

## **CHES 5102 Selected Themes on Chinese International Relations**

***2020-21, Fall Term, Tuesdays 1:30 – 4:15 pm***

Will be conducted on Zoom.

Lecturer: Dr Séverine Arsène [severine.arsene@sciencespo.fr]

Teaching Assistant: Cecilia Chan [cmceciliachan@cuhk.edu.hk]

### **Course Description**

This is an introduction to some of the major contemporary issues in Chinese international relations. We will study this through concrete case studies such as China's engagement with the United Nations, its role in global security issues, and aid and development. We will also discuss how emerging issues are shifting the stakes in international relations, like climate change, technology, and soft power.

By looking closer at the actors and their interactions, the course aims at complicating classic debates about China's emergence on the global stage, as a new "responsible" participant or a "revisionist" challenger of the international order.

Along the way we will touch upon China's relations with different regions of the world: the US, Asia, Africa, Europe and more.

### **Learning outcomes**

After completing this course, you should:

- have a basic understanding of key issues in contemporary international relations of China, from traditional questions such as China's engagement in international organizations, to emerging issues such as climate change.
- grasp basic concepts in international relations theory and apply them to the Chinese case
- understand complex interactions between different actors and put them in context.
- be able to discuss the different research methods one can use to study the international relations of China.

## Learning activities

Each class will be composed of a lecture (1/2) and discussions with the class or student presentations (1/2).

This course uses Blackboard as a main platform to share readings, class contents and other planning documents. Students experiencing difficulties to access Blackboard should get in touch for alternative options.

All sessions will be conducted in real time on ZOOM. The meeting details and password will be shared on Blackboard as well as by email before classes start.

Recording of classes is not permitted.

## Assessment scheme

### - Policy brief (2000 words): 30%

Each student will **pick a subject among the presentation topics** proposed in the schedule below and inform the instructor by email **on or before session 5**.

It is possible to propose a subject that is not in the list, upon agreement with the instructor.

Several students can choose the same subject, but this is an individual assessment, it is not permitted to write the brief together. Strong similarities between briefs will lead both students to lose points.

Specific instructions and recommendations will be posted after the start of the semester.

10% of the grade will be deducted for each day of late submission.

Policy briefs should be submitted **with signed VeriGuide receipt**. Links for submission will be provided on Blackboard.

### - Oral presentation (individual): 20%

Each student will **pick a subject among the presentation topics** proposed in the schedule.

It must be a different subject from the one chosen for the policy brief.

Specific instructions and recommendations will be posted after the start of the semester.

### - Mid-term exam and final exam: 10% and 20%

**3 to 4 Open questions** testing the acquisition of concepts discussed in class.

A list of questions will be displayed and students will have one or two hours to submit answers.

- Mind-mapping: 10%

**On the evening before** each class session, students are required to contribute **to a collective mind map** online (such as Popplet or an equivalent <http://popplet.com/>), based on the contents of the previous class session.

This ensures that concepts are correctly understood, and it is a tool for revisions.

More details about the evaluation of the mind-mapping exercise will be posted separately.

- Participation: 10%

At every session, the instructor will provide some **questions to prepare for the next session**. Students need to prepare elements to answer these questions, such as ideas from the readings, links to news articles, illustrations, interesting charts or figures or just personal reflections.

These questions will be discussed in class.

Students can:

- answer or ask questions orally
- answer or ask questions in the chat section.

(The chat will be recorded on the instructor's computer, for that purpose only. It will be deleted after the evaluation exercise is completely over.)

Attendance will not count in the participation grade. This is to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in case of any technical difficulties.

*Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at*

<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

If you are unsure about what plagiarism is, or more generally how to comply with standards of academic honesty, you should check the resources at the link above.

You are encouraged to review your note-taking and writing methods, notably by looking at tips provided by various universities (tips [here](#), tips and exercises [here](#), more detailed tips [here](#), and a video [here](#)).

## Course schedule

PDF versions of all readings and assignments are available to registered students on Blackboard.

Readings are optional but strongly encouraged. They can and should be used to answer the weekly questions (participation) and to complete the mind map.

First term 7 September 2020 (Mon) – 5 December 2020 (Sat)

Add/Drop 7 September 2020 (Mon) – 21 September 2020 (Mon)

### Session 1: Introduction 8 September

Goals of the course and evaluation  
First contact with course contents  
Guidelines on sources of information

No reading required

### Session 2: Theories of IR – Chinese examples 15 September

CABESTAN, Jean-Pierre. 2016. "Editorial. What Kind of World Order Does China Want?" *China Perspectives*, no. 2016/2: 3–6

### Session 3: Actors and institutions of IR in China 22 September

LANTEIGNE, Marc. 2019. "Who (and What) Makes Chinese Foreign Policy Today?" In *Chinese Foreign Policy. An Introduction*, 4th ed., 27–53. London: Routledge

WEISS Jessica Chen. 2013 "Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest in China," *International Organization* (Winter): 1–35

### Choice of subjects for presentations and policy briefs

### Session 4: China's rise in a new world order 29 September

KASTNER, Scott L., Margaret M. PEARSON, and Chad RECTOR. 2020. "China and Global Governance: Opportunistic Multilateralism." *Global Policy* 11(1): 164–69

MAO, Weizhun. 2017. "Debating China's International Responsibility." *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 10(2): 173–210.

