The United States and China are the two most powerful countries in the world today, and their relationship is arguably one of the most complex and yet extremely important bilateral relationships. How to manage this relationship has consequential impact on the future dynamics of international order and issues of global concerns. This course analyzes the historical context and contemporary developments of US-China relations. It begins with a conceptual overview as well as historical introduction dating back to the late 19th century until the end of WWII. The next section covers their major phases of conflict and cooperation during the Cold War. Following another section on their post-Tiananmen twists and turns, the final section discusses several key aspects of the current US-China relations.

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**Required Readings**


All other required readings are available in PDF files on Course Site, or through university library e-books.

**Graded Assignments**

Grades will be based on two in-class exams (25% each), one take-home essay (35%), and class participation (15%). Grades for each graded assignments are given according to its numerical proportion indicated in the syllabus (i.e. the full score for each in-class exam is 25 points, for the final essay 35 points, and for class participation 15 points). Your final grade will be the sum of the assignment scores, with a possible, marginal adjustment upward using an impressionistic evaluation of your performance improvement toward the latter part of the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading scale:</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>94-100%</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>90-93%</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>87-89%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Course Information and Policies**

*Readings*
Readings should be done before the classes for which they are assigned. Lectures will not substitute for the readings, nor vice versa. Fulfilling the reading requirements will help your performance in class participation and other course assignments. You are also expected to stay current on US-China relations by following major Western and Asian media.

*Class participation and courtesy rules*
Attendance at all classes is mandatory. You are also expected to contribute to class discussion actively and intelligently, with explicit engagement with the assigned readings.

Politeness and consideration are expected of everyone in the classroom. The use of computers and other electronic devices (i-products, beepers, cell phones, you name it) is prohibited in this class. It is rude and disruptive to be checking your email, surfing the web, or messaging when you are supposed to be participating in classroom activities.

*Policy on make-ups, extra credit, and late papers*
Make-up exams will not be granted except in case of emergency and in all cases require a note from the Office of the Dean of Students. If you miss a graded assignment for no legitimate reason, you will receive a “zero” score for it. No extra credit will be given for any graded assignments. Essays submitted within one week after the due date will be downgraded two points per day. Essay submitted more than one week late will result in a course grade of incomplete. You must complete all graded assignments in order to receive a grade for the course.

*Academic integrity*
Cheating will not be tolerated. Do not consult readings, notes, online sources, etc., or your classmates for the close-book in-class exams. For completing the final essay, you are allowed to consult all of the above sources except your classmates. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is when writers use other people’s words or ideas but do not give them credit. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy other people’s old papers. Do not submit the same paper to multiple courses. Do not copy or buy papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. Your ideas, your arguments, and the vast majority of your text must be your own. Students who cheat on a graded assignment will receive a "zero" score for it, and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

*Accommodations for Students with Disabilities*
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted.

*The Principles of Our Equitable Community:*
Lehigh University endorses The Principles of Our Equitable Community ([http://www4.lehigh.edu/diversity/principles](http://www4.lehigh.edu/diversity/principles)). We expect each member of this class to acknowledge and practice these Principles. Respect for each other and for differing viewpoints is a vital component of the learning environment inside and outside the classroom.
Part I

**Topic 1: Introduction (1/19)**


**Topic 2. Pre-1945 history (1/21, 1/26, 1/28, 2/2; showing movie *The Sand Pebbles*)**

Part II

**Topic 3. Lost chance and the Korean War (2/4, 2/9)**


**Topic 4: Geneva, Taiwan Strait Crises, and Vietnam War (2/11, 2/23)**


No Class on 2/16 & 2/18 (watch film *The Gate of Heavenly Peace*, on reserve at the Fairchild-Martindale Library)

2/25 review and discussion

3/2 exam

**Topic 5: Rapprochement, normalization, quasi-alignment in the 1980s (3/4, 3/16)**
Harry Harding, *A Fragile Relationship: The United States and China since 1972* (Brookings, 1992), chapters 2-5 (pp. 23-172) and Appendixes B, C, D

No class on 3/9, 3/11

**Part III**

Harding, *A Fragile Relationship* Chapter 7-8: pp. 215-296


**Topic 7: Clinton & Bush Jr. (3/25, 3/30)**


**Topic 8: Obama years (4/1, 4/6)**


**Part IV**

**Topic 9 Security and economic affairs (4/8, 4/13)**


**US Department of Defense, ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS: Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China 2013**

**4/15 review and discussion**

**4/20 exam**


**U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change**, November 12, 2014


**4/29 Final essay questions are handed out in class**

**5/4 Final essay due at 10am, both electronically and in hard copy in my office**