The Beijing Center
for Chinese Studies

Sino-US Relations

**Course:** PLSC 300D  
**Term:** Spring 2016  
**Instructor:** Dr. Shi Yinhong  
**Email:** y.shi@263.net

**Course Description**

The goal of this course is to help students obtain, in the context of dynamic history and complex realities of power and ideas, a better grasp of the China-U.S. relations, the most important bilateral relations to China at the present as well as in a large part of her modern history, and also increasingly likely the most important ones to the United States in the coming decades. There is already little doubt in the world that the prospects of this bilateral relationship will in a large part shape the world political economy and more. The general orientation of the past evolution of the intercourses between these two powers with very different traditions but the similar “continental” magnitude will be surveyed, the developments in the most recent years and months emphasized, and the predictable future prospects discussed.

The course is characterized, among other things, by prominence of the political and strategic aspects of the international relations and foreign policy, while their social and economic ones are also touched from time to time, especially when they do have significant politico-strategic implications. As in most other courses in the field of international studies almost anywhere, students are expected to have at least a minimum grounding in general international political theories. There may be often a largely consistent theme or framework of “grand strategy” emerged in discussing, which has been marked by a holistic approach, a focus on the calculated relationship between ends and means, a constant concern with the cost-effectiveness of different policy options, and the most important strategic quality of unrelenting adaptation to the unending changes of the world.

The weekly themes of the course are as follows:

I. The emergence of the American preponderance and China’s evolving relations with the international society
II. Conflict, confrontation, and rapprochement: the China-U.S. relations in the Cold War years and beyond

III. Crisis in Tiananmen and its aftermath

IV. From the Embassy bombing, through 9/11, to the 16th Party Congress of the CCP

V. Toward partnership through vicissitudes

VI. Drastic ups and downs: Obama and China

VII. Obama and China again: Historic rivalry and competition over Asia-Pacific?

VIII. Effects of political economy and culture: The United States and the Chinese high Politics

IX. South China Sea dispute: U.S. power in the Pacific and China’s maritime aspiration

X. Northeast Asia: China’s extraordinarily intensive maritime confrontation with Japan

XI. Northeast Asia: China, U.S., and the oft-dramatic North Korea problem, and troubled China-ROK political relations

XII. New problems at a new agenda: Finance, trade, energy, investment, strategic weaponry, and more

XIII. China’s rising, and the uncertain future of China-U.S. relations

Course Format

The course is organized as a seminar. It requires students to complete reading the assigned materials, and bring to class their own questions or comments about the readings. It also requires students to actively engage in in-class interactions in the general context of their course reading as well as lecture-listening. Insights with highly practical relevance are particularly welcome.

Each session will begin with a lecture by the instructor, which takes about half of the session time. Then the course will focus on a presentation on one of the sub-topics of the each session by a pre-designated student, with discussions from other course participants, and related topics/issues they want to have discussed. The presentation in its written form (or its outline) can serve as a short reflection paper (see more below).

Course Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>One short reflection paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final research paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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A short reflection paper is meant to be 3-4 pages in length, typed. It should
demonstrate a student’s strength and scope in reflecting on one sub-topic in China-U.S. relations covered by the course. Documentation of sources of information is not required, but the writer ought to base his/her comments on reliable data and expert opinions as much as possible.

A research paper is meant to be 8-9 pages in length, typed. It should deal with a significant research topic within the general line of the course, be documented and written according to rules and conventions governing in the Beijing Center (TBC). Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty are strictly forbidden. The due date of the final research paper will be announced during the class.

**Attendance Policy**

Only valid medical or family emergencies qualify as an absence, and documentation of the same must be presented to the professor no later than the next class meeting.

