INTRODUCTION

At no time has the US-China relationship been more important than now, nor has it been more fraught with tension at any time in the past half-century. During the past four years, in particular, simmering tensions have come to a frothy boil across a full spectrum of policy spheres. This course endeavors to address these diverse perspectives with a cooler, more systematic, policy-analytic approach, and is framed accordingly with reference to three broad topical areas, each of which is itself full of complexity:

- The rise of China from a U.S. economic perspective
  - Fiscal policy and deficits
  - Trade policy
  - Employment and income
- The rise of China a U.S. sustainability perspective
  - Climate change
  - Urban policy
  - Energy policy
- The rise of China a U.S. geopolitical perspective
  - Homeland security
  - Defense policy
  - Foreign relations

The recent rise of China is a complex, dynamic and multifaceted phenomenon. In a remarkably short historical period, China has emerged as a leading global presence economically, militarily, politically, environmentally, culturally and socially. The potential challenges and opportunities
this situation poses for the United States are likewise diverse and interwoven. Moreover, as with any area of U.S. policy formulation, there are myriad domestic stakeholders whose core interests are impacted (whether positively or otherwise) by China’s rise. For example, we may expect that domestic labor perspectives on US-China trade policy issues may be quite distinct from U.S. business perspectives, which may differ yet again from American consumer perspectives. Any overall U.S. policy stance towards China will necessarily be a negotiated outcome based on such domestic considerations and tradeoffs.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR COURSE PARTICIPANTS**

- **Learning outcomes**
  Students should emerge from this course with a fulsome appreciation of the broad range of U.S. policy considerations that are impacted by China’s rise, and an ability to communicate those considerations in a substantive and informed manner. Further, each student will develop a more deeply rooted knowledge of at least one of the policy arenas under review, and this relative expertise will be demonstrated and communicated through the preparation of a video documentary on that topic. By formulating policy memos, students shall learn how to engage a full range of stakeholder interests in given policy arenas.

- **Course grade**
  The final course grade comprises several elements:
  
  ✓ *Current events (30%)* – For each chapter, 2 through 10, you will find a recent news story pertaining to that topic, and provide a brief policy analysis.
  
  ✓ *Quizzes (30%)* – At the end of each section – economic, sustainability and geopolitical – you will take an in-class quiz covering the assigned readings.
  
  ✓ *Video documentary (25%)* – This is an exciting project, and I am keen to see what you all can do with it. The class will be divided into teams, and each team will produce a mini-documentary examining China’s rise from a U.S. policy perspective.
  
  ✓ *In-class and miscellaneous contributions (15%)* – This includes self-introductions and other miscellaneous tasks you will be assigned from time to time. Your active and constructive participation in our on-line sessions is essential. The relevant criterion is the degree to which your participation (in my judgment) helped others in the class to learn more.
### Readings

The core reading for the course is my new book, *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, published last year by Routledge. This book was actually written in conjunction with this class, so the course and the book dovetail perfectly. In the early stages, it was the course that helped frame my thinking for the book. Now, the completed manuscript is your textbook. Each course module comprises the corresponding chapter from the book plus several additional readings that you are responsible for. In the list below, the core reading for each module is indicated in **bold blue font**, additional **required** readings are presented in **bold black font**, and readings that are recommended but not required are in regular font. Readings within each of those three categories are grouped together in the list below.
INTRODUCTION

(1) Introduction


CHINA FROM A U.S. ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

(2) Fiscal policy and deficits


(3) Trade policy


(4) Employment and income


**CHINA FROM A U.S. SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE**

(5) Climate change


(6) Urban policy


(7) Energy policy


China from a U.S. Geopolitical Perspective

(8) Homeland security


(9) Defence policy


(10) Foreign relations


SYNTHESIS AND CONCLUSIONS

(11) Synthesis and conclusions