

POLS 340 - US-China Relations - Spring 2021

Instructor: Vincent Auger

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Virtual Office Hours: Tue 4-5 pm; Wed 11 am- 1pm; Thurs 3-4 pm

(I will be responding to emails and discussion board posts in real time during these hours;

I will try to reply to emails and posts sent at other times within 24 hours)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

The relationship between the People's Republic of China and the United States is increasingly important in international relations. The degree of cooperation or conflict between these two states will shape outcomes on the entire range of global issues, from nuclear proliferation to global warming to the international economic system. In this course, we will examine the historical development of relations between the US and China, discuss the most important current issues between the two states, and consider how both states' domestic and international contexts interact to shape their policy responses to those issues. Students will have the opportunity to improve their analytical and communications skills through course assignments.

II. COURSE MATERIALS

The following book will be used for the course:

Paul Blustein, *Schism: China, America and the Fracturing of the Global Trading System* (2019)

Other readings will be available through **Western Online**, or on the internet.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS and POLICIES

1) **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** There will be **four exams** (including the final exam). Exams will have a mixture of short-answer and essay questions. Exams will be worth 100 points each.

You will write **one required paper** (approximately 8-10 pages). The paper instructions will be available on Western Online by mid-February. The paper will be worth 100 points.

2) **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course. Please refer to the WIU Student Academic Integrity Policy at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>. It is your responsibility to follow this policy; please ask me if you have questions.

3) **ADA Statement:** In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as

possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

4) Title IX: University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, have been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

5) Student rights and responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

6) COURSE GRADE - The course grade will be based on the following point totals:

Undergraduates:

466-500: A
450-465: A-
433-449: B+
416-432: B
400-415: B-
383-399: C+
366-382: C
350-365: C-
333-349: D+
316-332: D
300-315: D-
Below 300: F

IV. CLASS SCHEDULE: The course is divided into **4 modules** (with several sub-modules). Each sub-module will have a variety of material: a reading guide, assigned readings for that sub-module, and a set of power point slides equivalent to what I would discuss in class if we were meeting in-person (everything except the readings from the Blustein book will be posted by module on the course Western Online site). There is an exam at the end of each module.

The dates listed with the title of each module and sub-module are designed to help you stay on track to complete the course work. Some of you may be interested in completing the course more quickly, which is certainly permitted.

I would suggest that you arrange your schedule so that you can dedicate at least 4-5 hours each week to reading and reviewing the course materials. Some students may need less time, others may need more, depending on how quickly you read and whether you already have some knowledge of the subject matter. Weeks when exams are due will likely require additional time.

Module I: Introductions – The Current Debate, Historical Background and Domestic Politics (Jan. 19 – Feb. 16)

a) *US-China Relations: Perspectives on the Current Situation (Jan. 19-29)*

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- E. Medeiros, “The Changing Fundamentals of US-China Relations”
- S. Walt, “Everyone Misunderstands the Reason for the US-China Cold War”

- D. Scissors and D. Blumenthal, “China Is Dangerous Rival, America Should Treat It Like One”
- D. Baer, “The Trump State Department’s Swan Song? A Strange, Flawed China Paper”
- J. Gewirtz, “China Thinks America is Losing”
- K. Campbell and R. Doshi, “How America Can Shore Up Asian Order”

- Yan Xuetong, “The Age of Uneasy Peace”
- Huang Jing, “Does China really want to rule the world?”
- He Yafei, “Competition in a Cage”

- P. Khanna, “Has China Peaked Already?”
- M. Kroenig and J. Cimmino, “China Is Both Weak and Dangerous”

b) *Historical Overview (Feb. 1-5)*

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- US-China Policy Foundation, “US-China Relations: A Brief Historical Perspective”
- W. Cohen, “The United States and China during the Cold War”
- “US-China Joint Communiques: 1972, 1979, 1982”
- J. Steinberg, “What Went Wrong? US-China Relations From Tiananmen to Trump”

c) **Domestic Political Context (Feb. 8-15)**

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- China:
- WPR, “Kevin Rudd on ‘an Infinitely More Assertive China’ Under Xi Jinping”
 - C. Bishop, “To Understand China’s Aggressive Foreign Policy, Look at Its Domestic Politics”
 - R. Doshi, “Hu’s to blame for China’s foreign assertiveness?”
 - E.B. Carter, “Diversionary aggression in Chinese foreign policy”
 - G. Yin, “Domestic repression and international aggression? Why Xi is uninterested in diversionary conflict”

- US:
- T. Heath, “What Does America’s Political Polarization Mean for Competition with China?”
 - E. Feng, “As US Views of China Grow More Negative, Chinese Support For Their Government Rises”
 - USIP, “Partisan Lines Fade in Congress on China, Panel Chiefs Say”
 - S. Kennedy, “Thunder Out of Congress on China”

******* EXAM # 1 DUE by Tuesday, Feb. 16 at 4 pm *******

Module II: Trade and Tech Issues (Feb. 17-Mar. 23)

a) **The US-China Trade Relationship (Feb. 17-Mar. 12)**

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

P. Blustein, *Schism* – entire book

Suggested reading pace:	Feb. 17-23:	chapters 1-3
	Feb. 24-Mar. 1:	chs. 4-6
	Mar. 2-8:	chs. 7-9
	Mar. 9-12:	chs. 10-11

b) Current Economic and Tech Debates (Mar. 15-22)

