

China: Roots and Present of a Superpower

UGRA_015406

Departments	Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	3
Teacher responsible	Augusto Soto - augusto.soto@esade.edu

Course Goals

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1.- Discern continuities and change which exist between traditional China and the People's Republic of China.
- 2.- Outline and substantiate reasons for the success of China's reform and openness to the outside world. Understand the causes that are underneath the political, geopolitical and cultural reemergence of China.
- 3.- Discuss with insight the impact of modernization on Chinese life since 1978. Outline the key role of Deng Xiaoping as main architect of modern China, as well as the roles of Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping.
- 4.- Discern and substantiate the main points of cooperation and friction between Beijing and the outside world. Underline the main issues of Chinese interaction within the international community.
- 5.- Outline and substantiate a wide range of reasons behind Chinese and foreign interpretations of China's power and anticipate new developments and prospects.
- 6.- Familiarize with available resources for learning about a wide range of China's contemporary issues.

Previous knowledge

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

Basic knowledge of foreign affairs will be a helpful background for this course.

Prerequisites

PREREQUISITES

Basic knowledge of foreign affairs will be a helpful background for this course.

Description

Course contribution to program

COURSE CONTRIBUTION TO PROGRAM

Students will have the necessary knowledge and criteria to understand national and international conditions of one of the superpowers of the XXI century and its impact in the rest of the world. The objective is that students could analyze any news or comment regarding China critically.

Short description

DESCRIPTION

The course will combine lectures, academic readings, short films, and student reports on ongoing self-teaching and learning process.

Lectures consist of:

- a) A detailed presentation of the contents described in the syllabus
- b) A participatory process (learning process with active student's involvement). Groups made up of 4 students are expected to present topics for discussion based on material previously indicated by the professor.

Bibliography

Allison, Graham, Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides Trap?, New York, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (Book)

Bregolat, Eugenio, The Chinese second revolution, London, Palgrave Macmillan (Book)

Brown, Kerry, The Foreign Policy of the World's Newest Superpower, London, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc. (Book)

Brown, Kerry, Xi: A Study in Power, London, Icon Books Ltd (Book)

Frankopan, Peter, The New Silk Roads: The Present and Future of the World, London, Bloomsbury Publishing (Book)

Gosset, David (ed.), China and the World. The Long March Towards a Community of Shared Future for Mankind, Bologna, Società Editrice Il Mulino, Volumes 1, 2, 3. (Book)

Leonard, Mark, The Age of Unpeace. How Connectivity Causes Conflict, London, Penguin Random House (Book)

Jacques, Martin, When China rules the World, London, Penguin, 2nd ed. (Book)

Khanna, Parag, Connectography. Mapping the Future of Global Civilization, New York, Random House (Book)

Kissinger, Henry, On China, London, Penguin (Book)

Mahbubani, Kishore, Has China Won? The Chinese Challenge to American Primacy, Public Affairs (Book)

Maçaes, Bruno, Belt and Road: A Chinese World Order, Random House India Private (Book)

Mitter, Rana, Modern China: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford University Press (Book)

Xi, Jinping, The Governance of China (IV), Beijing Foreign Language Press (Book)

Activities

Group presentations

1.- Introduction to China. Presentation and discussion of key articles on China's culture.

2.- Presentation and discussion of China's Constitutions and amendments.

3.- China's Reforms and progress 1978-2025-related articles.

4.- Contacts, personal contacts with China-related articles.

5.- China in the international scene-related articles.

6.- EU-China relations-related articles.

7.- Sensitive topics in Chinese-Western relations including human rights and strategic and geostrategic issues.

8.- Chinese and Western views on China's role in the world. Texts by leaders and analysts.

9.- Texts on the importance of being in China (including international events & conferences and real-life experiences).

10.- The future: Western interpretations of China's innovation, growth & power-related articles.

Content

#	Topic
1	1.- Introduction to China 1.1.- Definitions of China 1.2.- The meaning of Chinese civilization 1.3.- The legacy of the past 1.4.- Contemporary China's perspectives
2	2.- China from the XX to the XXI century 2.1.- The memory of the Unequal Treaties 2.2.- The emergence of China's Communist Party 2.3.- The foundations of the People's Republic of China 2.4.- The impact of the Communist Party in China's life
3	3.- A brief intro: China's Reforms and progress 1978-2025 3.1.- The main reforms 3.2.- Openness: from local to global (politics, economy, mentality) 3.3.- Leaders: from the first to the fifth generation 3.4.- A unique power
4	4.- Contacts, personal contacts 4.1.- Names, the right names 4.2.- Etiquette rules 4.3.- Chinese & Foreigners/Westerners. Venues. 4.4.- Chinese & Foreigners/Westerners II. Understanding, misunderstandings
5	5.- China in the international scene 5.1.- China-US, China-Pacific relations 5.2.- China-Africa and China-Latin America relations 5.3.- Eurasia: China/Russia and the Shanghai

#	Topic
5	Cooperation Organization 5.4.- Two cases: Afghanistan and Ukraine
6	6.- EU-China relations 6.1.- How China sees Europe and viceversa 6.2.- China in Europe and Europe in China 6.3.- Eastern Europe. The 17+1 Format and now 6.4.- Is China an opportunity for Europe and viceversa?
7	7.- Sensitive topics in Chinese-Western relations 7.1.- Definitions of human rights 7.2.- Sovereignty issues?: land and sea 7.3.- The Indo-Pacific as a Western concept 7.4.- On values, democracy and efficiency
8	8.- Chinese and Western views on China's role in the world 8.1- Main Chinese interpretations of China's potential 8.2.- "Together for a shared future", together for a shared future? 8.3.- Redefining China as the Middle Kingdom and the Thucydides trap 8.4.- China as a developing and super developing country
9	9.- The importance of being there: international events and conferences 9.1.- P2P exchanges 9.2.- China's Communist Party and the world 9.3.- Universities and think tanks 9.4.- The importance of networks and on visiting China regularly
10	10.- The future: Western interpretations of 's innovation, growth and power politics 10.1.- G5, cyberspace, between technical power and power politics 10.2.- Belt and Road Initiative's past, present and future 10.3.- Beijing: between the Northern hemisphere and the Global South 10.4.- Final reflections on power and influence

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Individual or team exercises	1.- Presentations. Each week a group of students introduces: A) 1 or 2 texts and discuss them in class (based on Syllabus texts previously indicated) . Each student has 5 minutes. B) A China-related new (chosen by each student). Each student has1 minute	Ordinary round	50.00%
Final individual project	2.- Final Report (chosen from a topic or related topic based on the Syllabus). Extension: 6 pages (Times New Roman, 1.5 line spacing). To be submitted by the deadline.	Ordinary round	50.00%

PROGRAMS

BITLASI22-Bachelor in Transformational Leadership and Social Impact (Undergraduates: Business)
BITLASI22 Year 1 (Mandatory)

G114-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
G114 Year 1 (Optative)

G114S-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)
G114S Year 1 (Optative)

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL23 Year 2 (Optative)
GEL23 Year 3 (Optative)