**IR 425 Spring 2022**

**The New Triangle:**

**China, the U.S. & Latin America**

**Prof. Carol Wise**

**Tuesday 5:00-7:50 pm (hybrid)**

**School of International Relations, USC**

**Office hours Tuesday 2-4 pm**

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The rapid rise of China in the international political economy raises any number of intriguing policy research questions. With a strong emphasis on the role of political decision-making and economic policy as a crucial part of this process, this seminar will explore historical, conceptual, and contemporary issues and trends as they relate to the new U.S.-Latin America-China triangle that has emerged in the Western Hemisphere over the past two decades. First, we will explore China’s ascendance in the global economy from the standpoint of prominent Chinese scholars. Second, we will analyze China’s relations with the U.S. and with Latin America prior to its initiation of market reforms in the late 1970s. Third, we will compare and contrast the reform record of China and Latin America, as well as the ways in which reform outcomes have affected U.S. relations with China and Latin America. Fourth, we will study the international effects of China’s accession to the World Trade Organization in 2001, with an emphasis on the Western Hemisphere.

The remainder of the course will focus on three sub-regional scenarios regarding China-Latin America relations in the new millennium. The first sub-region is Mexico and Central America, which constitutes a case of competitive disadvantage from the standpoint of these countries. The second sub-region is the southern cone of South America and the cases of Argentina and Brazil in particular. Despite strong complementarities and thriving comparative advantage between China and these two countries, both have squandered their riches from Chinese trade and fallen victim to a resource curse. The third sub-region is the Andes, where we will study the decisions of Chile and Peru to enter into separate bi-lateral free trade agreements with China. Hindsight shows that both countries have benefitted by institutionalizing their respective relations with China and interacting with the China in the realm of diplomacy and global trade norms. In each of these three sub-regions, we will track the flows of trade and investment, study the challenges that have arisen with Chinese infrastructure investments in all three, including the introduction of Chinas Belt and Road Initiative in Latin America, and explore possible policy options moving forward. The overriding goal of this course is to sharpen students’ analytical and writing skills, with a focus on policy analysis and problem solving.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

* A 10-12 page term paper that concisely analyzes and discusses a major policy issue or decision and which offers alternative policy options and/scenarios. The paper will be worth 25% of your grade. Your paper is due April 1. Please submit through “turn-it-in” on Blackboard.
* In-class mid-term exam, worth 25% of your grade.
* Take-home final exam, worth 25% of your grade. Please submit through “turn-it-in” on Blackboard.
* Group presentation 15% of your grade.
* Film Reviews, worth 10% of your grade (four reviews work 2.5 points each)
* Completion of all assigned readings prior to each class meeting. Except for the required texts, all readings on the syllabus are posted on Blackboard.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**:

Carol Wise, *Dragnomics: How Latin America is Maximizing (or Missing Out) On China’s International Development Strategy* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020). (available at https://www.amazon.com/Dragonomics-Maximizing-International-Development-Strategy/dp/0300224095/ref=sr\_1\_3?keywords=dragonomics&qid=1641921537&sr=8-3).

**Well-being & COVID-19 Policy**:

The USC Student Health Centers (Engemann Student Health Center on the main campus and the Eric Cohen Student Health Center on the health campus) offer resources for students who are feeling sick or have concerns regarding their health. For more information, please visit https://studenthealth.usc.edu/.

For medical care or counseling and mental health call: 213-740-9355 or visit: https://studenthealth.usc.edu/medical-care/ (medical health) and/or https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/ (counseling/mental health).

Students must comply with all aspects of USC’s COVID-19 policy. Failure to do so may result in removal from the class and referral to Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. This means that students must follow the university’s indoor mask mandate, regardless of vaccine status.

**Academic Accommodations:**

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be generated. The LOA must be given to the course instructor by the student. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations. See [www.osas.usc.edu](http://www.osas.usc.edu) for more information.

**Diversity & Inclusion:**

Every student in this course, regardless of background, age, sex, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, physical or mental ability or any identity category, is a valued and equal member of the class. My intent as an instructor is to provide an inclusive learning environment where individual differences are respected, appreciated, and recognized as a source of strength.

**Class Schedule and Assigned Readings**

**Week 1: Introduction and Overview**

**January 11: Course Plan**

**Week 2: Film---“China: Power and Prosperity,”** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JovtmKFxi3c**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JovtmKFxi3c)

**January 18: Please watch this film and submit a 2-3 page critique of it on Monday,**

**January 24 through Blackboard turn-it-in.**

**Week 3: The Rise of China in the World Economy**

**January 25: A View from Chinese Scholars**

• C. Fang, “Population Dividend and Economic Growth in China, 1978-2018,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018): 243-258. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• Y. Huang, “Why Did China Take Off?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 26 (2012): 147-170. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• L. Shouying & X. Xuefeng, “China’s Rural Institutions and Governance since the Beginning of the Rural Reform,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018): 259-283. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• Y. Yao, “An Anatomy of the Chinese Selectocracy,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018):

