

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

*This syllabus will be updated closer to the start of the term. Please do not use this as reference in class, as dates, reading lists or assignment details might change.*

**2021-22, Fall Term, Thursdays – 10:30am - 1:15pm**

Classroom: WMY301

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

Teaching Assistant: TBA

### **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 (1/3), discussions with the class or student presentations (1/3) and various written exercises or assessments (1/3).

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.

## 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%

Oral presentations will be conducted in **groups of 2**.

Each group 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.

### - Popup questions: 30%

**5 Open questions** testing the acquisition of concepts discussed in class.

The days of popup questions will not be announced. Students should be ready at any time.

At the beginning of class, one question will be displayed and students will have 20 minutes to submit answers in writing.

- Mind-mapping and participation: 20%

Every week, the instructor will provide **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.

On the **Tuesday evening** before each class session, students are **required to post findings to a collective mind map online** (Padlet).

These answers will be marked and discussed in class. More details about Padlet will be posted on Blackboard.

In addition, student participation in class will be marked each week. Students should take every opportunity to talk in class.

**Attendance** is expected in every class and will be included in the participation grade. Therefore, students should get in touch with the instructor in advance if they have any reason to be absent or late.

*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 strongly encouraged. They can and should be used to complete assignments.

First term 6 September 2021 (Mon) – 4 December 2021 (Sat)

Add / Drop 6 September 2021 (Mon) – 20 September 2021 (Mon)

### Session 1: Introduction 9 September

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

No reading required

### Session 2: Theories and debates on Chinese IR 16 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 23 September

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

PALMER, Alex W. 2021. "The Man Behind China's Aggressive New Voice." *The New York Times*, July 7, 2021 ([link](#))

Methods: how to write a policy brief

***Choice of subjects for presentations and policy briefs***

### Session 4: China's rise in a new world order 30 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.

Methods: how to write a policy brief (continued)

### Session 5: Global Security 7 October

STUMBAUM, May-Britt U., and SUN Xuefeng. 2014. "China." In *The Handbook of Global Security Policy*, 371–87. John Wiley & Sons.

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

Presentation topics:

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

14 October no class. Public holiday.

Session 6: Finance

21 October

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

SKALNES, Lars S. 2021. "Layering and Displacement in Development Finance: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Belt and Road Initiative." *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 14 (2): 257–88.

Presentation topic:

- Internationalization of the RMB
- Belt and Road
- China and the World Trade Organization

Session 7: Aid and development

28 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

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?
- Infrastructure in the Pacific Islands

4 November no class. Congregation day.

Session 8: Media: From Soft Power to Sharp Power

11 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](#)

**Policy Brief due**

Presentation topics:

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

Session 9: Technology

18 November

AHMED, Shazeda, and Steven Weber. 2018. "China's Long Game in Techno-Nationalism." *First Monday*, April.

SEAMAN, John. 2020. "China and the New Geopolitics of Technical Standardization." Paris: IFRI ([link](#))

Presentation topics:

- 5G and China
- Scientific cooperation at a time of trade wars
- China's Space policy

Session 10: Climate change and environmental issues

25 November

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
- Feeding China

Session 11: Europe-China relations

2 December

WANG, Jianwei, and Weiqing SONG, eds. **Introduction** in *China, the European Union, and the International Politics of Global Governance*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Presentation topics:

- The Czech Republic
- Greece
- Germany
- Norway