

International Politics and Policies

Professor: Silvia Borzutzky

Email: sb6n@andrew.cmu.edu

Office: 2112 Hamburg Hall

Office Hours: Please email me for a zoom appointment.

Tas: Maxwell Hill (maxwellh@andrew.cmu.edu)

Bianca Lopez (bslopezandrew.cmu.edu)

Sam Blurton (sblurton@andrew.cmu.edu)

You can email your TA and request a zoom appointment.

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to examine critical international policies, issues, and actors. The different sections of the course will discuss:

1.-U.S. Foreign Policy: Current policies including our relationship with Iran, Pakistan, India, Russia and selected African and Latin American countries will be discussed throughout the course.

2.-The section on China will provide a detailed analysis of China's economic and military transformation into a major international power in the last thirty years. This section will focus on China's economic and defense policies, China's relations with countries across the globe, and China's role in the world economy.

3.-China-U.S. Relations will receive special attention. Among the topics discussed will be power competition in the S. China Sea and in South and East Asia, as well as China-U.S. economic relations.

4.-The section on Russia will include a brief background and a discussion of Russia's current role in the international economic and political system.

6.-Latin America and Africa's interactions with both China and the U.S. will be discussed in the last section

What do you get from this course?

a) Knowledge

At the end of the course, the students are expected to have:

- a) Learned the main analytic methods and approaches used in international relations.
- b) Learned about U.S. Foreign policy principles and US actions in several regions of the world.

- c) Acquired an in-depth knowledge of the nature of the Chinese government, its approach to foreign policy, as well as China's impact on the world political and economic systems.
- d) Learned about U.S.-China military, economic and cyber relations.
- e) Learned about Russia's emergence and its impact on Syria
- f) Learned about Latin American and African countries' relations with China and the U.S.
- g) Will discuss current policies in each of the sections.

b) Analytical Skills:

The course emphasizes the development of analytical skills. Students will develop these analytical skills in three different forms and through four different processes:

- a) **Class discussions** which will allow the students to develop the ability to analyze, discuss, and defend different policy positions in an academic environment
- b) **Writing policy memos:** It is critical for all of us to be able to summarize a problem, present possible solutions, and recommend policies/solutions to others. The policy memos allow the students to develop these very important skills. Typically, students are expected to assume the role of a policy maker and provide specific policies to the President or the Secretary of State. The policy memos emphasize the use of relevant data, the analysis of the problem, and the policy design.
- c) **Group presentations:** Group presentations are geared to allow the student to develop the ability to work in a project with two or three other students, learn about a specific topic in depth, and prepare a class presentation using either power point or class handouts. To ensure the effectiveness of the presentation the instructor meets with the student about a week before the presentation to set the specific topics and parameters of the presentation. The handout or slides need to be submitted at least 24 hours before the presentation. The slides, or handouts, will be reviewed by the instructor to verify the effectiveness of the presentation. The group is encouraged to debate alternative policy positions.

Conclusion

At the end of the course, the students would have learnt about the specific foreign policies included in the syllabus, the principles and the motivations that inform those policies. Students would have also developed a set of analytical, presentation and writing skills.

Required Readings

Books: Please get a copy of

Marc Lanteigne, *Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction*, 4th Edition, 2020

Feel free to get electronic copies of the book, if available. If you read electronically, please keep track of locations for proper citations.

Additional articles will be posted on Canvas and /or emailed to the class.

Requirements: Students are required to attend class, to have done the reading assignments, and to participate in the class discussions.

Class attendance requires to connect via zoom and to have the video on during class.

The classes will be run as a combination of lectures, discussions, and class presentations/debates.

Students will have to write three policy papers or memos and do a class presentation.

Students are expected to complete the papers/memos and fulfill the class requirements on the assigned dates.

Extensions will be granted only for medical reasons. Students should present a note from the attending physician.

Class attendance is required: Students who do not attend class will have their grade substantially reduced.

Grade reduction will proceed as follows:

2-3 unexcused absences= one-point reduction i.e. from A to B

4-5 unexcused absences=two points reduction i.e. from A to C

Over 6 unexcused absences=the student will fail the class

If you have a medical or personal reason for missing class, please make sure to email the instructor before class.