228-242. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• M. Yu, “China’s International Trade Development and Opening-up Policy Design Over the past Four Decades,” *China Economic Journal*, 11 (2018): 301-318. **PDF posted on blackboard**

**Week 4: China Enters the Western Hemisphere**

**February 1: A New Triangle?**

• E. Ellis, “Cooperation and Mistrust between China and the U.S. in Latin America, in *The Political Economy of China-Latin America Relations in the New Millennium*, Margaret Myers and Carol Wise, eds. (New York: Routledge, 2017), chapter 2. **PDF posted on Blackboard**

• K. Gallagher, *The China Triangle: Latin America’s China Boom and the Fate of the Washington Consensus* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016), chapter 1. **PDF posted on Blackboard**

• C. Wise, *Dragonomics: How Latin America is Maximizing (or Missing Out) on China’s International Development Strategy* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2020), Introduction, chapter 1.

• C. Wise, “U.S.-China Competition in the Western Hemisphere,” in *Strategic Asia 2020: U.S.-China Competition for Global Influence*, A. J. Tellis, A. Szalwinkski, and M. Willis, ed. (Washington, DC: National Bureau of Asian Research, 2020), pp. 276-305. **PDF posted on blackboard**

**Homework this week: Please watch the following film and submit a 2-3 page critique of it by Monday. February 7 through Blackboard turn-it-in:**

**“China: A Century of Revolution---the Mao Years”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PJyoX_vrlns>

**THE HISTORICAL BACKDROP**

**Week 5: The People’s Republic of China and Western Outreach**

**February 8: China Approaches Latin America as a Region Ripe for “People’s Revolution”**

• E. Halperin, “Peking and the Latin American Communists,” *The China Quarterly*, vol. 29 (January-March 1967): 111-154. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• W. Ratliff, “Chinese Communist Cultural Diplomacy toward Latin America,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, vol. 49, no. 1 (1969): 53-79. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• C. Wise, *Dragonomics,* chapter 2.

**Homework this week: Please watch the following film and submit a 2-3 page critique of it by Monday. February 14 through Blackboard turn-it-in:**

**“China: A Century of Revolution---the Deng Xiaoping Years”**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh9Qma\_V4h4**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fh9Qma_V4h4)

**Week 6: China’s Rapprochement with the U.S. ---Nixon Goes to China**

**February 15:**

• M. MacMillan, “Nixon, Kissinger, and the Opening to China,” in Fredrik Logevall and Andrew Preston, eds., *Nixon in the World: American Foreign Relations 1969-1977* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) pp. 107-125. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• H. Kissinger, *On China* (New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2011), pp. 236-274. **PDF posted on blackboard**

**Film: “Assignment China: The Week That Changed the World.” Please submit a 2-3 page critique of this film by it by Monday. February 21 through Blackboard turn-it-in:**

<https://china.usc.edu/assignment-china-week-changed-world> (we will watch this in class)

**Week 7: US-Latin American Relations post-1945**

**February 22: Ongoing Misunderstandings, Periodic Disappointments**

• A. Guida, “Donald Trump and Latin America,” *Interdisciplinary Political Studie*s, vol. 4, no. 1 (2018): 185-227. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• M. Atwood Lawrence, “History from Below: The United States and Latin America in the Nixon Years,” in *Nixon in the World: American Foreign Relations 1969-1977*, Fredrik Logevall and Andrew Preston, eds..(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) pp. 269-288. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• M. Kryzanek, *U.S.-Latin American Relations* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2008, fourth edition), pp. 1-124. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• M. Williams, “Hemispheric Relations in the Twenty-First Century.” In Mark Eric Williams, *Understanding U.S.-Latin American Relations* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2012), pp. 318-355.**PDF Posted on Blackboard**

**PROMPT 1---What are the lost opportunities for better US-Latin American relations from the standpoint of the US?**

**A FORK IN THE REFORM ROAD**

**Week 8: The Impetus for Economic Reform in both Regions**

**March 1: Differing Reform Trajectories**

***China, a late start as an East Asian developmental state***

• P. Evans, “Predatory, Developmental, and other Apparatuses: A Comparative Political Economy Perspective on the Third World State,” *Sociological Forum* 4 (1989): 561-587. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• S. Haggard, *Developmental States* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2018), pp. 1-57. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• A. Kohli, *State-Directed Development* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 1-26. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• B. Naughton, “A Political Economy of China’s Economic Transition,” in *China’s Great Economic Transformation*, Loren Brandt and Thomas G. Rawski, eds. (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 91-135. **PDF posted on blackboard**

***Latin America---The 1982 Debt Crisis and Beyond***

• P. Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2011), pp. 19-44. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• R. Thorp, *Progress, Poverty and Exclusion: An Economic History of Latin America in the 20th Century* (Washington, DC: Inter-American Development Bank, 1998), pp. 159-199. **PDF posted on blackboard**

