SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Spring 2013
Discipline: East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
EAST 3559: Sino-American Relations
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: John Israel and Tao Xie

Pre-requisites: There are no prerequisites. However, academic or other exposure to Chinese history, society, culture, politics, or foreign relations, as well as some knowledge of American history and foreign relations, will be useful.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Following a comparative analysis of sharply contrasting historical and cultural configuration of the two countries, we will take a bird’s eye look at the Sino-American tableau from 1784, when the first American ship dropped anchor off Guangzhou, to the Second World War, which set the stage for a closer – and more complicated – relationship. After Pearl Harbor, as the American presence in China assumes a more critical role, our historical analysis will become more detailed.

This course will seek to illuminate multifold dimensions of the current era in Sino-US relations. The seminal event was the Nixon-Zhou Enlai communiqué of 1972 that broke the Cold War impasse and ushered in the era of intense engagement that continues to the present.

The course will be punctuated by, and integrated with, onshore experiences. Before disembarking in Yokohama, we will discuss the relationship of Japan and China, formerly as adversaries, now as competitors in North Asia. Perspectives on the Sino-Japanese-US triangle will take on a personal dimension through a daylong dialogue at the Tokyo home of Ambassador Koreshige Anami and Mrs. Virginia Anami.

Between Kobe and Shanghai, we will prepare the ground for the imminent China experience. Between Hong Kong and Saigon we will focus on Vietnam’s complicated relationships with both China and the United States. As we near Singapore, we will switch the focus to China and the US in Southeast Asia. Similarly, sessions on China and the US in South Asia, Africa, and the Islamic world will precede arrival in Cochin, Cape Town, and Casablanca.

In addition to participating in daily classes, students will be expected to complete an average of approximately forty pages of assigned readings in advance of each class, as well as to view assigned films, some of which will be shown in class, others over the ship’s internal tv network.

Based upon relevant onshore experiences and interactions, students should submit a paper of 1,000 to 1,200 words dealing with Sino-American relations, East Asian-American relations, or East Asian cultures in terms of “comparisons, contrasts, and interactions”. Papers identical or similar to those in other SAS courses will not be accepted unless approval has been granted in writing by instructors of both courses.
Examples:

How does onshore experience expand upon, modify, or contradict the understanding of aspects of Sino-American relations presented through the PLIR 3559 shipboard curriculum?

What insights into similarities and differences among Chinese, Japanese, and Vietnamese cultures do you gain from first-hand experience?

What are the different ways in which Asian cities reflect local adaptation to Western influence?

How do the understanding and practice of Christianity in China and Japan compare with each other and with the United States?

What perspectives on America’s wars in Asia do you derive from visiting such sites as the atom bomb sites of Hiroshima, and the Museum of War Remnants in Saigon?

Students should submit a one-paragraph of their preliminary strategy for completing this assignment no later than Wednesday, February 3. This statement should be revised and resubmitted as plans evolve and change – as they inevitably will in the course of the voyage. The final paper should be submitted by email no later than midnight, April 4. The paper will be evaluated for originality, insight, and writing quality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to convey an understanding of the interaction of two nations that occupy center stage at the beginning of the 21st century. One is the world’s sole surviving super-power, the other the world’s most populous state, now in the fourth decade of the longest sustained period of rapid economic development of any third world country. In spite of profound political and cultural differences, as the world’s first and second largest economies, the two are interlinked and interdependent. In addition to exploring diplomatic, military, and economic relations between China and the United States, we will take a close look at the more diffuse but equally important cultural, social, academic, and psychological interactions between their people. Through the dynamic interplay of Chinese-American team teaching and with first-hand onshore exposure to China and related Asian cultures, students should emerge from this course better able to understand the common interests and complexities that characterize Sino-US relations in an age of globalization.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Michael Schaller
TITLE: The United States and China: Into the Twenty-First Century
PUBLISHER: Oxford
ISBN #: 078-0-19-513759-0
DATE/EDITION: 2002  Third edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

1 China and the US: A Study in Contrasts
   Reading: Michael Schaller, The United States and China: Into the Twenty-First Century, ch. 1: pp. 1-25

2 Americans in China: 1784-1937

3 Images and Stereotypes
   Reading: R. David Arkush and Leo O. Lee, eds., Land without Ghosts “Afterward” 299-303; Liang Qichao, 81-83, 89-95; “Gongwang, 145-150; “Jiejun” 227-233
   Film: Misunderstanding China, part 1

4 Chinese in the US 1
   Film: Becoming American: The Chinese Experience 1,2

5 Chinese in the US 2
   Film: Becoming American: The Chinese Experience 3

6 The Japan Connection
   Reading: Marcus Jacques, When China Rules the World, 46-69, 306-313

   Essay due: Reflections on a Day with the Anamis. Submit online. 400-800 words.

