

**China in World Affairs**  
**IR 6677**  
**Term I, 2012-2013**  
**Independent Study Format**  
**Course Syllabus**

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### **INDEPENDENT STUDY EXPECTATIONS**

Please read the following statement, and send me an e-mail message by the end of the first week of the term indicating that you have agreed to the following six points.

1. This is an independent study. Since we are not able to meet in a regular class setting, you will be evaluated almost entirely on the basis of your **written work**. Therefore, you are expected to produce **quality research, analysis and writing**. You are also expected to devote sufficient time to the course so that you *can* produce quality work, and commit yourself to continual improvement of your writing.
2. All this means that you need to re-acquaint yourself with the elements that go into an excellent paper or exam answer, i.e., coverage and **depth** of basic facts and concepts, thoughtful **analysis** of the subject, and reflection on the **broader implications** of the topic in question. Please ask me questions if you are uncertain about how to do political analysis.
3. You need to **pace yourself** in the course. If you wait until the last minute to complete your major assignments, you probably will not produce quality work, and your assignment and course grades will suffer accordingly. It is unacceptable to send me short and/or under-developed papers that have been thrown together at the last minute.
4. You must **stay in touch** with me by e-mail and, at your convenience, discuss the course material with me by telephone or Skype.

5. You are expected to adhere to Troy University standards of academic ethics, concerning cheating and plagiarism, as outlined below.

6. You are not guaranteed a high grade by taking an independent study. As with any course, if you do not produce quality work you will receive a low grade.

## **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

An examination of China and its relations with the global community, the course will involve the student in the political, cultural, and social aspects of the state and its relations with other states.

## **OVERALL COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will learn the core principles and methods of China's politics, economic development, and foreign relations. These are applied to sectoral issues and studies. Students will also focus on the interconnectedness of China with international political developments and issues. It is hoped that you will demonstrate improved analytical and communications skills, as well.

## **SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast competing mainstream academic perspectives on Chinese politics and economic development.
2. Understand the basic methodology to study China's international relations, and how comparison is done.
3. Discuss specific characteristics of China's foreign policy.
4. Explain the inter-relationships between China and the East Asian regional system and International issues.
5. Consider possible futures for China's place in regional and international politics.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

June Teufel Dreyer, *China's Political System: Modernization and Tradition*, 8th ed. (New York: Pearson, 2012). ISBN 0-205-00581-0, 978-0-205-00581-9

Martin Jacques, *When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order* (London: Penguin Press, 2009). 978-1-59420-185-1, 9781594201851

Willy Wo-Lap Lam, *Chinese Politics in the Hu Jintao Era: New Leaders, New Challenges* (Armonk, NY.: M.E. Sharpe, 2006). 0-7656-1774-9, 978-0-7656-1774-3

Richard McGregor, *The Party: The Secret World of China's Communist Rulers* (New York: Harper, 2010). 0061708771, 978-0-06-170877-0, 9780061708770

Robert G. Sutter, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War*, 3rd ed. (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2012). 978-1-4422-1136-6, 978-1-4422-1135-3

## **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

Student research papers, Book Reviews, Final Examination and Discussion Papers

### **COURSE GRADES**

### **GRADE SCALE**

Final Examination	30%	A: 90-100
Book Review	10%	B: 80-89
Research Paper	30%	C: 70-79
Discussion papers	30%	D: 60-69
		F: 0-59

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** I will send you a copy of the final exam during the second half of the term. The format will be based loosely on the MSIR Comprehensive Exam. Your answers must thoroughly address the key terms and questions, and analyze theoretical perspectives in the literature. It will be a useful preparation for the comprehensive examination. It is due the last Saturday of the term.

**RESEARCH PAPERS:** Students should write a graduate level paper of approximately 15-20 pages, double-spaced, with appropriate citations and bibliography. It is due the last Friday of the term.

You are to write about a major aspect of Chinese politics or foreign/security policy, in terms of the concepts and theories presented in the course. Please select your topic as soon as possible, and inform me by August 27, 2012. This paper can be useful preparation for a possible thesis.

**BOOK REVIEW:** You must write a review of Richard McGregor's *The Party*. The review should at least five pages long, and be completed and submitted online by September 15. This assignment should summarize the main themes in the chapters and provide critical analysis of the book's topics and critique of the book.

**DISCUSSION PAPERS:** You must submit to me three discussion papers on the assigned readings listed below (on the Dreyer book by 9/7, Jacques book by 9/21, and

Sutter book by 10/5). These should reflect on the concepts, themes, and major arguments of the authors, and should be at least seven pages each. Each is due about the time that the book in question is completed (see the course schedule below).

## **INCOMPLETES**

A grade of “INC” will only be given in cases of medical emergency, job or military duty, or other significant personal event to be judged by the instructor. Students must submit a petition form, and sign a written commitment to the instructor for completion of course work. Upon satisfactory completion of course work, the instructor will submit a “Change of Grade” form to the office. If the course work is not completed in the following term, the student will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

## **ACADEMIC ETHICS**

Details on ethical standards for research papers can be found in *Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The current “Standards of Conduct” of the Troy University *Graduate Catalog* should also be consulted.

The following will not be tolerated in this course:

1. **Cheating** on examinations or assignments, in any form. This includes submitting another’s work as your own, providing answers to others, or using any unauthorized aids during an examination.
2. **Plagiarism** on research papers, in any form. This includes failure to give credit to the sources of your work, copying of someone else’s work, or using an author’s exact words without quotations.

For more on plagiarism, consult the Troy University Writing Center ([www.troy.edu/campus/onlinegraduateprograms/writingresources.htm](http://www.troy.edu/campus/onlinegraduateprograms/writingresources.htm)) and the Purdue University Online Writing Lab. The University of North Carolina has an excellent web site on writing issues.

## **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:

**<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>**

## LIBRARY RESOURCES

Students can access online resources through the Troy University web site at [www.troy.edu](http://www.troy.edu) or [www.library.troy.edu](http://www.library.troy.edu). These resources include a variety of text data bases that give complete articles from many journals, magazines and newspapers. The MSIR Journal List, for instance, has over 90 publications, including *Foreign Affairs* and *World Politics*.

Access to all of the data bases is through “remote services,” the university’s remote patron authentication system, which involves a three-step process (log on, select a service, and select an individual data base). The main full text information services are EBSCOhost, FirstSearch, InfoTrac and ProQuest. Tutorials and overviews are available on the library home page.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Textbooks for the course

D = Dreyer

J = Jacques

L = Lam

S = Sutter

	TOPICS	READINGS
Week 1	Pre-1949 Chinese System	D, Chaps. 1-4
Week 2	Post-1949 Chinese system	D, Chap. 7
Week 3	Chinese politics since 1978 Socio-economic issues	D, Chaps. 5-6, 9 D, Chaps. 8, 10-12
Week 4	Recent Chinese politics	J, Chaps. 1-4 L, Chaps. 1-4, 7
Week 5	Chinese economic development under “reform and opening”	J, Chaps. 5-9
Week 6	Chinese development	J, Chaps. 10-12

Week 7	China's foreign policy	S, Chaps. 1-4, 6
Week 8	China's foreign/security policies	S, Chaps. 5, 7-11 L, Chaps. 5-6

**The Final Exam (take home) on material up to Week 8. Final Exam is due by the last Saturday of Term I.**