



***Political Science 485/685
Chinese Foreign Policy
Spring Quarter 2008 (M, W, 4:10-5:50pm)
Wright State University***



Instructor: Dr. Laura M. Luehrmann

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 9:45-11:45am; Wednesdays 1:30-3:00pm; and by appointment.

“China is a sleeping giant. But when she awakes, she will shake the world.”
----Quote commonly attributed to Napoleon.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the development and current practices of Chinese foreign policy. We will begin the course with an examination of the political, historical, economic and ideological structures that frame the making of foreign policy decisions. We will spend the rest of the term analyzing Chinese policy toward the major regions of the world, as well as particular policies with individual countries. Special attention will be given to Sino-US relations, as well as China’s role in international and regional organizations.

This course is designed to combine both lectures and seminar discussion. Especially after the first few weeks of introductory material, students will be expected to actively take part in class discussion about key issues in the study of Chinese foreign policy. This will include role-playing activities requiring students to argue from multiple perspectives, simulating the challenges faced by diplomats.

Required Texts: Two books make up the majority of the required reading; other assignments will be available via WINGS Course Studio and Dunbar Electronic Reserve.

Robert G. Sutter, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy Since the Cold War* (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008).

Joshua Kurlantzick, *Charm Offensive: How China’s Soft Power is Transforming the World* (New Haven, Yale University Press, 2007).

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance, Readings, and Participation: This course is a combined seminar-lecture course, and attendance is mandatory. Participation is a formal part of each student’s grade. I expect students to attend all classes having completed the assigned readings. Attendance is also important in order to keep up with possible changes in reading assignments, dates for exams or papers, or other changes. If you must miss a class, it is your responsibility to find a classmate who is willing to share his or her lecture notes with you. More than three unexcused absences will result in a “0” grade for the participation score.

Students will also be required to participate in the classroom studio for the course, available on the University’s

WINGS portal (<http://wings.wright.edu>). After entering your WSU username and password, go to the “Academics” Tab and then find “My Courses.” Here you will find each of your WSU classes. Click on “PLS 485” to open our Course Studio. In order to use WINGS, students must use their Wright State University e-mail account. Check to see what firewalls or connectivity problems you may encounter and plan your coursework accordingly. For questions about your WSU account, password, etc., please contact Computing and Telecommunications Services (CATS) at 775-4827.

Research Paper: Each student will choose and analyze a topic related to Chinese foreign policy. Some students will be interested in particular bilateral or regional relationships (i.e. Sino-Japanese relations, China's mediating role on the Korean peninsula, China's Policies toward Sub-Saharan Africa), and others will pursue substantive issue areas, such as China's environmental policies or perspectives on the New International Economic Order. Another focus could be China's role in a particular international or non-governmental organization, such as China's voting record in the Security Council, China's response to humanitarian organizations, or issues surrounding China's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Your analysis should include a minimum of 2 primary source documents (speeches, press conferences, official policy reports) and 8 secondary sources (books, journal articles, newspapers, etc.). **Each student needs to submit his or her topic, in writing, for instructor approval by April 23rd (this topic approval is worth 5 points toward your final paper score).** The final paper should be 10-15 pages long, and is due on the last day of class (Wednesday, June 4th). Late papers will be penalized **ten points** for each late day. Students should turn in both a hard copy of the paper (in class) and should also e-mail a copy of the paper to Dr. Luehrmann's WSU account. All papers will be checked for originality using turnitin.com, and papers found to contain plagiarized portions will receive a grade of "0."

Papers are graded for both content and form. Sloppy writing indicates sloppy thinking and it becomes a burden on the reader to understand what is being discussed. All students are strongly encouraged to contact the University Writing Center for assistance (031 Dunbar Library; 775-4186).

Simulations: To help deepen your understanding of some of the complex issues we will be discussing, we will hold four policy simulations. Roles will be assigned for each simulation, and each student will be required to complete one role assignment. The professor will help provide some background resources to help prepare your role (which will be portrayed in combination with other classmates making the same case), but outside research will be necessary. More details will be distributed in class.

Exams: There are two take-home essay exams in this course; each will test your command of information presented in the class readings, lectures and discussion. Outside research is neither required nor encouraged, but citations to course readings are required.

Disabilities: Any student who has a disability that may influence class participation should contact the instructor by the end of the first week of classes so that accommodations with the WSU Office of Disability Services can be made.

Classroom Expectations: We will operate under the assumption that everyone is here to learn. Therefore, certain ground rules need to be observed. Please arrive on time, leaving early only if absolutely necessary. Please refrain from personal conversation with classmates and turn off all cell phones, iPods, etc. The use of any electronic equipment beyond those tools that help you take notes only disturbs your fellow classmates, and is therefore prohibited. Students observed playing games on their computers, reading the newspaper, doing work for other classes, etc., will kindly be asked to leave the classroom so that the rest of us can engage in meaningful discussion and learning.

E-Mail: The instructor will gladly communicate with students via e-mail to answer questions regarding class materials and assignments. Any group communication will be facilitated through the Course Studio,