

Pro-Seminar on Sino-U.S. Relations

Georgia Institute of Technology
Fall 2011

INTA 4500; CRN 91784
Mondays, 12:05-14:55

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This seminar focuses on the interaction of a proud, aggrieved, and ambitious rising global power, the People's Republic of China, and a proud and ambitious incumbent global power, the United States of America. Interactions between these two states will be examined from the perspective of national strategies, the process of economic globalization, national security and alliances, differing ideals and values, and resource diplomacy. Two-thirds of the course will focus on the contemporary PRC-US relationship. One-third will review the history of PRC-US relations with an eye to how earlier episodes of interaction can inform our thinking about the present and future relationship. Students will be expected to research and write a short (15-20 page) paper during the seminar, periodically sharing with the seminar the process of their research.

Textbooks:

Henry Kissinger, On China, Penguin Press, 2011.

Warren I. Cohen, America's Response to China: A History of Sino-American Relations, Columbia University Press.

Garver, Face Off: China, the United States, and Taiwan's Democratization, Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1997

Seminar Paper:

Researching, writing, and presenting a paper is a normal component of an academic seminar, and construction of a 15-25 page (double-spaced) research paper will be part of this one. The paper should focus on one particular aspect of China's policies or relations with the United States, and explain those policies or relations in a systematic fashion.

The composition of the paper will follow the following schedule.

29 August: Identification of precise paper topic, after discussion with professor, in the form of a concise written statement.

19 September: 2 page summary of existing secondary and primary literature on the topic using proper end-noting format.

11 October: Concise 1 page or 2 page statement of exact nature of China's policy (ies) drawing on primary sources quoting directly from those sources and using proper end-noting format.

24 October: Concise written statement of working hypothesis about topic specifying key variables that seem to be operating. Also a list of concepts that relate those variables to one another.

31 October: Outline of paper, laying out logical organization of the paper and development of the argument.

7 November: Draft of paper due

28 November: Final paper due

Grade:

Seminar participation: 50%

Seminar paper: 50%

After the first seminar session, students should do the assigned readings before the class. Class will consist of free discussion and debate. Students should come to class prepared with ideas and questions about the period of Sino-U.S. relations under discussion.

Outline of Seminar Sessions

Part I: The Contemporary Relation

22 August: Framing the Problem: A unique, proud, ambitious, and extremely suspicious rising power confronts a unique, proud, ambitious, suspicious, and extremely powerful incumbent power

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 1.

29 August: The United States and the Treaty System

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 2; Cohen, chapter 1.

19 September: The Open Door and the “Special Relationship”

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 3; Cohen, chapter 2.

26 September: The United States and Japan’s Challenge to China

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 4; Cohen, chapter 3.

3 October. The 1st Sino-American Alliance (against Japanese expansionism)

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 5; Cohen, chapters 4, 5.

11 October. The Civil War and U.S. Policy

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 6; Cohen, chapter 6.

24 October. The Fateful Choice and the Onset of the Sino-American Confrontation

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 7; Cohen, chapter 7.

31 October: The “Great Aberration”: United Front against U.S. Imperialism versus All Means Short of War

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 8. “Covert Operations against the Mainland,” Chapter 6, in John Garver, The Sino-American Alliance; Nationalist China and American cold War Strategy in Asia, M.E. Sharpe, 1997, p. 93-111

7 November. The U.S.-PRC Rapprochement

Readings: Kissinger, chapters 9 & 10. Cohen, chapter 8.

14 November. China’s “Second Liberation” and Sino-U.S. Relations

Readings: Kissinger, chapters 11, 12.

21 November. 2nd Sino-U.S. Alliance (against Soviet expansionism)

Readings: Kissinger, chapters 13, 14.

28 November: The End of the Cold War and Reconstruction of the relationship

Readings: Kissinger, chapter 15. Garver, Face Off: China, the United States, and Taiwan's Democratization, Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1997.

5 December: Student Presentation of Key Research Findings