### Session 5: Global Security 6 October

GRACE, Abigail. 2019. "Comprehensive National Power with Chinese Characteristics: Regional Security Partnerships in the Xi Era." Brookings ([blog](#)), January 22

HONG, Zhao. 2014. "China's Dilemma on Iran: Between Energy Security and a Responsible Rising Power." *Journal of Contemporary China* 23, no. 87

BAYES, Tom. 2020. Executive Summary, in “China’s Growing Peace and Security Role in Africa. Views from West Africa, Implications for Europe.” [Merics](#), July 15

Presentation topics:

- China and North Korea's nuclear power
- US-China Cybersecurity dialogues
- South China Sea

Session 6: Mid-term exam

13 October

Exam: 1 hour

No presentations

Session 7: Global trade and finance

20 October

FUNG, K.C., and Sarah Y. TONG. 2014. “Chap. 13. Foreign Trade of China.” In *Routledge Handbook of the Chinese Economy*, edited by Gregory C. CHOW and Dwight H. PERKINS, London: Taylor & Francis: 208–21

NICOLAS, Françoise. 2016. “China and the Global Economic Order: A Discreet Yet Undeniable Contestation.” *China Perspectives* 2016/2: 7–14

Exam results and feedback

Presentation topic:

- Internationalization of the RMB
- Belt and Road

Session 8: Aid and development

27 October

BRAUTIGAM, Deborah. 2011. “Aid ‘With Chinese Characteristics’: Chinese Foreign Aid and Development Finance Meet the OECD-DAC Aid Regime.” *Journal of International Development* 23(5): 752–64

SHI, Xuefei, and Paul HOEBINK. 2020. “From Chengdu to Kampala: The Role of Subnational Actors in China’s Foreign Aid.” *Journal of Contemporary China* 29(121): 125–40

韩冬临 and 黄臻尔. 2016. “非洲公众如何评价中国的对非援助”, *世界经济与政治* 6

Presentation topics:

- Chinese volunteers in Africa
- Chinese aid, a new colonialism?

Session 9: Media: From Soft Power to Sharp Power

3 November

THUSSU, Daya Kishan. 2018. “Chap. 1 The Globalization of Chinese Media: The Global Context.” In THUSSU, Daya Kishan, Hugo DE BURGH, and Anbin SHI, eds. *China’s Media Go Global*. London: Routledge

COOK, Sarah. 2018. "The Globalization of China's Media Controls: Key Trends From 2018." *The Diplomat*, December 15. [Link](#)

YECIES, Brian, Michael KEANE, Haiqing YU, Elaine Jing ZHAO, Peter Yong ZHONG, Susan LEONG, and Huan WU. 2019. "The Cultural Power Metric: Toward a Reputational Analysis of China's Soft Power in the Asia-Pacific." *Global Media and China* 4(2): 203–19

### Policy Brief due

#### Presentation topics:

- Confucius Institutes
- The 50-cents army on US social media platforms

### Session 10: Technology

10 November

CAI, Cuihong 蔡翠红. 2013. "国家-市场-社会互动中网络空间的全球治理", *世界经济与政治*, 9: 90–112

WANG, Ping, Jooyoung KWAK, and Heejin LEE. 2014. "The Latecomer Strategy for Global ICT Standardization: Indigenous Innovation and Its Dilemma." *Telecommunications Policy*, 38(10): 933–43

KENNEDY, Andrew B., and Darren J. LIM. 2018. "The Innovation Imperative: Technology and US–China Rivalry in the Twenty-First Century." *International Affairs* 94(3): 553–72

#### Presentation topics:

- 5G and China
- Scientific cooperation at a time of trade wars

### Session 11: Climate change and environmental issues

17 November

#### Policy Brief results and feedback

LI, Anthony H. F. 2016. "Hopes of Limiting Global Warming? China and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change." *China Perspectives* 2016/1: 49–54

LI, Zhifei, and Fengshi WU. 2016. "China's Shared Water Resources: Geopolitics, Domestic Institutions and Global Governance." In *China's Global Quest for Resources: Energy, Food and Water*, edited by Fengshi WU and Hongzhou ZHANG. London: Routledge

#### Presentation topics:

- Electronic waste (cross-border challenges)
- The Chinese energy mix and its global impact

### Session 12: Upon students vote:

24 November

- China/Europe or
- China/Latin America

#### Presentation topics:

TBD

Exam: 2 hours