Grading

Policy Memos: 2 memos: 66 % of the grade

Group Presentation= 34% of the grade

Policy Memos: Students will have to write two policy memos. Guidelines and topics for the policy papers will be distributed on the assigned dates. Students will have between 10-12 days to complete the assignment. Dates are listed below. All assignments should be submitted via Canvas.

Optional: 2 pp. Paper: Students who wish to improve their grade can write an optional 2 pages paper. The instructor will provide the paper topic and guidelines. The paper needs to be submitted no later than Aug 9.

Memo's due dates:

Memo 1: Topic and guidelines distributed June 23.

Memo due July 6

Memo 2: Topic and guidelines distributed July 21.

Memo due Aug 3rd

Memo Grading Criteria

Problem

Grammar and spelling: minor problems
Major problems

Impact on the grade

minus half grade point
minus one point

Missing sections:

- a) Abstract and/ or conclusions:
- b) Missing one of the content sections:
- c) Failing to analyze the problem:

minus half point each
minus one point
minus one point

Recommendations:

No recommendations
Good idea for a recommendation,
but poor development or implementation:

minus one point
minus half point per recommendation

Citations:

Depending on the seriousness of the problem: minus one point to failing grade

Debate/Presentations

Presentation Guidelines: Please read these guidelines carefully.

Students will be asked to select topics for class presentation/debate during the second week of classes. The instructor will form groups of 2-4 students based on the students' preferences.

- a. **Structure:** The presentation can be structured either a debate, or a presentation depending on the nature of the topic. Students will be encouraged to debate the issues and present opposing viewpoints on the issues.
- b. **Content:** Presentations should have an agenda, thesis, a brief historical background, policy/issue analysis, data to support the analysis, and conclusions. Please include a couple of policy recommendations at the end. The material needs to be cited.
- c. **Topics:** Students will select three presentation topics during the second week of classes.
- d. **The instructor will form the presentation groups.** Information regarding groups, topics and dates will be sent during the third week of classes.
- e. The debaters/presenters will meet with the instructor about two weeks before the presentation to determine the format and approach to the issue or policy.

- f. The debate/presentation should last about 20-25 minutes (about 5-6 minutes per presenter)
- g. The debaters/presenters must prepare a power point presentation.
- h. The presenters/debaters must email the instructor a draft of the presentation no later than 48 hours before the presentation. The final copy should be emailed to the instructor and the TA no later than 24 hours before the presentation.

Presentations Grading Rubric

The presentation will be graded according to the following guidelines:

Content: Are the critical issues been addressed? Have the presenters complied with the format described in the guidelines? Is the material cited correctly?

Presentation Style: Are the presenters addressing the audience in a clear, professional, and convincing manner?

Quality of the slides: Includes citing the material and making sure the slides look professional.

Each of these factors will account for 1/3 of the grade.

Taping/recording of classroom lectures: University Policy establishes that no student may record or tape any classroom activity without the express written consent of the instructor.

Plagiarism

If a student is caught plagiarizing, he/she will get 0 points in the assignment and will fail the class.

The instructor will make full use of the disciplinary policies of the Heinz College and the University. A report of the case will be sent to both the Program Director, the Associate Dean, and the Dean of Students

The internet makes it very easy to plagiarize the work done by others, but it also makes it very easy to catch the plagiarizer.

In other words, Google works for both you and me. Please refrain from plagiarism.

For more details, please see the [University Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the CMU Website.

Please disconnect your cell phone before the class. Texting is not allowed.

Use of Internet Sources: Please use reliable sources. Wikipedia and blogs are not reliable sources.

Take care of yourself.

Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress.

All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is often helpful.

If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings such as anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) is here to help: call 412-268-2922 and visit their website at <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and have an accommodations letter from the Disability Resources office, I encourage you to discuss your accommodations and needs with me as early in the semester as possible. I will work with you to ensure that accommodations are provided as appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to contact them at access@andrew.cmu.edu.

Writing Support: Feel free to get in touch with the Global Communication Center (GCC), if you need writing support. You can schedule appointments by emailing the gcc-cmu@andrew.cmu.edu

Syllabus

Please make sure to do the readings before class.

May 26 Introduction

Topic: Basic Concepts and Models: Power, Realism, Idealism, Bipolarity, Multipolarity, Groupthink, Bureaucratic approach, Domestic politics approach

No readings assigned.

