



CHES5141 US-China Relations

2020-21, Term 2, Thursdays 1:30-4:15pm

Venue: TBC

Lecturer: Dr. Stephan ORTMANN (ortmann.stephan@googlemail.com)

Teaching Assistant: TBC

This course examines the relationship between a rising China and the existing superpower, the United States, a bilateral relationship that is widely acknowledged as the most important in today's world. In recent years, the relationship has become more volatile raising the specter of conflict and even war. The course will first explore the history of the relationship dating back to its beginnings and discussing key turning points. In the second part of the class, the course will focus on particular contentious issues such as human rights, territorial disputes, economic relations, security concerns, and the digital environment. The course will end with discussing the potential future directions.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, you should:

- analytically reflect on the changing US-China relationship
- understand the relationship from different perspectives
- critically reflect on various actors in the US-China relationship
- enhance important critical thinking skills

Learning Activities

Students are required to attend a two-hour lecture followed by a one-hour tutorial session every week. They will be expected to have done the required readings before the lecture, so that they can ask informed questions. The tutorial time will be used to discuss the readings, the lecture and the various research topics. This course uses the CUHK eLearning system, which can be found at <https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk>. The course readings, assignments and recent announcements are uploaded on this platform. Make sure to check it regularly.

Assessment Scheme

- Attendance and active participation: 5% of the course grade is attendance and 10% goes to active participation in class discussions.
- Short reflections on the reading: Students are required to prepare for the class by reading the required reading and sending a short reflection (200-500 words) on the reading by email (10%).
- Research paper: ~5,000 word paper (50%)
 - Short presentations related to their paper topic (15%).
 - A one-page paper outline (unmarked)
 - A peer review (10%) in the form of a full text
 - The final paper should be submitted to VeriGuide by 12am (midnight) of the due date.
 - Please also submit a hard copy of the paper and the signed VeriGuide receipt to the mailbox as soon as possible afterwards. VeriGuide can be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide>.
 - Late assignments will NOT be accepted.
 - Further details will be provided in the first week

Course Grading System:

Attendance and active participation	15%
Short reflections	10%
Presentation	15%
Peer review	10%
Research paper	50%

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of the policies, regulations and procedures.

Course Schedule

[PDF versions of readings and assignments can be found on the CUHK eLearning System. Registered students may access the CHES5135 account by using their Student ID and OnePass password]

The core text book - Sutter, Robert G. *US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018 - is available through the library website.

<u>WEEK 1 (14 Jan):</u>	<i>Introduction</i>
<u>WEEK 2 (21 Jan):</u>	<i>Understanding international relations</i> Snyder, Jack. "One World, Rival Theories." <i>Foreign Policy</i> 145 (2004): 53-62. Walt, Stephen M. "International relations: one world, many theories." <i>Foreign Policy</i> (1998): 29-46.
<u>WEEK 3 (28 Jan):</u>	<i>US-China relationship before 1945</i> Sutter, Robert G. <i>US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. Ch. 2, Ch. 3. Wang, Chi. <i>The United States and China Since World War II: A Brief History</i> . ME Sharpe, 2013, Ch. 2
<u>WEEK 4 (4 Feb):</u>	<i>Relations between China and the US from 1945 to 1979</i> Wang, Dong. <i>The United States and China: A History from the Eighteenth Century to the Present</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013, Ch. 8. Yufan, Hao, and Zhai Zhihai. "China's Decision to Enter the Korean War: History Revisited." <i>The China Quarterly</i> 121 (1990): 94-115.
<i>11 Feb Lunar New Year</i>	
14 February 2021 Paper outline due (Only one page!)	
<u>WEEK 5 (18 Feb):</u>	<i>Rapprochement and normalization in the relationship</i> Sutter, Robert G. <i>US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 4. Wang, Dong. <i>The United States and China: A History from the Eighteenth Century to the Present</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013, Ch. 9.
<u>WEEK 6 (25 Feb):</u>	<i>Tiananmen and the end of the Cold War: Discontents in the relationship</i> Sutter, Robert G. <i>US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 5. Lampton, David M. <i>Same bed, different dreams: Managing US-China relations, 1989-2000</i> . Univ of California Press, 2001, Ch. 1.
<u>WEEK 7 (4 Mar):</u>	<i>China's rise and the US pivot to Asia</i> Sutter, Robert G. <i>US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 7. Wang, Jisi and Hu Ran. "From cooperative partnership to strategic competition: a review of China-US relations 2009-2019." <i>China International Strategy Review</i> 1, no. 1 (2019): 1-10.