**Academic Honesty Statement**

Please click the following link to see the Loyola University Chicago/Beijing Center Academic Honesty Statement:
[http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtm](http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtm)

**Course Topics and Readings**

* Most readings are to be provided by instructor through TBC in course-pack form, others are available in TBC libraries. In addition, students should keep up with current related affairs in publications such as the New York Times (which can be found for free at [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), the Washington Post ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)), the Asian Times ([www.atimes.com](http://www.atimes.com)), the Straits Times, a prestigious Singapore newspaper with much related reporting or comments (it free website as www.straitstimes.asia1.com), and the China’s no.1 official newspaper, the People’s Daily (in English at [http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/home.html](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/home.html)), etc. A truly excellent and free web service is Taiwan Security Research ([www.taiwansecurity.org](http://www.taiwansecurity.org)), update on the Taiwan issue, China’s foreign policy, Sino-American relations, and East Asian security.


I. The emergence of the American preponderance and China’s evolving relations with the international society

Required readings:

Geoffrey Barraclough, An Introduction to Contemporary History (Harmondsworth, Middlesex, England: Penguin Books, 1967), Chapter 4 (“From the European Balance of Power to the Age of World Politics”);

II. Conflict, confrontation, and rapprochement: the China-U.S. relations in the Cold War years and beyond

Required readings:


III. Crisis in Tiananmen and its aftermath

Required readings:

Harry Harding, A Fragile Relationship: The United States and China since 1972 (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1992), Chapters 7 and 8 (“Crisis” and “Deadlock”);  

IV. From the Embassy bombing, through 9/11, to the 16th Party Congress of the CCP

Required readings:

“Bending in the U.S. Storm,” The Far Eastern Economic Review, October 24, 2002;  

V. Toward partnership through vicissitudes

Required readings:

Ching Cheong, “Pressure from US and China Limits Taiwan Separatism,” Straits Times, May 21, 2004;  
Bonnie S. Glaser and Jane Skanderup, “Anxiety About Taiwan Hits New Highs,”
VI. Drastic ups and downs: Obama and China

Required readings:

Chris Buckley, “China Weights Assertion and Caution in U.S. Shadow,” Reuters, January 20, 2009;
   Calum MacLeod, “No Breakthroughs Made, but China Keeps Obama Busy,” USA Today, November 17, 2009;
   “Copenhagen Talks Show G2 Far from Reality,” Agency France Presse, December 21, 2009;
   Tania Branigan, “Chinese Media Accuses U.S. of ‘Cold War Thinking’ over Taiwan Arms Deal,” Guardian, February 1, 2010;
   Ewen MacAskill and Mark Tran, “China and U.S. Extend Thaw as Hu Jintao Confirms Nuclear Summit Visit,” Guardian, April 1, 2010;

VII. Obama and China again: Historic rivalry over Asia-Pacific?
Required readings:

David Shambaugh, "US-China Relations Take A New Direction?" YaleGlobal, January 24, 2011;
Jackie Calmes, "Obama’s Trip Emphasizes Role of Pacific Rim," The New York Times, November 18, 2011;
Calum MacLeod, "China Launches Charm Offensive as Obama Cancels Asia Trip," USA Today, October 4, 2013.

VIII. Effects of Political Economy and Transnational Culture: The United States and the Chinese High Politics

Required readings:

David Barboza and Sharon LaFraniere, "Princelings’ in China Use Family Ties to Gain Riches," The New York Times, May 18, 2012;
Andrew Jacobs and Dan Levin, "Sons Parties and Privilege Aggravate Fall of Elite Chinese Family," The New York Times, April 17, 2012;
Mark McDonald, "In China, a Ferrari Crashes and the Party Is Dented," International Herald Tribune, September 3, 2012;
Michael Wines, "A Populist’s Downfall Exposes Divisions in China’s Ruling
John Garnaut, "The Revenge of Wen Jiabao," Foreign Policy, March 29, 2012;
Steven Lee Myers and Mark Landler, "Frenzied Hours for U.S. on Fate of a China Insider," The New York Times, April 17, 2012;

IX. South China Sea dispute: U.S. power in the Pacific and China’s maritime aspiration

Required reading:

Chris Buckley, "China Reported Saying U.S. Navy Ship Was Breaking Law," Reuters, March 10, 2009;
Greg Torode and Minnie Chan, "For China, War Games Are Steel behind the Statements," South China Morning Post, July 31, 2010;
“Seas Fill with Tension over China’s Moves,” Asahi Shimbun, October 2, 2010;
John Pomfret, "Clinton urges Cambodia to strike a balance with China," The Washington Post, November 1, 2010;

X. Northeast Asia: China’s extraordinarily intensive maritime confrontation with Japan

Required reading:

“Government Leader Flinch at China Intimidation,” Yomuiri Shimbun, September 26, 2010;
“Official OK to Anti-Japan Rallies Backfired in China,” Asahi Shimbun, October
XI. Northeast Asia: China, U.S., and the oft-dramatic North Korea problem, with troubled China-ROK political relations

Required reading:

“N. Korea, China Enjoy ‘Honeymoon Period’ in Bilateral Ties,” Donga Ilbo, October 13, 2010;
"Obama and Xi Agree on North Korea, Discuss Cybersecurity at Summit," Reuters, June 9, 2013;
Bruce Klingner, “China Shock for South Korea,” Asia Times, September 11, 2004;
Shi Yinhong, “China and ROK: Bizarre Political Relationship and Huge
Strategic Suspicions"
[An excerpt from idem, “China, the North Korea Problem, and the Korean
Peninsular,” paper presented to a conference organized by Research Institute for
National Security Studies at KNDU on December 8, 2009];
Chris Buckley and Jack Kim, “China’s Embrace of North Korea’s Kim Irks
Neighbors,” Reuters, May 7, 2010;

XII. New problems in a new agenda: Finance, trade, energy, investment, strategic
weaponry, and more

Required readings:

Goh Sui Noi, “China and US Economies on Collision Course,” Straits Times,
September 14, 2004;
Charles Horner, “What Will China Do with All that Money,” The Washington
Post, January 16, 2007;
Joseph Kahn and Jim Yardley, “As China Rises, Pollution Soars,” International
Herald Tribune, August 25, 2007;
Harry Harding, “China: Think Again!” PacNet #17, Pacific Forum, CSIS, April 5,
2007;
Peter Ford, “Clinton Bluntly Condemns China on Internet Censorship,” The
Christian Science Monitor, January 21, 2010;
James Kynge, “China and West: Full Circle,” Financial Times, January 15,
2010;
Chietigi Bajipaee, “China Fuels Energy Cold War,” Asia Time, March 2, 2005;
Barton W. Marcois and Leland R. Miller, “China, U.S. interests Conflict,”
Washington Times, March 25, 2005;
Shi Yinhong, “The Truth Regarding Tibet: From A Chinese Perspective,” The
Washington Post, August 4, 2008;
Kathrin Hille, “Xinjiang Ethnic Groups United in Hostility,” Financial Times,
September 4, 2009;
Al Guo, “U.S. Groups Accused of Backing Separatists,” South China Morning
Post, July 9, 2009;
Mark Stokes and Dan Blumenthal, "Why China’s Missiles Should Be Our
Focus," The Washington Post, January 2, 2011;
John Pomfret, "China’s Military Seems to Have a New Attitude: Lots of
Keith Bradsher, "China’s Missile Advances Could Thwart U.S. Defenses,
David E. Sanger, David Barboza, and Nicole Perlroth, "Chinese Army Unit Is
Kathrin Hille, "Global Insight: China’s Silence over US Snooping Is Golden,"
XIII. China’s rising, and the uncertain future of the China-U.S. relations

Required readings:

John Pomfret, “U.S. Continues Effort to Counter China’s Influence in Asia,” The Washington Post, July 23, 2010;
Shi Yinhong, "China’s New Leadership: Prospects for Foreign Policy and the China-U.S. Relationship“ (A Lecture delivered at The Faculty of Political Science, Moscow State University, on October 13, 2013);