**PROMPT 2: Is China A Developmental State? How do China’s institutions of reform differ from those in Latin America?**

**Week 9: MID-TERM EXAM, MARCH 8**

**Week 10: SPRING BREAK**

**Week 11: Washington Dogmatism versus Beijing Pragmatism**

**March 29: Letting in the Market**

***Beijing Pragmatism***

• J. Cooper Ramo, *The Beijing Consensus: Notes on the New Physics of Chinese Power* (London: The Foreign Policy Centre, 2004). **PDF posted on blackboard**

• S. Kennedy, “The Myth of the Beijing Consensus,” *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol. 19, no. 65 (2010): 461-477. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• K. Gallagher, *The China Triangle,* chapter 2. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• J. Zeng & Y. Fang, “Between Poverty and Prosperity: China’s Dependent Development and the ‘middle-income trap’,” *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 35 (2014): 1014–1031. **PDF posted on blackboard**

***Washington Dogmatism***

• P. Kingstone, *The Political Economy of Latin America* (New York, NY: Routledge, 2011), pp. 45-90. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• J. Williamson, “A Short History of the Washington Consensus,” in *The Washington Consensus Reconsidered,* Narcís Serra and Joseph E. Stiglitz, eds. (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008). **PDF posted on Blackboard**

**PROMPT 3: Is there a significant difference in how China and Latin America sought to “let in the market?”**

**THE CHINA BOOM IN LATIN AMERICA IN THE 2000s**

**Week 12: Mexico’s China Conundrum**

**April 5: Competitive Disadvantage I**

***Mexico***

• R. Hernandez, “Economic Liberalization and Trade Relations between Mexico and China,” *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* vol. 41 (2012): 49-96. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• E. Dussel Peters, “Chinese Infrastructure Projects in Mexico,” in *Building Development for a New Era: China’s Infrastructure Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Enrique Dussel Peters, Ariel C. Armony and Shoujun Cui, eds. (Mexico City: Red Académica de América Latina y el Caribe sobre China, 2018), chapter 3. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• E. Dussel Peters and Kevin P. Gallagher, “NAFTA’s Uninvited Guest: China and the Disintegration of North American Trade,” *CEPAL Review* vol. 110 (2013): 83-108.

**PDF posted on blackboard**

• C. Wise, *Dragonomics*, chapter 6.

**PROMPT 4---What kinds of policies could Mexico deploy to exit its twenty-year slow-growth, low-productivity slump?**

**Week 14: Competitive Disadvantage II**

**April 12: Central America---On the Outside Looking In?**

• S. Cui, “The Chinese-Backed Nicaragua Canal,” in *Building Development for a New Era: China’s Infrastructure Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean*, chapter 7. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• J. Dayton-Johnson and Rolando Avendaño, “Central America, China, and the U.S.: What Prospects for Development?” in *The Political Economy of China-Latin America Relations in the New Millennium,* chapter 9. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• M. DeHart, “China-Costa Rica Infrastructure Projects,” in *Building Development for a New Era: China’s Infrastructure Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean*, chapter 1. **PDF posted on blackboard**

**PROMPT 5---What are the difficulties that Costa Rica, and Nicaragua have encountered when trying to finalize plans for China-backed infrastructure projects?**

**Week 15:** **Comparative Advantage, with Caveats**

**April 19: China’s Voracious Appetite for Mineral Imports**

• J. Carlos Gachuz, “Chile’s Economic and Political Relationship with China,” *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, vol. 41 (2012): 133-154. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• R. Gonzalez-Vicente, “The Political Economy of Sino-Latin American Relations: A New Dependency?” *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*, vol. 41 (2012): 97-131. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• C. Sanborn and Victoria Chonn Ching, “China-Peruvian Relations in the Mining Sector: Learning Step-by-step,” in *The Political Economy of China-Latin America Relations in the New Millennium*, chapter 6*.*

**Posted on Blackboard**

• M. Svampa, *Neo-Extractivism in Latin America* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019), pp. 1-40. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• C. Wise, *Dragonomics*, chapter 4.

**Week 16: What Does it all Mean---A New Pattern of Dependency?**

**April 26: China’s Agricultural Feeding Frenzy in Argentina and Brazil**

• K. Gallagher, *The China Triangle*, chapters 3, 5, 7. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• G. Jie and M. Myers, Chinese Agricultural Investment in Latin America: Less There Than Meets the Eye? in *The Political Economy of China-Latin America Relations in the New Millennium*, chapter 5.

• B. Stallings, Dependency in the 21st Century? The Political Economy of China-Latin American Relations (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020). **PDF posted on blackboard**

• L. Stanley, “Argentina’s Infrastructure Gap and Financial Needs,” *Building Development for a New Era: China’s Infrastructure Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean*, chapter 4. **PDF posted on blackboard**

• C. Wise, *Dragonomics*, chapter 5.

**PROMPT 6---Is China a perpetuator of dependency or a victim of it?**

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