7 Discussion: Preparing for China
   Reading: Cowboys and Dragons, chs. 1-3 (pp. 5-35)

   Quiz 1

8 China and Vietnam: Looking North with Admiration and Trepidation
   Film: Why Vietnam

9 Vietnam, China, and the US: Friends and Enemies Near and Far

**Film:** *Cold War*, episode 11: *Vietnam*

**Film (recommended):** *Hearts and Minds*

10 The US and China in Southeast Asia


11 Same Bed, Different Dreams: Uneasy Allies in the Second World War

**Reading:** Schaller, chs. 3, 4, 5: pp. 49-104.

**Film:** PBS: *China: A Century of Revolution – Fighting for the Future – 1936-1949*

12 Rude Awakening: Civil War, Liberation, Korea

**Reading:** Schaller, chs. 6-7: pp. 105-139

**Films:** *Misunderstanding China*, part 2; *Cold War*, episode 5: *Korea*

13 The US, China, and South Asia


14 Fallout: American McCarthyism and Chinese Thought Reform

**Readings:** Schaller, ch. 8: pp. 140-163


**Film:** *Cold War*, episode 6: *Reds*, first 25 minutes

15 Cold War: Images & Realities 1953-1969


**Film:** *China: A Century of Revolution – The Mao Years – 1949-1960*

**Quiz 2**

16 Nixon in China

**Reading:** Schaller ch. 9, pp. 164-184

**Film:** *Nixon’s China Game*

17 The US, China, and Africa

**Readings:** Xu Yi-chong, “China and the United States in Africa: Coming conflict or commercial

18 Getting to Know You: Official and Unofficial from Nixon/Mao to Reagan/Deng
*Reading*: Schaller, ch. 10: pp. 185-208
*Film*: *China: A Century of Revolution – Born Under the Red Flag—Surviving Mao*

19 The Shadow of Tiananmen
*Reading*: Schaller, ch. 16, pp. 209-230
*Film*: Koppel, *Nightline: Tragedy at Tiananmen*
*Film*: *China: A Century of Revolution – Born Under the Red Flag—The Next Generation*

20 Sino-US Relations in the 21st Century: Legacies of the Past


22 The US, China, and the Islamic World

23 Discussion: *When China Rules the World?*

*Paper Due*. Submit online.

24 Final Examination
**FIELD WORK**

**FIELD LAB** (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

The following is the blurb for our spring 2010 FDP, “A Day with Ginny Anami”:

Virginia Anami, with her husband Koreshige (ambassador to China 2001-2006) and their three children, brings together three worlds – Japanese, American, and Chinese. Brought up in New Orleans, she has spent many years in all three countries, is fluent in three languages, and, through her teaching, books, and person-to-person diplomatic initiatives, has done much to promote international understanding. “Ginny” will spend a day sharing with us her home; her neighborhood; her adopted land; her insights about Japan, China, and the United States; and her own ineffable presence.

In Ginny’s words, “Mitaka is a lovely suburb with lots of trees and cultural spots. The homes of two famous early 20th century Japanese authors are on my street as well as the atelier of the sculptor who did the Peace Statue in Nagasaki. My home is on Peace Street, so named because most of it was bombed in WWII. In my house, I can explain the traditional family altar, _ofuro_ bath and the stories of my parents-in-law. Visitors will also see pictures of Chinese leaders with [Ambassador] Anami, which clutter our living room. We can talk of our long stays (altogether 12 years) in China.

The station before Mitaka is Kichijoji, one of the hippest spots for young people. We will walk to Kichijoji through the Park and catch the street scene there and maybe wander into their big electronics store. Also, in the Park near my house is a temple and a shrine, where I could explain basics of Japanese Shinto and Buddhism.”

For our spring 2013 field lab, we will further enhance our highly rewarding 2010 experience with a roundtable exchange of views on Sino-US-Japanese relations with Ambassador Koreshige Anami and Ginny Anami. This will be the centerpiece of our day with the Anamis.

