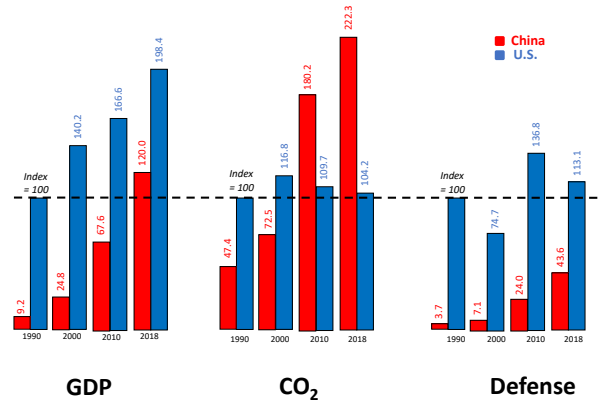


China from a US Policy Perspective

USC Sol Price School of Public Policy
PPDE 662; Fall 2024, 50918R



Professor E. J. Heikkila e-mail: heikkila@usc.edu	Location: RGL 215	4 units Lec 50911R Tuesdays, 2:00 – 5:20 pm
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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. In recent years, 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 event policy synopsis (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 class sessions is essential. The relevant criterion is the degree to which your participation (in my judgment) helped others in the class to learn more.

SCHEDULE

Each of you will be working in a team to provide a video documentary. In order to align your readings and related coursework most efficiently, each group will work through the topics in a different order, as depicted here. In the end, everyone will have done the same readings.

		ECON group	SUST group	GEOP group
25-Aug-21	Week 1	Chapter 1 - Introduction	Chapter 1 - Introduction	Chapter 1 - Introduction
1-Sep-21	Week 2	Chapter 2 - Fiscal policy & deficits	Chapter 5 - Climate change	Chapter 8 - Homeland security
8-Sep-21	Week 3	Chapter 3 - Trade policy	Chapter 6 - Urban policy	Chapter 9 - Defense policy
15-Sep-21	Week 4	Chapter 4 - Employment & income	Chapter 7 - Energy policy	Chapter 10 - Foreign relations
22-Sep-21	Week 5	Quiz 1 - Economic policies	Quiz 1 - Sustainability policies	Quiz 1 - Geopolitical policies
29-Sep-21	Week 6	Chapter 5 - Climate change	Chapter 8 - Homeland security	Chapter 2 - Fiscal policy & deficits
6-Oct-21	Week 7	Chapter 6 - Urban policy	Chapter 9 - Defense policy	Chapter 3 - Trade policy
13-Oct-21	Week 8	Chapter 7 - Energy policy	Chapter 10 - Foreign relations	Chapter 4 - Employment & income
20-Oct-21	Week 9	Quiz 2 - Sustainability policies	Quiz 2 - Geopolitical policies	Quiz 2 - Economic policies
27-Oct-21	Week 10	Chapter 8 - Homeland security	Chapter 2 - Fiscal policy & deficits	Chapter 5 - Climate change
3-Nov-21	Week 11	Chapter 9 - Defense policy	Chapter 3 - Trade policy	Chapter 6 - Urban policy
10-Nov-21	Week 12	Chapter 10 - Foreign relations	Chapter 4 - Employment & income	Chapter 7 - Energy policy
17-Nov-21	Week 13	Quiz 3 - Geopolitical policies	Quiz 3 - Economic policies	Quiz 3 - Sustainability policies
24-Nov-21	Week 14	Thanksgiving break	Thanksgiving break	Thanksgiving break
1-Dec-21	Week 15	Video documentary festival	Video documentary festival	Video documentary festival

READINGS

The core reading for the course is my book, *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge 2020. 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

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), "Introduction", chapter 1 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Lawrence, Susan and Karen Sutter (2023), "[China Primer: U.S.-China Relations](#)", *In Focus*, IF10119, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

USCC (2023), “Introduction” and “Executive Summary”, 2023 Report to Congress of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Lawrence, Susan (2019), “U.S.-China Relations”, *CRS Report R45898*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Pew Research Center (2023), “Americans are critical of China’s global role – as well as its relationship with Russia”.

CHINA FROM A U.S. ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE

(2) Fiscal policy and deficits

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Fiscal policy and deficits”, chapter 2 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Driessen, Grant and Donald Marples (2022), “Debt and Deficits: Spending, Revenue, and Economic Growth”, *In Focus*, IF11037, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Driessen, Grant (2022), “Deficits, Debt, and the Economy”, *CRS Report R44383*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

CBO (2024), *The long-term budget outlook: 2024 to 2054*, Congressional Budget Office.

(3) Trade policy

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Trade policy”, chapter 3 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Akhtar, Shayerah, Cathleen Cimino-Isaacs, and Karen Sutter (2024), “US trade policy: Background and current issues”, *In Focus*, IF10156, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Sutter, Karen (2024), “US-China trade relations”, *In Focus*, IF11284, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Cutler, Wendy and Clete Willems (2022), “Reimagining the TPP: Revisions that could facilitate US reentry”, *ASPI Report*, Asia Society Policy Institute.