Notes will be sent to the class.

June 2: The U.S. and Iran from the 1950s to today

All Readings on Canvas

James Risen, "SECRETS OF HISTORY: The C.I.A. in Iran -- A special report.; How a Plot Convulsed Iran in '53 (and in '79)", The NYT, April 16, 2000,
<https://www.nytimes.com/2000/04/16/world/secrets-history-cia-iran-special-report-plot-convulsed-iran-53-79.html>

"Iran hostage crisis", The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica,
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Iran-hostage-crisis>

"The Historic Deal that Will Prevent Iran from Acquiring a Nuclear Weapon" The White House, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/node/328996>

Wendy Sherman, "How we got the Iran deal and why we'll miss it?", Foreign Affairs, Sept 2018, pp. 186-198

D. Benjamin and S Simon, "America's Greta Satan: The 40-year Obsession with Iran", Foreign Affairs, Nov/Dec 2019, pp. 56-66

Mohammed Javad Zarif, "Iran wants the Nuclear deal it Made: Don't ask Teheran to meet new Demands" Foreign Affairs, January 2021

Kian Tajbakhsh, "Getting Real about Iran: It is not an Existential Threat or an ally in the Offing" Foreign Affairs, Jan 2021

Section 2: China

June 9: Introduction, Brief Historical Overview, China's Foreign Policy Goals, Views and Orientations; China in the World Economy

Read: From the book, *Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction*, pp.1-113

June 16: China in the World Economy, China's Relations with Japan, North and South Korea, US relations with N. Korea, China and the E.U.

Read: From the book, *Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction*, pp. 170-232

Additional Readings on Canvas

Oriana Skylar Mastro, "Why China Won't Rescue North Korea: What to Expect If Things Fall Apart, Foreign Affairs, Jan 2018

Emma Chanlett, et al, Coordinator, "North Korea: U.S. Relations, Nuclear

Diplomacy and Internal Situation” Congressional Research Service Report, July 2018

Trissia Wijaya and Yuma Osaki, “Is This a True Thaw in Sino-Japanese Relations?”, The Diplomat, Feb 16, 2019, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/02/is-this-a-true-thaw-in-sino-japanese-relations/>

Frontline, “The U.S. and North Korea On the Brink: A Timeline”,
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/the-u-s-and-north-korea-on-the-brink-a-timeline/>

Zack Cooper, “Parsing Different U.S. Views on Japan’s Approach to China” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace”, January 2021
<https://www.aei.org/articles/parsing-differing-u-s-views-on-japans-approach-to-china/>

Rafael Leal-Arcas, “The EU and China in a new World Order: Challenges Ahead”,
EUCross, 2019, <https://ghum.kuleuven.be/ggs/research/eucross/eucross-wp-leal-arcas.pdf>

J. Smith and T. Tousing, “The old world and the Middle Kingdom: Europe Wake’s up to China’s Rise” Foreign Affairs, Set-Oct 2019, pp. 112-124

Memo 1: Topic distributed on June 23.

Memo due: July 6 before 10:00 PM

Please upload the memo on Canvas

June 23: China and US: The Trade War and the Military and Cyber challenges

Read: From the book, Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction, pp. 113-169

Readings on Canvas

Wayne Morrison, “China’s Economic Rise: History, Trends, Challenges, and Implications for the U.S.” Congressional Research Service, Feb 2018,
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33534.pdf>

Dorcas Wong and Alexander Chipman Koty “The US-China Trade War: A Timeline”
Dec 2019, <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/the-us-china-trade-war-a-timeline/>

Zack Cooper, “7 important Updates in the Department of Defense 2020 China Military Power Report”, AEI, September 2020
<https://www.aei.org/foreign-and-defense-policy/7-important-updates-in-the-department-of-defenses-2020-china-military-power-report/>

Michael O'Hanlon, "What the Pentagon's new Report on China means for U.S. Strategy- Including Taiwan" Brookings Institution, September 2020
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/09/04/what-the-pentagons-new-report-on-china-means-for-u-s-strategy-including-on-taiwan/>

Caitlin Talmadge, "Beijing's Nuclear Option" Why a U.S.-Chinese War could Spiral out of Control, Foreign Affairs, Nov 2018, pp. 44-51