**FIELD ASSIGNMENTS**

Following the field lab, students will submit a 400-800-word online essay, “Reflections on a Day with the Anamis”, which will count for 20% of the course grade. The essay will be graded upon its originality and thoughtfulness.

**METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC**

Course grades will be calculated according to grades in quizzes, (20%), the Field Lab essay (20%), the term paper (30%), and the final examination (30%).
Grades may be adjusted upward or downward reflecting the frequency and quality of participation in classroom discussions.

RESERVE LIBRARY LIST

AUTHOR: David Arkush & Leo O. Lee
TITLE: Land without Ghosts
PUBLISHER: U. of California Press
ISBN #: 0-520-08424-1
DATE/EDITION: 1989, first edition

AUTHOR: Carola McGifford
TITLE: Chinese Images of the United States
PUBLISHER: Center for Strategic & International Studies
ISBN #: 13 9780892064656
DATE/EDITION: 2005, first

AUTHOR: Charles Lee
TITLE: Cowboys and Dragons
PUBLISHER: Kaplan
ISBN #: 13 9781607146742
DATE/EDITION: 2003/first

AUTHOR: Richard Bernstein & Ross H. Munro
TITLE: The Coming Conflict with China
PUBLISHER: Vintage Books
ISBN #: 0679776621, 9780679776628, 978-0679776628
DATE/EDITION: 1998

AUTHOR: Martin Jacques
TITLE: When China Rules the World
PUBLISHER: Penguin
ISBN #: 978-1-59420-185-1
DATE/EDITION: 2009/first

AUTHOR:
TITLE:
PUBLISHER:
ISBN #:
DATE/EDITION:
ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

AUTHOR: Jonathan Spence
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Peter Parker: Bodies or Souls”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: To Change China
VOLUME: 
DATE: 1980
PAGES: 34-56

AUTHOR: Theodore E.H. Chen
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Thought Reform of the Chinese Intellectuals
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The China Hands
VOLUME: 
DATE: 1960
PAGES: 24-29, 56-58, 62-65

AUTHOR: E. H. Kahn
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “How Do You Say That in Chinese?”
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: The China Hands
VOLUME: 
DATE: 1976
PAGES: 1-27

AUTHOR: John Israel: NB: Personal manuscript of course instructor. Send email for faxing
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: John Israel’s Yunnan Journal
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: John Israel’s Yunnan Journal
VOLUME: 
DATE: 
PAGES: unpaginated

AUTHOR: John Garver
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “The [former] Coming War with America”:
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Journal of Contemporary China
VOLUME: 12, no. 36
DATE: August 2003  
PAGES: 575-585

AUTHOR: Anne E. Thurston  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Political Democracy in the American Political Imagination”  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: China in the American Political Imagination  
VOLUME:  
DATE:  
PAGES: 93-101

AUTHOR: Kenneth B. Pyle  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “Japan and the Rise of China”  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Japan Rising  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 2007  
PAGES: 310-339

AUTHOR: James C. Thomson, Jr., and others  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: “The Indochina Tragedy”  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Sentimental Imperialists  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1981  
PAGES: 253-267

AUTHOR: Philip West & Others  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: John Ernst, “Tutoring Democracy”  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE:  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 1998  
PAGES: 233-241

AUTHOR: Martin Jacques  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: Ch. 11, “When China Rules the World”  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: When China Rules the World  
VOLUME:  
DATE: 2009  
PAGES: 363-413

AUTHOR: Carlyl A. Thayer  
ARTICLE/CHAPTER TITLE: The United States, China, and Southeast Asia  
JOURNAL/BOOK TITLE: Southeast Asian Affairs:  
VOLUME: 2011  
DATE: 2011  
PAGES: 16-25

AUTHOR: Joshua Kurlantzick
HONOR CODE
Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”
The China–United States relationship will be a key dynamic in the twenty-first century. Contemporary commentators often make bold and far-reaching claims about China’s rise. China’s rise is also presented as a process of a closed society becoming more open and integrated into the international system. The relative position of China and the United States is sometimes presented as the latest in a permanent cycle in international politics of the inevitable rise and decline of great powers. Rival interpretations present China’s rise as bringing either ever greater cooperation or increasing danger of more conflict in international affairs.