CHES5141 US-China Relations

2020-21, Term 2, Thursdays 11:30-2:15pm

First three weeks of class (14, 21 and 28 Jan) will be conducted through Zoom, teaching mode for subsequent classes will be determined during Week 3 (28 Jan).

Lecturer: Dr. Stephan ORTMANN (ortmann.stephan@googlemail.com)
Teaching Assistant: Cecilia Chan (cmceciliachan@cuhk.edu.hk)

This course examines the relationship between a rising China and the existing superpower, the United States, a bilateral relationship that is widely acknowledged as the most important in today's world. In recent years, the relationship has become more volatile raising the specter of conflict and even war. The course will first explore the history of the relationship dating back to its beginnings and discussing key turning points. In the second part of the class, the course will focus on particular contentious issues such as human rights, territorial disputes, economic relations, security concerns, and the digital environment. The course will end with discussing the potential future directions.

Learning Outcomes
After completing this course, you should:
• analytically reflect on the changing US-China relationship
• understand the relationship from different perspectives
• critically reflect on various actors in the US-China relationship
• enhance important critical thinking skills

Learning Activities
Students are required to attend a two-hour lecture followed by a one-hour tutorial session every week. They will be expected to have done the required readings before the lecture, so that they can ask informed questions. The tutorial time will be used to discuss the readings, the lecture and the various research topics. This course uses the CUHK eLearning system, which can be found at https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk. The course readings, assignments and recent announcements are uploaded on this platform. Make sure to check it regularly.

Assessment Scheme
• Attendance and active participation: 5% of the course grade is attendance and 10% goes to active participation in class discussions.
• Research paper: ~5,000 word paper (50%)
  ◦ Short presentations related to their paper topic (25%).
  ◦ A one-page paper outline (unmarked)
  ◦ A peer review (10%) in the form of a full text
  ◦ The final paper should be submitted to VeriGuide by 12am (midnight) of the due date.
  ◦ Please also submit a signed VeriGuide receipt to the email as soon as possible afterwards. VeriGuide can be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide.
  ◦ Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
  ◦ Further details will be provided in the first week

Course Grading System:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and active participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer review</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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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/. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.

CHES5135 Fall 2020
**Course Schedule**

[PDF versions of readings and assignments can be found on the CUHK eLearning System. Registered students may access the CHES5135 account by using their Student ID and OnePass password]


| WEEK 1 (14 Jan): | Introduction |
| WEEK 2 (21 Jan): | Understanding international relations |
| WEEK 3 (28 Jan): | US-China relationship before 1945 |
| | Wang, Chi. *The United States and China Since World War II: A Brief History*. ME Sharpe, 2013, Ch. 2 |
| WEEK 4 (4 Feb): | Relations between China and the US from 1945 to 1979 |
| 11 Feb Lunar New Year |
| 14 February 2021 Paper outline due (Only one page!) |
| WEEK 5 (18 Feb): | Rapprochement and normalization in the relationship |
| WEEK 6 (25 Feb): | Tiananmen and the end of the Cold War: Discontents in the relationship |
| WEEK 7 (4 Mar): | China’s rise and the US pivot to Asia |
WEEK 8 (11 Mar):  China’s territorial disputes

WEEK 9 (18 Mar):  Conflict and cooperation in economic relations

WEEK 10 (25 Mar):  Human rights issues

1 Apr: Easter break

28 March 2021: Paper draft due for peer review

WEEK 11 (8 Apr):  Security issues

11 April 2021: Peer review due

WEEK 12 (15 Apr):  Cyberwar: Toward a next generation of conflict?

WEEK 13 (22 Apr):  The future of the China-US relationship
Selected additional readings


