

HUMA 4520
THE HISTORY OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

Fall 2022
Tuesday 12:00–14:50
Room 1409

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The United States and China are the two most powerful countries in the world today. Their bilateral relationship profoundly shapes our world. This course examines the unique and tumultuous history of U.S.-China relations from the early 19th century to the recent past. By situating our inquiries in historical time and circumstances, we seek to understand the complexity and contingencies of history. We aim to identify underlying dynamics, enduring patterns, persistent interests, perceptions and misconceptions in this relationship. While political, diplomatic, and military events largely determine periodization and topic selection, we also study social, cultural and personal dimensions to understand the cultural context of these events and how common people experienced history.

This course introduces students to various historical interpretations by American and Chinese scholars. Major topics include unequal treaties, the Open Door policy, Americans' missionary and educational endeavors in China, U.S.-China alliance in WWII, General Joseph Stilwell's conflict with Chiang Kai-shek, the Chinese Civil War, the "loss of China" or the "lost chance" in China, the Korean War, Taiwan's "undetermined status," Nixon's visit to China, the "normalization" of U.S.-China diplomatic ties, Taiwan Relations Act, the Tiananmen Incident, and Trump's trade war with China.

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 United States 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 learned from this course to better understand current U.S.-China relations.

REQUIRED TEXTS

John Pomfret. *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2016.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Chen Jian. *Mao's China and the Cold War*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

* One copy of each book has been placed on 2-hour reserve in the library.

* books can be purchased at the campus bookstore, Amazon, or www.bookdepository.com.

* All additional documents in PDF are available under "Files" on CANVAS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Please be forewarned: Students are required to complete a substantial amount of reading and other assignments every week. You are expected to have **completed all readings assigned for that day before class**. Lecture attendance is required, as the lectures include materials not provided in textbooks.

If you are not committed to consistently performing the following tasks, don't take this class.

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance & Participation	5%
Timeline and document summaries x 10	20%
Combined timeline	5%
Book reviews x 2	30%
Final research paper outline & timeline	5%
Final research paper	35%

- **Ten weekly timeline/chronology and document summaries.** Before each class, you should have completed all readings assigned to the week. You should hand in a timeline with at least **TEN events and the summaries of each document**. For the timeline, you can draw from the textbooks, required readings, and other sources. Format and length: 2 pages, **single-spaced**, Times New Roman, **10-point**. The timeline can help bring some order to the complex sequence of events we will be studying. By the end of the semester, you should have **combined all timelines—and you may incorporate entries from your classmates' timelines**—into one file and submit by to Canvas-Assignments. (Language: English or/and Chinese).
- Two book reviews.
- **Research Paper:**
 - a) You will first identify a historical issue/puzzle/question that has been poorly understood or misunderstood.
 - b) You will search for both primary and secondary sources to better understand the issue.
 - c) Develop an argument/draw a conclusion that sheds new light on the history of 20th-century China.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism is the use of another person's words, ideas or research results without acknowledgment, and passing them off as one's own. I call your attention to this description of one of the most common forms of plagiarism: "verbatim copying of words, sentences, paragraphs or entire sections or chapter without quotation and proper attribution. This is the most obvious form of plagiarism. You must use quotation marks even if you only borrow several words in sequence from a source." Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and is covered by university policy on academic dishonesty. If I suspect that you have used another person's (including another book, article, or website's) words without proper footnoting, we will notify you and require that you submit an electronic copy of your paper to turnitin.com, so that we can use available electronic means to check for plagiarism. Just as the Web makes plagiarism easier, it also makes the detection of plagiarism easy. Students found guilty of plagiarism will at the least get a failing grade on the paper, and at worst fail the course and be taken to the University for disciplinary action. Consider this fair warning. **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE**. It's just not worth it. The consequences can be extremely serious.

Refer to the university web site: <http://www.ust.hk/provost/integrity/student-4.html>Links for definitions and university procedures in dealing with plagiarism.

LECTURES AND READING SCHEDULE:

Week 1

9/6 Introduction; Early encounters: worldviews and international systems

Textbooks:

- Cohen, 1–7 (The Barbarians and the Tribute System)
- Pomfret, Prologue (1–7); Ch. 1 A New Frontier (9–22)

Documents:

- Lin Zexu, “Advice to Queen Victoria” (1839)

Week 2

9/13 The Opium Wars and Unequal Treaties; To change China: American missionaries in China

Textbooks:

- Pomfret, Ch. 2 Founding Fortunes (23–39); Ch. 3 Blitzconversion (40–55)

Documents:

- The Treaty of Nanjing (1842)
- The Treaty of Wangxia (1844)

Week 3

9/20 The Chinese in America: the immigrant experience; the First Sino-Japanese War

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 4 The Calm Minister (56–68); Ch. 5 Men of Iron (69–88); Ch. 6 A Good Thrashing (89–96); Ch. 7 Bible Women (97–105)

Documents:

- The Burlingame Treaty (1868)
- The Chinese Exclusion Treaty (1880)
- The Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

Week 4

9/27 1900. The Boxer Rebellion, American expansionism, and the Open Door policy

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 8 The Door Opens and Shuts (106–121); Ch. 9 Hot Air and Hope (122–136)

Documents:

- The Open Door Notes (1899–1900)
 - <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/hay-and-china>
- The Boxer Protocol (1901)

Week 5

10/4 NO CLASS

Week 6

10/11 The 1911 Revolution, 1919 Paris Peace Conference

Textbook:

