

## Course Syllabus

# Foreign Relations of China

### Course Description:

This course tries to examine how China interacts with the world and explain why. It helps the students understand how some crucial Chinese realities—imperial mindset, repeated humiliations at the hands of Western Powers, socialism, and reforms in the last 4 decades—together with ideological, material and security concerns have shaped China's foreign relations, and to a large degree, remain significant influences in today's China.

### Expected Student Outcomes:

1. To get familiar with the most significant events in China's foreign relations since 1840;
2. To understand how major world events and domestic events interact each other and shape China's foreign policies;
3. To understand how the Chinese way of thinking and China's foreign affairs influence each other, historically and contemporarily.

### Course Requirements

This course requires students to complete the following:

Attendance: 30%

Presentation: 30%

Short Analytical Paper: 40%

### About attendance

Attendance will be taken. Valid excuses are accepted only in cases of medical or personal emergencies. If any student is absent without the instructor's permission for 3 times during the semester, his or her course grade will be reduced by one point (for example, from A to A-).

### About in-class presentation

Each student is to give a 5-10-minute PPT presentation, which is expected to be informative, original, including at least 3 academic sources. Students may be asked to send their PPTs to the course instructor for evaluation after the presentation.

**About Short Analytical Paper:** The length of the paper is about 3 to 4 pages.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Lecture 1:** Tributary System and Traditional China's Foreign Relations

**Lecture 2:** Humiliation-plagued Foreign Relations of China, 1840—1911

**Lecture 3:** Progress in China's foreign relations in Republic of China (1912—1949)

**Lecture 4:** Lean to One Side: 1949—1978

**Lecture 5:** Cultural Revolution and its impact on China's foreign relations

**Lecture 6:** It's All about Economy: 1978 to the present

**Lecture 7:** Sino-U.S. Relations: misunderstanding or understanding differences

**Lecture 8:** Africa and China's Foreign Relations

**Lecture 9:** China and the Mideast

**Lecture 10:** China's foreign relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> century—strategies, challenges and opportunities