Boston University
Foreign Policy of the People's Republic of China
CLA IR 577 -- PO 578
Semester I, 2007-2008
Friday, 1:00-4:00
IRC 220

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COURSE AIMS:
The intent of this course is to give a broad understanding of the course of Chinese foreign
policy since the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949 as well as to take a more
intensive look at some of the major problems in Chinese foreign policy in the
contemporary period. Our aim is to understand the international problems that China has
faced, how it has conceptualized those problems, and how it has tried to deal with them.
In looking at Chinese foreign policy, we will attempt to assess how "rational" it has been.
Has China based its foreign policy on a stable and well-defined sense of China's national
interest or has it viewed the world through Marxist-Leninist ideological lenses? Most of
the second half of the course is devoted to understanding China's international behavior
in the contemporary period, including its emergence as a major economic power, its
situation as an Asian and global actor, and its difficult relationship with the United States.
Thus, one question we will raise is that of continuity and change in China's foreign
policy. How have China's foreign policy aims changed since the inauguration of reform
in 1978? Has China become a status quo power? Will a wealthier and more powerful
China challenge the institutions of the world? How does China's domestic political
situation affect its foreign policy? Is China's succession bringing about a new foreign
policy?

READINGS:
The following books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble if you care to
purchase them:

Fred Bergsten et. al., China: The Balance Sheet (Washington, D.C.: Center for Strategic
Chen Jian, Mao's China and the Cold War (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North
Alan D. Romberg, Rein In at the Brink: American Policy Toward Taiwan and U.S.-PRC
David Shambaugh, ed., Power Shift (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California

In addition, there are a number of articles that must be read for this class. They will be on the courseinfo website.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: For undergraduates, grades will be based on class discussion, three writing assignments, and quizzes as needed. Topics for the writing assignments will be given out in class ahead of time.

Graduate students will do the first and third writing assignments and a research paper of 25 pages. Topics should be selected in consultation with the professor.

DATES TO REMEMBER:
October 5: First paper due
November 16: Second paper due
December 7: Third paper due

POLICY ON ABSENCES
Because of the intensive nature of this course, students are expected to attend all classes. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. Absences for illness for more than two days require a medical certificate. Absences for religious observances and for family or personal reasons require documentation. Absence for purposes of representing the University in authorized athletic events or officially sponsored activities are excused by notification from your sponsoring department or activity. The stated University policy reads: "Any student who has been excessively absent from a course may be required to withdraw from that course without credit."

Grades will also be adjusted downward for excessive absences.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is the passing off of the ideas or words of another as your own. It is taken very seriously at Boston University as at all institutions of higher learning. Your papers should contain appropriate citations. It is better to use too many citations than too few. If you have any doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, please talk with me.

POLICY ON "INCOMPLETES"
No incomplete grades will be reported unless the instructor and the student have conferred, the student has presented a sufficient reason why the work of the course cannot be completed on schedule, and the instructor has assigned a date within the succeeding twelve months by which time all course requirements must be completed. This must be in written form. No degree credit for incomplete courses will be granted unless the work is completed by the date assigned, which must be no later than one
calendar year from the date on when the incomplete grade is reported. In the event that coursework remains incomplete on the assigned date or twelve months after the "I" grade has been awarded, which ever comes first, the "I" grade will be changed automatically and permanently to an “F” grade.

**GRADING:**
Grades for the course will be determined on the following basis:

- Class Participation (including any necessary quizzes) 10%
- First Paper 30%
- Second Paper 30%
- Third Paper 30%
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (Fri., Sept. 7): The Importance of History

The Origins of Chinese Foreign Policy
Reading:
Kirby, “Traditions of Centrality, Authority, and Management in Modern China's Foreign Relations,” in Robinson and Shambaugh, eds., Chinese Foreign Policy, pp. 13-29 (on the Courseinfo website).
Levine, "Perception and Ideology in Chinese Foreign Policy" in Robinson and Shambaugh, eds., Chinese Foreign Policy, pp. 30-46 (on the Courseinfo website).

Was There a Lost Chance in Asia?
Reading:
Chen Jian, Mao’s China & the Cold War, pp. 38-48.

Week 2 (Fri., Sept. 14): China and the Use of Force

Use of Force in the Maoist Period
Reading:
Chen Jian, “China’s Strategies to End the Korean War,” in Mao’s China & the Cold War, pp. 85-117.

Week 3 (Fri., Sept. 21): Reorienting Chinese Foreign Policy

Nixon in China
Reading:
Harry Harding, A Fragile Relationship, Chapter 2 (pp. 23-66) and Chapter 3 (pp. 67-106).

Toward Normalization
Reading:
Alan D. Romberg, Rein in at the Brink of the Precipice, Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-101)
“August 17 Communiqué” (in Romberg, pp. 242).
“The Taiwan Relations Act” (in Romberg, pp. 239-241).

Week 4 (Fri., Sept. 28): The Development of Relations

Sino-US Relations in the 1980s
Reading:
Harry Harding, *A Fragile Relationship*, Chapters 4, 5, and 6
(pp. 107-214).

Tiananmen
Reading:

Week 5 (Fri., Oct. 5): Chinese Domestic Politics
FIRST PAPER DUE
Reading:
Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower*, Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4 (pp. 1-104).
Robert Putnam, “Two-Level Games” (on line).

Week 6 (Fri., Oct. 12): China as a Rising Economic Power

Reading:
*China: The Balance Sheet*, Chapters 1, 2, and 4 (pp. 1-39, 73-117).

Week 7 (Fri., Oct. 19): China as a Military Power

Reading:
*China: The Balance Sheet*, Chapter 5 (pp. 118-154).
Annual Report to Congress: Military Strength of the PRC, 2006
Available at
Week 8 (Fri., Oct. 26): China as a Regional Power

Reading:
Shambaugh, *Power Shift*, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-68).

Week 9 (Fri., Nov. 2): The Issue of Taiwan

Reading:

The 1995-1996 Taiwan Straits Crisis
Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower*, Chapter 7 (pp. 181-211).

Week 10 (Fri., Nov. 9): The Korean Peninsula

Reading:
David Shambaugh, *The Washington Quarterly*
The Agreed Framework (on line)
Jae Ho Chung, “China’s Ascendancy and the Korean Peninsula—From Interest Reevaluation to Strategic Realignment?” In Shambaugh, ed., *Power Shift*, Chapter 6 (pp. 151-169).

Week 11 (Fri., Nov. 16): Sino-Japanese Relations
SECOND PAPER DUE
Reading:
Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower*, Chapter 6 (pp. 140-180).

Fall Recess: November 21-November 25

Week 12 (Fri., Nov. 30): Energy and Natural Resources

Reading:

Week 13: (Fri., Dec. 7): Simulation Exercise

THIRD PAPER DUE