

**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

Professor Joseph Fewsmith  
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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 and International Studies and the Institute for International Economics, 2006).

Chen Jian, *Mao's China and the Cold War* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001) ISBN 0-8078-4932-4.

Alan D. Romberg, *Rein In at the Brink: American Policy Toward Taiwan and U.S.-PRC Relations* (Washington, D.C.: The Henry L. Stimson Center, 2003).

David Shambaugh, ed., *Power Shift* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California

Press, 2005), ISBN 0-520-24570-9.  
Susan Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007) ISBN 978-0-19-530609-5.

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.

Chen Jian, "China and the First Indochina War," in *Mao's China & the Cold War*, pp. 118-144, and "China's Involvement in Vietnam, 1964-1969," in *Mao's China & the Cold War*, pp. 205-237.

Allen S. Whiting, "China's Use of Force, 1950-96, and Taiwan," *International Security*, 26.2 (Autumn 2001):103-131 (on the Courseinfo website).

### 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)

"The Shanghai Communiqué" (in Romberg, p. 233-234).

"Normalization Communiqué." (in Romberg, p. 238).

“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:

Harry Harding, *A Fragile Relationship*, Chapter 7 (pp. 215-246).

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).

Fewsmith and Rosen, “The Domestic Context of Chinese Foreign Policy:  
Does Public Opinion Matter?” in Lampton, ed., The Making of  
Chinese Foreign and Security Policy, pp. 151-187 (on line).

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).

Loren Brandt, Thomas Rawski, and Xiaodong Zhu, “International Dimensions of  
China’s Long Boom” (pp. 14-46) (on the Courseinfo website).

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

Reading:

*China: The Balance Sheet*, Chapter 5 (pp. 118-154).

Michael D. Swaine and Alastair Iain Johnston, “China and Arms Control  
Institutions,” in Oksenberg and Economy, eds., *China Joins the  
World*, pp. 90-135 (on line).

Annual Report to Congress: Military Strength of the PRC, 2006

Available at

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2006/2006-prc-military-power.htm>

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:

Alan D. Romberg, *Rein In at the Brink of the Precipice*, pp. 19-101.

The 1995-1996 Taiwan Straits Crisis

Swaine, "Chinese Decision Making Regarding Taiwan, 1979-2000" (on line).

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).

Mochizuki, "China-Japan Relations: Downward Spiral or New Equilibrium?" in Shambaugh, ed., *Power Shift*, Chapter 5 (pp. 135-150).

**Fall Recess: November 21-November 25**

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

Reading:

Lieberthal and Herberg, "China's Search for Energy Security:

Implications for U.S. Security" NBR publications (on line).

CFR report: "The New Playing Field: China in Africa" (on line).

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

THIRD PAPER DUE