- Pomfret, 10 American Dream (137–150); 11 Mr. Science (151–163); 13 Up in Smoke (177–189)

Documents:

- The Treaty of Versailles/ Part IV—German Rights and Interests outside Germany/Section VIII Shandong (1919)
- Nine-Power Treaty (1922)
-

1920s. the rise of Chinese Nationalism and Communism

Textbook:

- Pomfret, 13 The Soong Dynasty (190–203); 15 Opportunity or Threat (204–221); 16 A Red Star (222–233)

Documents:

- Mao Zedong, "Report on An Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan"
- Snow, *Red Star Over China* (excerpt)

Week 7

10/18 1928–1937. The Nanjing Decade

Textbooks:

- Pomfret, 17 *New Life* (234–243)

Documents:

- Chiang Kai-shek, *China's Destiny* (excerpt)

1937–1941. China at war, alone

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 18 *Bloody Saturday* (245–260); 19 *Little America* (261–279)

Documents:

Week 8

10/25 WWII allies

Textbook:

- Pomfret, 20 *Burmese Days* (280–291)

Documents:

- *The Stilwell Papers* (excerpt)

Strained alliance: the Cairo Conference and the Stilwell-Chiang Controversy

Textbooks:

- Pomfret, 21 *Dangerous Liaisons* (292–305); 22 *The Rice Paddy Navy* (306–319)

Documents:

- Cairo Declaration (1943)

Week 9

11/1 The Dixie Mission and "Lost Chance in China"

Textbooks:

- Pomfret, 23 *The East is Red* (320–331); 24 *Keys to the Kingdom* (332–341)
- Barbara Tuchman, "If Mao Had Come to Washington," *Foreign Affairs* (1972), 44–64.

Documents:

- John S. Service and Joseph Esherick, *Lost Chance in China: The World War II Despatches of John S. Service* (New York: Random House, 1974), 178–182, 303, 308–313.

Yalta and Manchuria

Textbooks:

- 25 *The Beginning of the End* (342–355)
- Chi Pang-yuan, *The Great Flowing River: A Memoir of China, from Manchuria to Taiwan* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2018), excerpts.

Documents:

- Yalta Secret Agreement (1945)

Week 10

11/8 The Marshall Mission, the Chinese Civil War, and the "loss of China" vs. the "Lost Chance in China"

Textbooks:

- Pomfret, Ch. 26 *Mission Impossible* (356–363); Ch. 27 *A Third Force* (364–378)
- Chen Jian, 38–48 (*The Myth of America's Lost Chance in China*)

Documents:

- United States Department of State, *The China White Paper, August 1949* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1967),
 - Lyman Van Slyke's Introduction
 - Dean Acheson, "Letter of Transmittal" (III–XVII)
- Mao, "On the Dictatorship of the People's Democracy" (1949)

"Resist America and Aid Korea": The Korean War

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 28 Hate America (379–388), Ch. 29 Hate China (389–403)
- David C. Chang, *The Hijacked War: The Story of Chinese POWs in the Korean War* (chapters)

Documents:

- Truman's news conference remarks, January 5, 1950.
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=13678#axzz1r3mU8S23>
- Truman's statement on the situation in Korea, June 27, 1950.
<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=13538&st=&st1=#axzz1r3mU8S23>

Week 11

11/15 Negotiating while fighting: POWs and the armistice negotiations

Textbooks:

- David C. Chang, "Ridgway's Turnaround, MacArthur's Exit, and Taiwan's Entry" and "Prisoner Repatriation Debated in Washington, Panmunjom, and Taipei," in

Taiwan Strait crises of 1954 and 1958

Textbook:

- Chen Jian, 163–204 (Beijing and Taiwan Strait Crisis of 1958)
- Pomfret, Ch. 30 A Cold War (404–414); Ch. 31 Dead Flowers (415–425);

Week 12

11/22 The Cold War, containment, and contacts

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 32 Bloody Marys (426–431); Ch. 33 Pictures of Chairman Mao (432–441); Ch. 34 Out of Bad Things (442–451)

Nixon's visit to China in 1972

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 35 Not Because We Love Them (452–461); Ch. 36 Tacit Allies (462–476)

Documentary films:

- *China: Century of Revolution-The Mao Years;*
- *Assignment: China - The Week that Changed the World*

Documents:

- Mao-Nixon talk transcripts (1972)
- Shanghai Communiqué (1972)
- Japan-China Joint Communiqué (1972)

Week 13

11/29 Normalization, the Taiwan Relations Act; The 1980s and Tiananmen

Textbook:

- Pomfret, Ch. 37 We Are Very Sexy People (477–488); Ch. 38 China Rediscovered America (489–499); Ch. 39 Nobody Is Afraid of Anybody (500–509); Ch. 40 Deathsong (510–520).

Documents:

- U.S.-China Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (1979)

Documentary:

- *Tian'anmen*

Past, present, and future

Textbooks:

- Pomfret, 47 End of an Era (622–632); Afterword (633–637)

Articles

- Kurt M. Campbell and Ely Ratner, “The China Reckoning: How Beijing Defied American Expectations,” *Foreign Affairs* 97, no. 2 (2018): 60–70.
- “How the West Got China Wrong,” *Economist*, Mar. 1, 2018.
- Kevin Rudd, “What the West Doesn’t Get about Xi Jinping,” *NYT*, Mar. 20, 2018.