*INTRODUCTION TO*

HISTORY 394

**CHINA AND THE WORLD**

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Fall 2017 Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:30

**Summary***:*

This is an *upper level dead serious but INTRODUCTORY* *course. It is a survey both broad and deep BUT IT IS A SURVEY.*  It would be an excellent choice for someone interested in world affairs, economics, and international relations—even if they have never touched East Asia before. So those for whom this is “the first time out” are particularly welcome. Old China Hands will also find much to chew on,

*As China becomes an ever more important player in the world most of us have no well informed way of understanding her approach to the world. Remember, Kissinger (1923--) went to China in 1971 knowing not China, but the Congress of Vienna (1815) which sad to say had little relevance, with the results we are now beginning to see. Diplomatically, China and Asia do not operate the same way the Europe does, that we take so often as default model. This course will remedy that problem thoroughly while giving you a new framework.*

We will selectively survey China from the world-descriptions in the ancient classics to the present. This will give us a sense of where they begin versus where the West begins. We will do so by examining a number of topics, in something like chronological order—when did China first encounter a country or civilization? What happened. Roughly:

1. China and China. A huge country often riven by civil war, China’s foreign policy often reflects domestic experience and imperatives. The ultimate sources of policy, as it were.
2. China and her immediate neighbors: Japan, Vietnam, Mongolia and so forth. ***The test bed on which fundamental attitudes were formed.***
3. China and India. Buddhism came to China two thousand years ago, massively, Indian influence is dyed deep in the fabric of her civilization. After a war in 1962 that left India utterly defeated and humiliated, India’s friendly attitudes became suspicious. Today she is a thermonuclear power, having highly sophisticated diplomacy, while being, in truth, China’s peer competitor. China has turned to Pakistan for balance, supplying her with nuclear weapons. Remember, though, Pakistan is an Islamic country while China most emphatically is not.
4. China and Persia. Pre-modern exchanges between Persia and China were immense, mos notably in the arts. Today China appears to be cooperating with Iran on nuclear development, but possibility that the two countries will become fast friends is remote.
5. China and Islam: In 751 and Islamic Abbasid (750-1258) turned back a Tang (618-907) army headed westward at the Talas river in today’s Kazakhstan. A vertical division of Eurasia, between the world of Islam and East Asia was established that endures to the present. This we will take as background to examine China’s current Islamic policy and her vicious suppression of Islam within her borders, in East Turkestan (Xinjiang) which looks likely to lead to trouble.
6. China and the Mongols: 1279-1368. ***Perhaps the most decisive of all encounters, the Mongol conquest of China and incorporation of her in a Eurasia wide network, was the first time China was really wired into the international grid. Enormously comprehensive exchanges and institutional and political borrowing.***
7. China and Europe. From the half legendary land of silk *Seres* of the Romans, through Marco Polo (1254-1324) through later travelers, Sinophilia in seventeenth century France, conflict in the nineteenth century, and a confused situation today.
8. China and Russia. China’s largest neighbor and quondam model under Mao and Stalin. The Russians had an ecclesiastical mission in Peking in from 1685, well ahead of any other power. Its enormous site now contains the embassy. Russian territory completely encloses north China to south of the Korean peninsula. Relations are always delicate.
9. China and the United States. Washington was a latecomer, becoming a serious player in Chinese politics only in the 1920s. We will survey these developments, paying particular attention to Nixon’s diplomacy and the issues of Taiwan and China, to the murky present.
10. China and Africa: This is a new story, going back to the 1950s, but of great interest and importance.

This is ambitious. But it will be presented clearly and digestibly in power points that students may keep. Consider it first dive, albeit deeper than usual, into a very interesting ocean that will only become more important in your lifetimes. This course is an ideal start for a dozen careers from international business to intelligence.

**Requirements:**  Participation, midterm, short (8=10 page) paper on a topic of your choice, final. If you *follow the directions* you will do well..

**Staff:** Arthur Waldron. Professor Waldron is an Asian specialist who for more than thirty years has been knocking around the region. His specialty is China. He studied in Taiwan and Japan from 1971-75, visited China in 1980 the first year of tourist visas. He has probably made thirty trips there, not including many to other parts of Asia (He studied in the USSR during high communism—1967-69). He is a scholar and teacher, entirely, but has occasionally participated in important USG activities (see Wiki). He is as accessible as he can make himself and has lots of office hours.

**Readings**: These are not fixed as of now.

Readings will not be a burden. Here is a bibliography—NOT A READING LIST-from which many will be drawn. This is drawn from an earlier iteration of the course that *was unsatisctory owing to its bias to the present.* This will be modified to provide depth.

Morris Rossabi (ed) *China Among Equals China Among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and Its Neighbors, 10th-14th Centuries*(Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1983).  ISBN: 9780520045620

Zheng Wang, *Never Forget National Humiliation: Historical Memory in Chinese Politics and Foreign Relations*(2012: New York: Columbia University Press: 2014 paperback ) ISBN:9780231148917

Arthur Waldron, ed. *How the Peace Was Lost: The 1935 Memorandum “Developments Affecting American Policy in the Far East” Prepared for the State Department by Ambassador John Van Antwerp MacMurray*

Frank Dikõtter. *The Age of Openness: China Before Mao*.

Chen Jian, *Mao’s China and the Cold War*.

John W. Garver. *Protracted Contest: Sino-Indian Rivalry in the Twentieth Century*.

Diane B. Kunz, ed. *Diplomacy of the Crucial Decade*

David Horowitz, Radical Son: A Generational Odyssey

*:*Nancy Bernkopf Tucker, *Strait Talk: United States-Taiwan Relations and the Crisis with China*.

Rowena Xiaoqing He, *Tiananmen Exiles: Voices of the Struggle for Democracy in China.*

"U.S.-China Relations." Apr 2007. Council on Foreign Relations. Oct 2014.

Jeffrey A. Bader, *Obama and China’s Rise: An Inside Account of America’s Asia Strategy*.

Other materials will be made available on PDF and well in place before the course begins.