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- Recent Developments:
- A. Swanson, “With Americans Stuck at Home, Trade with China Roars Back”
 - J. Crabtree, “China’s Radical New Vision of Globalization”
 - L. Patey, “China Is an Economic Bully – and Weaker Than It Looks”
 - S.L. Myers, “With Concessions and Deals, China’s Leader Tries to Box Out Biden”
 - A. Stevenson, “China’s Economy Surges, and So Does Its Currency”

- Tech Competition:
- S. Kennedy, “Washington’s China Policy Has Lost Its Wei”
 - E. Braw, “How China Is Buying Up the West’s Hi-Tech Sector”
 - A. Trivedi, “China’s Dreams of Self-Reliance Still Depend on Japan Inc.”
 - Z. Dorfman, “China Used Stolen Data to Expose CIA Operatives in Africa and Europe”
 - Z. Dorfman, “Beijing Ransacked Data as US Sources Went Dark in China”
 - Z. Dorfman, “Tech Giants Are Giving China a Vital Edge in Espionage”

******* EXAM # 2 DUE by Tuesday, Mar. 23 at 4 pm *******

Module III: Military and Security Issues (Mar. 24-Apr. 12)

a) General Military-Security Relationship (Mar. 24-26)

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- A. Goldstein, “US-China Rivalry in the twenty-first century: Déjà vu and Cold War II”
- J. Rogin, “China’s military expansion will test the Biden administration”
- M. Yeo, “China’s missile and space tech is creating a defensive bubble difficult to penetrate”
- J. Gould, “China plans to double nuclear arsenal, Pentagon says”
- Tong Zhao, “Practical Ways to Promote US-China Arms Control Cooperation”

b) Taiwan (March 29-31)

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- Yimou Lee, D. Lague, and B. Blanchard, "China launches 'gray-zone' warfare to subdue Taiwan"
- CRS, "President Reagan's Six Assurances to Taiwan"
- R. Bernstein, "The Scary War Game Over Taiwan That the US Loses Again and Again"
- W. Lohman and F. Jannuzi, "Preserve America's Strategic Autonomy in the Taiwan Strait"
- A.T. Thrall and J. Cohen, "Time to Rethink Arms Sales to Taiwan"

- Yan Yu, "Ambiguity Fading on Taiwan"
- Zhu Songling, "Ticklish Taiwan: What Will Biden Do?"

c) South China Sea (April 1-2)

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- CRS, "South China Sea Disputes: Background and US Policy"
- Richard Javad Heydarian, "Revenge of Geopolitics: Rising Tensions in the South China Sea"
- K. Wiegand, "How Biden Should Handle the South China Sea Disputes"
- Tung Chee Hwa, "China's Claims in the South China Sea"
- Nie Wenjuan, "Wrangling in the South China Sea"

d) US Alliance Building (April 5-6)

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- S. Denyer and E. Dou, "Biden vows to defend US allies as China asserts power in Asia"
- V. Singh, "Spurred by China Rivalry, US, India Deepen Strategic Ties"
- C. Raja Mohan, "A New Pivot to Asia"

- D. Grossman, "The Quad Is Poised to Become Openly Anti-China Soon"
- T. Minami, "Will the Quad Alliance Take Off?"
- Su Jingxiang, "Quad Can't Stop China's Rise"

e) **Space and Cyber Competition (April 7-9)**

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- F. Rose, "Managing China's Rise in Outer Space"
- J. Feldscher and L. Zhen, "Are the U.S. and China on a war footing in space?"
- A. Levite and Lyu Jinghua, "Chinese-American Relations in Cyberspace: Toward Collaboration or Confrontation?"

******* EXAM # 3 DUE by Monday, April 12 at 4 pm *******

Module IV: Competition and Cooperation in the Global Arena
(Apr. 14-May 6)

a) **International Law and Organizations (Apr. 14-20)**

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- R. Williams, "International Law With Chinese Characteristics: Beijing and the 'Rules-Based' Global Order"
- J. Feltman, "China's Expanding Influence at the United Nations – and How the United States Should React"
- H.B.L. Larsen, "Balancing China at the United Nations"
- D. Dollar, "Reluctant player: China's approach to international economic institutions"
- L. Morris, E. Rauhala, S. Mahtani, and R. Dixon, "China and Russia are using coronavirus vaccines to expand their influence. The US is on the sidelines."

b) **Climate Change (Apr 21-22)**

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- T. Stern, "Can the United States and China reboot their climate cooperation?"
- S. Mufson, "China delivers diatribe against US climate policies"
- Li Yanliang, "The Path to Paris: China-U.S. Climate Cooperation"
- A. Sheng and Xiao Geng, "The Sino-American Race to Zero"

c) *Human Rights (April 23)*

- Reading Guide
- Powerpoint slides

Western Online readings:

- S. Richardson, "China's Influence on the Global Human Rights System"
- CRS, "Hong Kong: Key Issues in 2021"
- CRS, "Uyghurs in China"

d) *What about the future? Some thoughts and competing views (April 26-30)*

- Reading Guide

Western Online readings:

- J. Nye, "Power and Interdependence with China"
- Chen Dongxiao, "China-US Strategic Collaboration: Four Cases and Their Lessons"
- H. Brands and Z. Cooper, "The Great Game with China Is 3D Chess"

******* Research Paper DUE by Friday, April 30 at 4 pm *******

******* EXAM # 4 DUE by Thursday, May 6 at 4 pm *******