

Vilnius University
Institute of International Relations and Political Science

China's Domestic and Foreign Policy

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Course review: the principal goal of the course is to introduce the politics of contemporary China from both domestic and foreign policy perspectives. The course examines three main topics: China's contemporary political history focused on the period from mid-19th century to the present day, its various domestic political issues ranging from separatist challenges to matters of economic development, and finally its foreign policy theory and practice which would confirm Beijing's emerging global power status.

Assessment:

- seminar work – 30% (10% attendance and active participation; 20% individual presentation);
- essay (12 pt. Times New Roman, 1,5 space; max. 10 pages; min. 10 sources; due mid-December) – 30%;
- exam (in-class, closed-book, open-question; January) – 40%.

The course is successfully finished only by those who get positive grade (5 or more) for both their essay and exam, have made a presentation, and attended not less than 75% of seminars (missed no more than 4).

Individual presentation is made with slides (Power Point), 20 minutes maximum. Each student has to send his/her presentation slides and short summary (750-1000 words) in two weeks after its delivery in class.

Literature: all literature is available in electronic format. During preparations for the classes, essay and exams the students are induced to use any additional material of academic value.

Topics and literature

Introductory lecture

MODULE I – POLITICAL HISTORY

2 seminar. Imperial China's domestic and foreign policy

Literature:

- a) Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Armonk & London: M.E.Sharpe, 2012, chapters 1 & 2.
- b) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 2.
- c) Zhang Feng, "Rethinking the 'Tribute System': Broadening the Conceptual Horizon of Historical East Asian Politics." *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, 2, 2009.

Presentations:

- "Imperial China's domestic and foreign policy principles"
- "Penetration of the West and the fall of Imperial China"

3 seminar. China's revolution

Literature:

- a) Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Armonk & London: M.E.Sharpe, 2012, chapters 3 & 4.
- b) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 3.

Presentations:

- “Republican period (1912-1949) and the struggle for power in China”
- “People’s Republic under Mao (1949-1976)”

4 seminar. Post-Maoist China

Literature:

- a) Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Armonk & London: M.E.Sharpe, 2012, chapters 5 & 6.
- b) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 4.

Presentations:

- “China under Deng Xiaoping (1978-1992)”
- “China’s political history from 1992 till this day”

MODULE II – DOMESTIC POLITICS

5 seminar. China’s political system: ideology and structure

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapters 5 & 6.

Presentations:

- “China’s governing ideology”
- “China’s political system: the role of the party”

6 seminar. China’s economic miracle

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 8.
- b) Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers*. New York: Harper, 2010, chapter 2.

Presentations:

- “History of China’s post-1978 economic reforms”
- “Relations between the party and business”

7 seminar. China’s social stability

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapters 9 & 10.

Presentations:

- “Governing the village: main issues and threats to the regime”
- “Governing the city: main issues and threats to the regime”

8 seminar. China’s administrative divisions and special administrative regions

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 17.
- b) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China’s Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapter 8.
- c) Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China’s Communist Rulers*. New York: Harper, 2010, chapter 6.

Presentations:

- “China’s territorial-administrative divisions and tensions between the centre and the regions”
- “‘One Country-Two Systems’ in practice: Hong Kong and Macau”

9 seminar. China’s autonomous regions and separatist challenges

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapters 15 & 16.

Presentations:

- “China’s Tibetan challenge”
- “China’s Uyghur challenge”

10 seminar. Taiwan

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 10.
- b) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China’s Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapter 9.

Presentations:

- “Taiwan’s political history”
- “Taiwan’s political system and views on the mainland”

MODULE III – FOREIGN POLICY

11 seminar. China’s foreign policy goals and actors

Literature:

- a) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China's Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapters 1 & 2.
- b) Shaun Breslin (ed.), *Handbook of China's International Relations*. London & New York: Routledge, 2010, chapter 1.

Presentations:

- "Chinese foreign policy: principles and goals"
- "Chinese foreign policy: actors"

12 seminar. China's foreign policy tools

Literature:

- c) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China's Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapters 10-12.

Presentations:

- "China's military power"
- "China's economic and soft power"

13 seminar. China's foreign policy in East Asia

Literature:

- a) David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*. 2nd edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, chapter 6.
- b) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China's Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapters 5 & 6.

Presentations:

- "Sino-Japanese Relations and regional balance of power"
- "Sino-Korean relations: balancing between the two Koreas"
- "Sino-Southeast Asian relations: territorial disputes vs. economic incentives"

14 seminar. China's relations with the U.S.

Literature:

- a) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China's Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapter 4.
- b) Shaun Breslin (ed.), *Handbook of China's International Relations*. London & New York: Routledge, 2010, chapter 13.
- c) David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*. 2nd edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, chapter 4.

Presentations:

- "U.S. grand strategy towards China"
- "Sino-U.S. strategic balance in Asia"

15 seminar. China's relations with emerging powers

Literature:

- a) Shaun Breslin (ed.), *Handbook of China's International Relations*. London & New York: Routledge, 2010, chapters 16, 17 & 21.

Presentations:

- “Sino-Russian relations: asymmetrical relationship”
- “Sino-Indian relations: quest for future Asian leadership”
- “Sino-EU relations: emerging from American shadow”

16 seminar. China's relations with developing regions

Literature:

- a) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China's Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapter 7.
- b) Shaun Breslin (ed.), *Handbook of China's International Relations*. London & New York: Routledge, 2010, chapters 18-20.

Presentations:

- “Sino-African relations”
- “Sino-Latin American relations”
- “Sino-Central Asian relations”