Day and time still to be scheduled

Week 1

Introduction to the course: presentation of schedule and requirements. Confucian political philosophy. The Late Ming Dynasty. Relations with the outside world. The Opening up since 1978.

- Week 2 China as a regional actor: competition or cooperation – Vietnam, India and Japan.
- Week 3 China's energy policy: its relations with the Arab world and Iran. China on the African continent.
- Week 4 China and the EU. An ambiguous relationship. Trade wars, the Tibetan question, Human Rights and the recurrent issue of the Asian market.
- Week 5 Midterm Exam: a simulated conference on a topic to be chosen
- Week 6 China and the US: Chinamerica revisited Its role in space missions. In the light of the economic turbulences the position of China as global investor (US-bonds) could change.
- Week 7 Final exam: written exam to be held in class comprising a briefing-note, an essay and two additional knowledge questions.

Additional Information

- Meetings can be arranged anytime at my office in room 230.
- a. You can contact me via e-mail or in urgent cases by phone if you have questions, impediments to attend a class etc.
 - b. In case of topical events, we might shift the focus of the one or other session and analyze the development at stake