POLITICS, SOCIETY AND INTL. RELATIONS OF CHINA

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METHODOLOGY:

The course combines different teaching methods:

1.- Lectures: the professor gives an introduction and a proper summary of the topics tackled in the course. These oral presentations should be complemented with the reading assignments and the audiovisual materials listed in the syllabus, which serve as springboard for discussion. It is understood that the required reading list is intended not only for the current session but also for those that may follow. Certain texts may appear polemical to some. In the event, such material has been included on the premise that it too, can serve as grist for class discussions and help us to arrive at a neutral balancing point for each of our sessions. Students are expected to adopt an active attitude during the lectures.

2.- Practical sessions: the students are anticipated to resolve exercises and case studies proposed by the professor. Students will participate in two kinds of practical activities: seminars and debates. More details on these practical sessions are provided in the evaluation procedures section.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course, we use an interdisciplinary approach to analyze social, political and economic change in contemporary China and the repercussions of those transformations on Beijing’s foreign policy and international behavior. In our globalized world, there is a domestic foreign policy continuum, since there are no longer boundaries between the domestic and the foreign arenas. Therefore, the objective of this course is to enable participants to become familiar with both present-day China and its role in international affairs.

China's transition to an authoritarian regime and a market society has produced dramatic changes in the lives of its citizens. In this course, we will consider pressing social concerns that confront China as it continues its ongoing reform process. Students are expected to develop a sound understanding of key social, political and economic transformations in China since 1949, and especially since 1978, including the institutional environment in which those developments have taken place; and to reach a critical understanding of the direst domestic challenges faced by the Chinese people and their authorities.

Thanks to its spectacular and sustained economic growth over the past 35 years, China has become again one of the key international powers in the world scenario. This reemergence of China is widely recognized as one of the most significant developments of our time, since has a tangible impact on millions of peoples throughout the globe. We will explore the implications of China’s capabilities to shape world affairs; how has China defined its relations with its main bilateral partners and with the broader international system; and the implications of the rise of China beyond its borders.

PROGRAM

NEW GROUP
SESSION 1

Introduction to the course
SESSIONS 2 & 3

Historical background
The legacy of imperial China: Confucianism and the sinocentric world order

• READINGS:

The search for modern China: nationalism & statism

• READINGS:

T.N.: China’s New Confucianism
T.N.: Confucianism and Contemporary Chinese Politics
T.N.: Rethinking the Tribute System
T.N.: The Nationless State:
T.N.: The Evolution of Republican Government
SECTIONS 4 & 5

The evolution of the sources of political legitimacy in the People’s Republic of China

From revolution to consumerism and nationalism

• SCREENING: The film “To live” by Zhang Yimou
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7HYhUpDz8
• READINGS:

The Chinese dream: social and environmental constraints

• SCREENING: Documentary “Under the Dome” by Chai Jing
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7HYhUpDz8

• READINGS:

T.N.: The management of nationalism during the Jiang era
T.N.: Performance Legitimacy and China’s Political Adaptation Strategy
T.N.: Environmental challenges
T.N.: Tactics of the green movement
SESSIONS 6 & 7

The governance of China

A party state regime: the ruling bureaucratic capitalist class

• READINGS:

Governance beyond the center: ethnic and inter-regional tensions

• READINGS:

T.N.: The new party politburo leadership
T.N.: The Communist Party’s Embrace of the Private Sector
T.N.: The partnership of stability in Xinjiang
T.N.: The Xinjiang question
SESSIONS 8 & 9

The Chinese economy in a nutshell

Past, present and future of the Chinese economy

• READINGS:

China’s financial clout and global hunting for resources

• READINGS:

SESSION 10

Debate: Where does China go? Scenarios for political evolution

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0lgc4fWkwI
Transcript: http://tsquare.tv/film/transcript.html

• READINGS:

T.N.: The Rising Cost of Stability
SESSION 11

China’s re-emergence as a global power

• READINGS:

T.N.: The rise of China and Asia
T.N.: Leadership Displacement and the Redesign of Global Governance

SESSIONS 12 & 13

China’s soft and military power

The panda’s charm offensive
• READINGS:

The dragon grows teeth
• READINGS:
o Lowy Institute, “South China Sea”, https://www.lowyinstitute.org/issues/south-china-sea

T.N.: Confucius Institutes & Soft Power
T.N.: the China Model
T.N.: Who governs the South China Sea
T.N.: The End of Non-Interference?

SESSION 14

Debate: Can China rise peacefully?

• READINGS:

W.P.: Will Chinas Rise Lead To War
T.N.: The Rise of China and the Future of the West
EVALUATION METHOD

The final grade is to be determined based on the following criteria:

a) Active participation in seminars (oral work) 20%
b) Questionnaires 20%
c) Debates 20%
d) Final exam 40%

a) Active participation in seminars: It is expected that all students will play an active role in class, expressing questions, opinions, issues, and answers. It need hardly be said that it will be essential to have completed the reading assignments and identifying the deeper implications underlying each of the topics we will be discussing in class. Class participation is an important determinant in the final grade and students are required to sign an attendance sheet for each session. Non-attendance or non-active participation at more than 25% of the class sessions will mean that no grade will be issued for this course.

b) Questionnaires: The professor will facilitate a questionnaire to help in the preparation of each seminar. Students are required to fulfil (2 pages) and submit two of these questionnaires at the end of the discussion sessions. The students are not expected to make a summary of the readings, but to reflect on those readings to elaborate their own arguments on the issues at hand.

c) Debates: Two debates on very controversial issues, as the prospects for political change in China and the security implications of China's rise, will be held on sessions 10 and 14. The students are expected to present and advance their own views on these topics. These views should be drawn from the reading and audiovisual materials listed in this syllabus plus any other sources the students may find relevant. Right before the beginning of the debate the students are required to hand in a short essay (maximum 1,200 words plus bibliography) developing their positions on these topics underlining their supporting arguments. Half of the students will submit the essay for session 10 and the other half for session 14.

c) Final exam: The written exam (1.5 hours) will cover all the materials included in the course, lectures, readings, screenings and group discussions. In the exam, students will be required to answer an essay question out of two. In this essay the students are expected to analyze critically the topics developed in the course.

GENERAL REFERENCE BIBLIOGRAPHY