

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 4520
Course Title: History of US-China Relations
Course Offered in: Spring 2024
Course Instructor: Professor David Chang

Course Description:

An examination of the formation and development of political, economic, and cultural relations between China and the United States from the late 18th century to the mid-20th century. It will not only explore the major historical episodes but also introduce students to some of the leading interpretations of U.S.-China relations.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

1	describe the political, social, and cultural relations between China and the United States from the late 18th century to the late 20th century.
2	recognize the general trends in the relations between China and the U.S. in the past 200 years.
3	analyze the causes and significance of the major events in the history of U.S.-China relations.
4	compare the leading interpretations of the history of U.S.-China relations.
5	apply the knowledge they have learnt from this course to better understand current U.S.-China relations.

Course Outline:

Week	
1	Introduction Early encounters: worldviews and international systems
2	The Opium War and Unequal Treaties American expansionism and the Open Door policy
3	To change China: American missionaries in the Middle Kingdom
4	The Boxer Rebellion and its aftermath
5	The Chinese in America: the immigrant experience
6	America's "special relationship" with China in the face of Japanese aggression Americans and the Chinese Nationalist Revolution
7	Forging an alliance: China and the U.S. in World War II

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8	Strained alliance: the Cairo Conference and the Stilwell-Chiang Controversy Yalta, Manchuria, and the Chinese Civil War
9	“Lost Chance in China”? The “Loss of China”?
10	“Resist America and Aid Korea”: The Korean War The Korean War and Taiwan’s “undetermined status”
11	Taiwan Strait crises of 1954 and 1958 The Cold War, containment, and contacts
12	Nixon’s visit to China in 1972 Normalization of U.S.-China relations and the Taiwan Relations Act
13	Tiananmen and its aftermath History and the future of U.S.-China relations

Planned Assessment Tasks:

1st midterm:	30%
2nd midterm:	30%
Final:	40%

Readings:

1. James Thomson et.al, Sentimental Imperialists, The American Experience in East Asia
2. Warren I. Cohen, America’s Response to China, A History of Sino-American Relations.