Description

This graduate level seminar reviews the political science literature on the international relations of China. It asks students to apply analytical tools from international relations and comparative politics to China, including approaches that involve systemic theories, identity, ideology, domestic factors, and psychology. In particular, it focuses on how China’s domestic conditions – political and economic, as well as popular and elite – motivate its foreign policy. Methodologically, the course reviews case study, archival, survey, field, and computational approaches to studying China. The course presumes familiarity with basic qualitative and quantitative methods in political science. It aims to prepare students to conduct original research on Asian security issues, international relations, and comparative politics.

Requirements

The course has three requirements, listed below.

1. Participation, 30%
2. Research Presentation, 10%
3. Research Paper, 60%

First, students are expected to have carefully read all assigned materials prior to class. Class discussions will be devoted to analyzing the theoretical and empirical contributions of the readings. Seminar participants should approach the readings as political science reviewers at an academic journal or university press. What is the argument of the article or manuscript? How does it contribute to the field? How does it relate to existing works? Is the data collection novel? Is the methodological approach sound? Is it well organized and written? What revisions or extensions would you recommend to improve the work?

Second, students will write a 20-30 page work on a topic related to Asia. This can be a dissertation prospectus or a research paper. If a dissertation prospectus, the work should clearly
outline the research question, the preliminary theory, and the observable implications of the theory. It should then discuss the data to be gathered, and the methodological approach to testing the observable implications of the theory. It should explain why there is a gap in the field, and how this dissertation project will advance current scholarship. If a research paper, the work should be a publishable contribution to the field.

Throughout the semester, considerable time in the seminar will be devoted to discussing and refining students’ research projects. Students will prepare a research presentation for the final class, and will incorporate suggestions into their final paper, submitted at the end of exam period.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards if Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct. If you engage in plagiarism or any other form of academic misconduct, you will fail the course. If you aid someone else’s misconduct, you will fail the course. Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity or to the Department of Public Safety. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage describes reporting options and other resources.

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

1https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions
2http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct
3http://equity.usc.edu
4http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety
5http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/
6http://sarc.usc.edu
7http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali
8http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html
9http://emergency.usc.edu
Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 213.740.0776.

**Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview**

Date: August 23

**Week 2: No Class (APSA)**

**Week 3: China and Comparative Politics Theory**

Date: September 6

Jennifer Gandhi, Political Institutions Under Dictatorship, Ch. 1-2.


**Week 4: China and International Relations Theory**

Date: September 13


Week 5: Research Idea Presentations
Date: September 20

Students will present their research idea and receive theoretical and methodological feedback from seminar participants.

Week 6: Public Opinion
Date: September 27


Week 7: Elite Opinion
Date: October 4


Week 8: Censorship and Propaganda
Date: October 11


**Week 9: Military Affairs**

Date: October 18


For reference:


**Week 10: Foreign Economic Policy**

Date: October 25


**Week 11: Regional Dynamics and Alliances**

Date: November 1


**Week 12: International Institutions**

Date: November 8


**Week 13: The Revisionism and Assertiveness Debate**

Date: November 15


**Happy Thanksgiving Break!**

Date: No class

**Week 14: Research Presentations**

Date: 29

Read circulated work, email reviewer comments to presenters.