Luy Jinghua, "What are China's Cyber Capabilities and Intentions?" Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, April 2019
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/04/01/what-are-china-s-cyber-capabilities-and-intentions-pub-78734>

Congressional Research Service, "U.S. and China's Strategic Competition in the S. and E. China Seas", December 2020,
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R42784/121>

Ariel Levite and Luy Jinghua, "Chinese American Relations in Cyber Space: Toward Collaboration and Confrontation?" Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2019
<https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/24/chinese-american-relations-in-cyberspace-toward-collaboration-or-confrontation-pub-78213>

William Broad, "U.S. Counters Space Threat from China" The New York Times, Jan 25, 2021. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/24/us/politics/trump-biden-pentagon-space-missiles-satellite.html>

June 30: China: The Belt and Road Initiative, The BRI, China under Xi, Human Rights and Conclusions

Readings on Canvas

Andrew Chatzky and James McBride, "China's Massive Belt and Road Initiative", Council on Foreign Relations, Jan. 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-massive-belt-and-road-initiative>

David Dollar, "Seven years into China's Belt and Road" Brookings Institution, 2020
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/10/01/seven-years-into-chinas-belt-and-road/>

Elizabeth Economy, "China's new Revolution: The Reign of Xi Jinping", Foreign Affairs, 2018

Yan Xuetong, "The age of Uneasy Peace: Chinese Power in a Divided World" Foreign Affairs, Jan 2019

Richard McGregor, “Party Man: Xi Jinping’s Quest to Dominate China” Foreign Affairs, Sept-Oct 2019, pp. 18-26

Odd Arne Westad, “The sources of Chinese Conduct: Are Washington and Beijing fighting a new Cold War?” Foreign Affairs, Set-Oct 2019, pp. 86-95

Rana Mitter, “The World China Wants: How Power will and won’t Reshape Chinese Ambitions”, Foreign Affairs, Jan 2021

Amnesty International, “China 2019 Human Rights Report”,
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/china/report-china/>

Oriana Skylar Mastro, “The Stealth Superpower: How China hid its Global Ambitions” Foreign Affairs, Jan 2019, pp. 31-40

July 7: The U.S. in Asia

Kurt Campbell and Rush Doshi, “How can America shore-up Asian Order: A Strategy for Restoring Balance and Legitimacy” Foreign Affairs, Jan 2021

Duyeon Kim, “Washington and Seoul must heal their Alliance: Confronting N. Korea and the Chinese Requires it” Foreign Affairs, Jan 2021

Douglas Paal, “America’s Future in a Dynamic Asia” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2019

The China-U.S.-Pakistani Triangle and US-Pakistani relations

K. Alan Kronstadt, “Pakistan-U.S. Relations: Issues for the 114th Congress”
Congressional Research Service Report, 2019
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11270>

C.C. Fair and S. Ganguly, “An Unworthy Ally”, Foreign Affairs, Jan 2015, pp. 160-171

“Pakistan-China Relations in the 21st Century”, Modern Diplomacy, January 2019,
<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2019/01/05/pakistan-china-relations-in-the-21st-century/>

July 14: Focus on India: The US-China-India Triangle
All Readings on Canvas

U.S. India Relations 1947-2020, Council on Foreign Relations, 2020,
<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-india-relations>

R. Boggs and N. Burns, “Friends with Benefits” Foreign Affairs, Vol 94, Jan 2015, pp. 165-169

K. Alan Kronstadt, “India-U.S. Relations: Issues for Congress”, Congressional Research Service Report, 2017, <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44876.pdf>

Human Rights Watch, “India: Basic Freedoms at Risk in Kashmir: Free Political Leaders, Restore Communications, Exercise Restraint”,
https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/08/06/india-basic-freedoms-risk-kashmir?gclid=CjwKCAiA0svwBRBhEiwAHqKjFr00F7wZZDuDpT92Wc4RjSFXFE0cunmGUySqMwuIyONNNz5N_7PnFBoCIsYQAvD_BwE

Ejaz Hussain, “India–Pakistan Relations: Challenges and Opportunities”, March 2019
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332011745_India-Pakistan_Relations_Challenges_and_Opportunities

2019: “Reviewing a Passable Year in China-India Relations”, The Diplomat,
<https://thediplomat.com/2020/01/2019-reviewing-a-passable-year-in-china-india-relations/>

July 21: Russia: Brief Historical Background: Russia Today: Real Threat or Hollow Power?