Morrison, Wayne M. (2018), “China-U.S. Trade Issues”, *CRS Report RL33536*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

(4) Employment and income

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Employment and income”, chapter 4 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Schwarzenberg, Andres (2024), “US trade policy: future direction and key economic debates”, *In Focus*, IF12327, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Trachtenberg, Danielle, Andres Schwarzenberg and Angeles Villarreal (2024), “International trade and jobs”, *In Focus*, IF10161, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Donovan, Sarah, Marc Labonte, Joseph Dalaker and Paul Romero (2021), “The US income distribution: trends and issues”, *CRS Report* R44705, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Schwarzenberg, Andres (2019), “US trade debates: the case for and against trade restrictions”, *In Focus*, IF11110, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

CHINA FROM A U.S. SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE

(5) Climate change

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Climate change”, chapter 5 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Gallagher, Kelly Sims. (2024). “Climate policy is working: double down on what's succeeding instead of despairing over what's not”. *Foreign Affairs*, 103(3), 153-166.

IPCC (2023), “Summary for policymakers”, in *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*.

Hughes, Heather (2024), *The IPCC and the politics of writing climate change*, Cambridge University Press.

Maslin, Mark, John Lang and Fiona Harvey (2023), “A short history of the successes and failures of the international climate change negotiations”. *UCL Open Environment*, v. 5.

(6) Urban policy

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Urban policy”, chapter 6 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

IPCC (2024), *Outline for forthcoming: Special report on climate change and cities*. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

City of Los Angeles (2024), City Council motion regarding Oceanwide Plaza.

Farr, Isabella (2024), “Bankrupt Oceanwide Plaza slated for auction block in September”, *The Real Deal*, June 18th. <https://therealdeal.com/la/2024/06/18/auction-scheduled-for-bankrupt-oceanwide-plaza-in-september/>

Landis, John, David Hsu and Erick Guerra (2019), “Intersecting Residential and Transportation CO₂ Emissions: Metropolitan Climate Change Programs in the Age of Trump”, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, vol. 39(2), 206-226.

Li, Z., Shen, L. S., & Zhang, C. (2024). Local effects of global capital flows: a China shock in the US housing market. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 37(3), 761-801.

(7) Energy policy

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Energy policy”, chapter 7 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Yacobucci, Brent et al (2024), “US energy supply and use: background and policy primer”, *CRS Report R47980*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

EIU (2024), *Energy outlook 2024*, Economist Intelligence Unit.

Greenley, Heather (2019), “The World Oil Market and U.S. Policy: Background and Select Issues for Congress”, *CRS Report R45493*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

CHINA FROM A U.S. GEOPOLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

(8) Homeland security

Heikkila, Eric J. (2020), “Homeland security”, chapter 8 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.

Humphreys, Brian (2024), “The 2024 National Security Memorandum on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience”, *CRS Report IF12716*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Rolf, S., & Schindler, S. (2023). The US–China rivalry and the emergence of state platform capitalism. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 55(5), 1255-1280.

Humphreys, Brian (2019), “Critical Infrastructure: Emerging Trends and Policy Considerations for Congress”, *CRS Report R45809*, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Painter, William L. (2019), "Selected Homeland Security Issues in the 116th Congress", CRS Report R42985, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Sekar, Kavya and Hassan Sheikh (2024), "Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act: An Overview", CRS Report IF12683, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

(9) Defence policy

[Heikkila, Eric J. \(2020\), "Defense policy", chapter 9 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.](#)

DOD (2023a), *Military and security developmenets involving the People's Republic of China, 2023*; Annual Report to Congress, U.S. Department of Defense

DOD (2023b), 2023 Cyber strategy, U.S. Department of Defense.

Wallace-Wells, Benjamin (2021), "Will the next American war be with China?", *New Yorker*, August 19th.

(10) Foreign relations

[Heikkila, Eric J. \(2020\), "Foreign relations", chapter 10 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.](#)

Campbell, Caitlin, Susan Lawrence and Karen Sutter (2022), "China and the World: Issues for Congress", *In Focus*, IF12271, Congressional Research Service, Washington, D.C.

Economy, Elizabeth (2024) "China's alternative order: and what America should learn from it", *Foreign Affairs*, 103(3), 8-24.

Task Force on U.S.-China Policy (2021), *China's new direction: Challenges and opportunities for U.S. policy*, Asia Society Center on U.S.-China Relations and 21st Century China Center, UC San Diego.

SYNTHESIS AND CONCLUSIONS

(11) Synthesis and conclusions

[Heikkila, Eric J. \(2020\), "Synthesis and conclusions", chapter 11 in *China from a U.S. Policy Perspective*, Routledge.](#)