A NOTE on OFFICE HOURS: Because the volume of my visitors is high and unexpected meetings crop up frequently, please make it a point to schedule an appointment via email before coming in. Better for everyone that way.

Goals and Requirements of IR 333 (which meets in VKC 150)

The purpose of IR 333 is to cultivate your capacity to understand China’s dramatically changing roles in international and world affairs. Until mid-2012, China’s economy was growing faster than that of any other major country; it led the world in this category after 1979. China now has the world’s second-largest economy, just behind the United States and one step ahead of Japan. If current trends continue, China would surpass the US in aggregate GDP sometime in the 2020s. But, as we will see, current trends may not continue. Indeed, they seem exceedingly unlikely to continue perhaps beyond another two years.

But what are the implications of the trend of surging Chinese growth so far and the potential for future growth? Many analysts frame this issue in terms of “power transition theory” and ask: Would an awesomely powerful China seek to challenge the United States and its allies for regional or world domination? Or in contrast, might a successfully “risen” China try to establish a cooperative condominium with Washington, Tokyo, and others: an arrangement in which the great powers would work cooperatively to stabilize a world order based on market-driven economic development? How, in turn, would the US respond to a successful Chinese rise, depending on the Chinese posture? Much could depend on whether China becomes democratic at some point, so another question analysts are keen to debate concerns the possibility that, one day, ultra-authoritarian China might become democratic.

Even if China fails to consolidate and continue its rise – if the country enters a middle-income trap – the implications for international order would be enormous. A failing China might lash out at neighbors and become beset by domestic problems (crime, epidemics) that would have international consequences.

Understanding China’s developmental trajectory requires devoting some serious effort to examining critical turning points in Chinese history—because every specialist agrees that these historical experiences (many of them traumatic) have shaped the
contemporary PRC’s identity. You should set as a goal for yourself cultivating the capacity to perceive China as *constantly evolving* rather than as a kind of machine operating in a timeless now. The notion of a “finished” China with a past that no longer matters is a misguided illusion.

**CALCULATION of the FINAL COURSE GRADE:**

Five pop readings quizzes: 10 percent
Midterm exam (in class on **Tuesday, February 28**th): 20 percent
Final exam (in class on **Thursday, May 10**th, from 2 to 4 pm): 25 percent
Presentation: 10 percent
Discussion participation: 15 percent
Policy memo (due **Thursday, May 4**th, by 5 pm): 20 percent

*All of these assignments will be explained in detail over the course of the semester.*

**POLICY ON RECOMMENDATION LETTERS:** I will consider—and usually consent to—writing letters of recommendation for any student who (a) completes two of my courses, (b) earns an A- or better in both courses, and (c) never goes online during class with their computer or cell phone and never plays electronic games, etc. I will even write a letter for someone who gets a B+ in the first course and an A- or better in the second one, because I like to see improvement.

**USC Statement on Academic Integrity**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:


Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. The inquiry process is explained at:

[http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/)

**USC Statement for Students with Disabilities**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of
verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the professor or your TA as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is (213) 740-0776.

Books Ordered


Course Schedule

10 January (T): IR and Studying China / Imperial Confucianism (1)


12 January (Th): The Tribute System and Use of Force (2)


17 January (T): Ming-Qing Econ and the High-Level Equilibrium Trap (3)


b. HLET diagram and explanation (Blackboard)

19 January (Th): Opium Wars / Imperialism / Qing Collapse (4)


**24 January (T): Civil Society / Nationalism / ROC / Japanese Invasion (5)**


**26 January (Th): Civil War / PRC / Korean War / Soviet Model (6)**


**31 January (T): Maoist Radicalization: ARC, GLF, and Cultural Revolution (7)**


**2 February (Th): Soviet Threat / US-China Opening / Political Cynicism (8)**


**7 February (T): Reform and Opening vs. the Four Cardinal Principles (9)**


**9 February (Th): Beijing Spring ’89 / Soviet Collapse / CCP Response (10)**


**16 February (Th): “The Rise of China II:” Military Modernization (12)**


21 February (T): **Foreign Policy Decision-Making I (13)**


23 February (Th): **Foreign Policy Decision-Making II (14)**


28 February (T): **MIDTERM EXAM**

*PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS!*

2 March (Th): **China’s Relations with the U.S. I (15)**


7 March (T): **China’s Relations with the U.S. II (16) S.P.**


9 March (Th): China and Multilateral Institutions (17)


~~!!! SPRING BREAK !!!~~

21 March (T): China’s Relations with Taiwan I (18)


23 March (Th): China’s Relations with Taiwan II (and Hong Kong) (19) S.P.

a. Anne-Marie Brady, “Unifying the Ancestral Land: The CCP’s ‘Taiwan’ Frames,” *The China Quarterly* 223 (September 2015), pp. 787-806. (Blackboard)


**28 March (T): Constructing and Controlling Non-Han Ethnic Groups (20) S.P.**


**30 March (Th): China’s Relations with SE Asia (21) S.P.**


4 April (T): China’s Relations with Japan and Korea (22) S.P.


6 April (Th): China’s Relations with South Asia and Central Asia (23) S.P.


11 April (T): China’s Relations with Australia, Russia, and Europe (24) S.P.


13 April (Th): China’s … the Mideast, Africa, and Latin America (25) S.P.


**18 April (T): Prospects I – The Economy (26)**


**20 April (Th): Prospects II – Politics (27)**


**25 April (T): Prospects III – Society (28)**


**27 April (Th): Prospects IV – Foreign Policy (29)**


**10 May (Wed): FINAL EXAM (2 - 4 pm, same room)**

*PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING BLUE BOOKS!*
4 May (Th): POLICY MEMOS DUE (to Turnitin, by 5 pm)