WEEK 8 (11 Mar): *China's territorial disputes*

Sutter, Robert G. *US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 10.

Zhao, Suisheng. "East Asian Disorder: China and the South China Sea Disputes." *Asian Survey* 60, no. 3 (2020): 490-509.

WEEK 9 (18 Mar): *Conflict and cooperation in economic relations*

Sutter, Robert G. *US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 9.

Liu, Tao, and Wing Thye Woo. "Understanding the US-China trade war." *China Economic Journal* 11, no. 3 (2018): 319-340.

WEEK 10 (25 Mar): *Human rights issues*

Sutter, Robert G. *US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 11.

Kim, Hun Joon. "The prospects of human rights in US–China relations: a constructivist understanding." *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 20, no. 1 (2020): 91-118.

1 Apr: Easter break

28 March 2021: Paper draft due for peer review

WEEK 11 (8 Apr): *Security issues*

Christensen, Thomas J. "The meaning of the nuclear evolution: China's strategic modernization and US-China security relations." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 35, no. 4 (2012): 447-487.

Hickey, Dennis V. and Kelan Lilly Lu. "Friend or foe: Washington, Beijing, and the dispute over US security ties to Taiwan" *Conflict and Cooperation in Sino-US Relations: Change and Continuity, Causes and Cures* (London and New York: Routledge, 2015): 89-111.

11 April 2021: Peer review due

WEEK 12 (15 Apr): *Cyberwar: Toward a next generation of conflict?*

Manson, George Patterson. "Cyberwar: The United States and China prepare for the next generation of conflict." *Comparative Strategy* 30, no. 2 (2011): 121-133.

Akdag, Yavuz. "The likelihood of cyberwar between the United States and China: A neorealism and power transition theory perspective." *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 24, no. 2 (2019): 225-247.

WEEK 13 (22 Apr): *The future of the China-US relationship*

Sutter, Robert G. *US-China relations: Perilous past, uncertain present*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018, Ch. 12.

Lam Peng Er. "China, the United States, alliances, and war: avoiding the Thucydides trap?" *Asian Affairs: An American Review* 43, no. 2 (2016): 36-46.

Sunday, 25 April 2021: Final paper due

Selected additional readings

- Allison, Graham. *Destined for war: Can American and China escape the Thucydides trap?* Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- Blanchard, Jean-Marc F. and Simon Shen, eds. *Conflict and cooperation in Sino-US relations: change and continuity, causes and cures*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Brooks, Stephen G., and William C. Wohlforth. "The Once and Future Superpower: Why China Won't Overtake the United States." *Foreign Affairs* 95 (2016): 91.
- Cohen, Warren I. *America's response to China: A history of Sino-American relations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.
- Davis, Bob and Lingling Wei. *Superpower showdown: How the battle between Trump and Xi threatens a new Cold War*. New York: Harper Business, 2020.
- deLisle, Jacques and Avery Goldstein, eds. *After Engagement: Dilemmas in US-China Security Relations*. Brookings Institution Press, 2020.
- Foot, Rosemary and Andrew Walter. *China, the United States, and global order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Goldstein, Lyle J. *Meeting China halfway: How to defuse the emerging US-China rivalry*. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2015.
- Hsiung, James Chieh. *The South China Sea Disputes and the US-China Contest: International law and geopolitics*. Singapore: World Scientific, 2018.
- Kroenig, Matthew. *The Return of Great Power Rivalry: Democracy Versus Autocracy from the Ancient World to the US and China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Lampton, David M. *Same bed, different dreams: Managing US-China relations, 1989-2000*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- Lin, Cheng-yi and Denny Roy, eds. *The Future of United States, China, and Taiwan Relations*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
- Lindsay, Jon R., Tai Ming Cheung, and Derek S. Reveron, eds. *China and cybersecurity: Espionage, strategy, and politics in the digital domain*. New York: Oxford University Press, USA, 2015.
- Mahbubani, Kishore. *Has China won? The Chinese challenge to American primacy*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2020.
- Shambaugh, David, ed. *Tangled titans: The United States and China*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2012.
- Steinberg, James and Michael E. O'Hanlon. *Strategic reassurance and resolve: US-China relations in the twenty-first century*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2014.
- Tanner, Travis and Dong Wang. *US-China relations in strategic domains*. London and New York: Routledge, 2020.
- Wang, Dong. *The United States and China: A history from the eighteenth century to the present*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013.
- Zhao, Suisheng, ed. *China-US relations transformed: perspectives and strategic interactions*. London and New York: Routledge, 2007.