Notes on Soviet political history and a timeline will be provided to the class.

Readings on Canvas

Keith Gessen, “What’s the Matter with Russia: Putin and the Soviet Legacy”, Foreign Affairs, July/Aug 2014, pp. 182-190

Ivo Daalder, “Responding to Russia’s Resurgence: Not quiet in the Eastern Front”
Foreign Affairs, Nov 2017, pp. 30-39

Cory Welt, “Russia: Background and U.S. Policy” Congressional Research Service, 2017
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44775.pdf>

Dimitri Trenin, *The Relationship Between the USA and Russia in the Trump Era*, Carnegie Moscow Center, 2019
<https://carnegie.ru/2019/05/14/relationship-between-usa-and-russia-in-trump-era-pub-79119>

Memo 2: distributed July 21
Memo Due Aug 3

July 28: Putin, Obama, and the Middle East; Putin and Trump, Focus on Syria
All Readings on Canvas

Angela Stent, “Putin’s Power Play in Syria, and
J. Yaffa, “Putin’s Hard Turn”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol 94, May 2015, pp. 128-135

Jelani Cobb, “Obama’s Sanctions and Putin’s Skilled Propaganda - *The New Yorker*, Dec 30, 2016, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/obamas-sanctions-and-putins-skilled-propaganda>

Dexter Filkins, “The Thin Red Line: Inside the White House Debate over Syria”, *The New Yorker*, May 2013
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/05/13/the-thin-red-line-2>

Zachary Laub, “Who’s Who in Syria’s Civil War”, December 22, 2016, *Council on Foreign Relations* <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/whos-who-syrias-civil-war>

Michael McFaul, “The U.S. Needs a Russia Strategy Now More Than Ever: The Real Lesson From the Helsinki Summit” *Foreign Affairs*, July 2018

Michael McFaul, “How to Contain Putin: A Strategy for Counting a Rising Revisionist Power”, *Foreign Affairs*, Jan 2021

August 4: Africa: Strategic and Economic Issues: The U.S. and Africa; Africa and China

Readings on Canvas

“Sub-Saharan Africa: Key Issues and U.S. Engagement” *Congressional Research Service*, Dec 2018, <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/R45428.html>

Center for Strategic and International Studies, “The World is Coming to Sub-Saharan Africa: Where is the U.S.?” 2018,
<https://www.csis.org/analysis/world-coming-sub-saharan-africa-where-united-states>

Nicolas van de Walle, “Obama and Africa: Lots of Hope and not much Change” Foreign Affairs, Sept 2015, Vol 94, No 5, pp. 54-62

The Financial Times, “Chinese Investment in Africa: Beijing’s Testing Ground”, June 13, 2017, <https://www.ft.com/content/0f534aa4-4549-11e7-8519-9f94ee97d996>

H. W. French, “The Plunder of Africa”, Foreign Affairs Vol 94, July 2015, pp. 150-156

Eleanor Albert, “China in Africa”, Council on Foreign Relations, July 2017
<https://www.cfr.org/background/china-africa>

Aug 11: Latin America and the US and China

Readings on Canvas

Michael Reid, “Obama and Latin America” Foreign Affairs, Vol 94, Sept 2015, pp. 45-53

Mark Sullivan, Coordinator, “Latin America and the Caribbean: Issues in the 115th Congress” Congressional Research Service, October 2018,
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45120.pdf>

Gregory Weeks “The Future of U.S. Policy toward Latin America”, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, 2017
<https://www.georgetownjournalofinternationalaffairs.org/online-edition/2017/8/16/the-future-of-us-policy-toward-latin-america>

Peter Meyer, “U.S. Foreign Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean: Trends and FY2017 Appropriation”, Congressional Research Service, 2017,
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44647.pdf>

David Dollar, “China’s Investments in Latin America” Brookings Institution, Jan 2017
https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/fp_201701_china_investment_lat_am.pdf

Ted Piccone, “The Geopolitics of China’s Rise in Latin America” Brookings Institution, 2016, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-geopolitics-of-chinas-rise-in-latin-america/>

Congressional Research Service, “China’s Engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean”, 2020
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10982>

