America's China Policy

The U.S.-China relationship has been marked by misperceptions, unfulfilled expectations and a high degree of emotionalism. This mix has produced dramatic swings in the way these nations have viewed and treated each other. Friendship has alternated with hostility, with resultant major and at time disastrous consequences for both peoples. China's increasing economic and political weight forecasts a more active and assertive Chinese role on the international scene. How China and the United States relate to each other under these changing circumstances will have a great bearing on the fate of both nations and on the global order.

The course will examine the interaction between China and America from the inception in the late 18th century to the present, with greater emphasis on more recent events. It will not dwell on description: the focus will be on discerning the underlying and persisting factors which have made Sino-U.S. relations so special and difficult. Though issues will be viewed largely through the eyes of American witnesses and commentators, a Chinese perspective will also be provided.

This is a seminar and accordingly active participation in discussions is expected. To assure participation is informed, reading assignments should be completed before class meetings. Seminar participation will account for 30% of your grade.

As you will quickly discover, the reading requirements are daunting. Your burden will be eased to some extent by the straightforward and stimulating nature of the selections.

A midterm exam will be given on May 5. It will account for 30% of your grade. You'll have a choice from three or four topics that will be provided on April 14. A final paper (10-15 pages) will account for 40% of your grade. Please submit proposed topics for approval by May 10. The due date is May 27.

Required Texts

- Warren Cohen, *America's Response to China*
- Michael Hunt, *The Making of a Special Relationship*
- Thomson, Stanley and Perry, *Sentimental Imperialists*
- Harry Harding, *A Fragile Relationship*

Class Schedule

Mar 29 Introduction of course (Discussion of theme and organization: getting to know each other)

Mar 31 Early Encounters

Fairbank, *Trade and Diplomacy on the China Coast*, chs. 1-2

Cohen, *America's Response to China*, prologue and ch. 1

Hunt, *Making of a Special Relationship*, part 1 and ch. 1

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, prologue and chs. 1-3

Apr 2 The Missionary Impact

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 4

Hunt, *Making of a Special Relationship*, pp. 24-40
Fairbank, *Chinese-American Interaction*, pp. 31-54

Apr 5 **Sino-American Interaction**

Hunt, *Making of a Special Relationship*, ch. 2

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 6

Liao, *Anti Foreignism and Modernization in China*, ch. 7

Apr 7 **The Open Door Policy**

Hunt, *Making of a Special Relationship*, chs. 5-6

Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 2

Apr 9 **American Expansionism: Theory and Reality**

Walter LaFebre, *The New Empire*, ch. 2

Bernstein, *Toward a New Past*, pp. 176-198

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, chs. 7-8

Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, pp. 9-23, 37-50

Crowley, *Modern East Asia*, pp. 122-49

Apr 12 **The Rise of Chinese Nationalism**

Dorothy Borg, *American Policy and the Chinese Revolution*, ch. 1

Hunt, *Making of a Special Relationship*, chs. 8-9

Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 3

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, chs. 11-12

Apr 14 **America and the Triumph of the KMT**

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 13

Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 4

Borg, *American Policy and the Chinese Revolution*, ch. 19

Apr 16 **America's Response to Japanese Expansionism**

U.S. Relations with China (White Paper), pp. 13-26

Borg, *The U.S. and the Far Eastern Crisis of 1933-38*, pp. 519-44

White, *In Search of History*, pp. 66-101

Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 5

Apr 19 **The War Years**
Apr 21 **The Chinese Civil War and the Recognition Controversy**

Harding and Yuan, *Sino-American Relations, 1945-1955*, pp. 3-60

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 16

Tucker, *Patterns in the Dust*, ch. 5

Apr 23 **The Chinese Civil War and the Recognition Controversy**

Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 6

Borg and Heinrichs, *Uncertain Years*, pp. 131-77

U.S. Relations with China, pp. 901-904, 917-19, 923-38

Apr. 26 **The Korean War**

Goncharov, Lewis, Xue, *Uncertain Partners*, ch. 7

Chen Jien, *China's Road to the Korean War*, pp. 158-223

Hao and Zhai, "China's Decision to Enter the Korean War," *China Quarterly*, March, 1990, pp. 94-116

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 17

Apr 28 **The Years of Tension and Deadlock**


Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 7

Apr 30 **The Years of Tension and Deadlock**

Cohen and Iriye, *The Great Powers in Asia*, pp. 35-55; 98-101; 222-44

Immerman, *John Foster Dulles and the Diplomacy of the Cold War*, pp. 235-62

May 5 **Mid-Term Exam**

May 7 **Geopolitical Influences; Vietnam Conflict; Sino-Soviet Relations**

Gordon Chang, *Friends and Enemies*, chs. 7 and 9 and epilogue

Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 20

May 10 **Rapprochement**

Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, pp. 23-47


May 12 **Rapprochement**

May 14 Normalization

Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, pp. 47-106


May 17 The Chinese View of America

Shambaugh, *Beautiful Imperialist*, pp. 151-64; 235-76


May 19 Reagan Years

Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, chs. 4-5

May 21 Reagan Years

Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, ch. 6

Haig, *Caveat*, pp. 194-217

May 24 Overview of the Relationship

Ross, *Negotiating Compromise*, pp. 246-62

Roberts, *Sino-American Relations Since 1900*, pp. 482-96

May 26 Tienanmen

Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, ch. 7

Kristof/Wudunn, *China Wakes*, pp. 77-91

May 28 Tienanmen: The Aftermath

Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, ch. 8


May 31 Thoughts About the Future


Vogel, ed., *Living with China*, pp. 17-52

June 2 Thoughts About the Future

Vogel, ed., *Living with China*, pp. 61-86; 141-163; 254-275