

HIS-373-01, Chimerica: The History of a Special Relationship

Fall 2012, MW, 2:15-4:05

Mears 217

Instructor: Matthew D. Johnson

Mears 318 (office hours: M, 4:15-5:05pm, T, 4:15-5:05pm, or by appointment)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will address the history behind China and America's tumultuous - and increasingly symbiotic - bilateral relationship by examining American/Chinese interactions over the course of the 20th century. After reviewing the rich historiography on international, economic, and intercultural contact between these two Pacific states, we will turn to mapping out a collaborative research agenda based on available resources at Grinnell and surrounding libraries and archives. Students will then write individual research papers focused on some aspect of U.S.-China relations, with an eye toward explaining how contemporary patterns have been anticipated by historical interaction. Our penultimate goals will thus include: 1) extensive drafting and re-writing of a substantive, paper-length work of original research, and 2) developing an understanding of U.S.-China relations which accounts for the multiple levels of exchange, meaning, and past precedent at work in shaping our global present.

OUR CASE STUDIES

Within the context of historical U.S.-China relations, we will focus in particular on patterns of cultural, social, educational, and intellectual exchange. These so-called "soft" aspects of international and transnational relations have shaped mutual perceptions as much as diplomatic, military, or economic interaction – perhaps moreso. At the same time, we will pay particular attention to how U.S.-driven globalization has been carried out with the support of both political and non-political (or extra-political) actors, and how conditions and actors in China both triggered, and responded to, these policies. Research conducted with these important themes in mind will shed new light on important dynamics which resulted in the "Westernization" of China *and* in the phenomenon of anti-imperialist nationalism which, arguably, remains one of the dominant trends in China's political culture today.

OBJECTIVES

This historical seminar presupposes familiarity with basic techniques of formulating a topic, assembling a bibliography, and articulating a question, or set of questions, which will be addressed in research paper form. Half of every week will be devoted to exploration and discussion of each step of the research process. By the end of the semester you will be well versed in the history of propaganda and related concepts, as well as contemporary debates concerning the use and abuse of political messages within a variety of contexts. Extensive consultation with the instructor, writing mentor, and other members of seminar will, ideally,

result in production of an original, and publishable, work of scholarship. In addition, this seminar seeks to help participants acquire knowledge and understanding concerning patterns of interaction between two countries which have occupied central roles in the history of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will not only master concrete facts about these interactions, but also develop explanations for why the past unfolded in the ways that it did.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The first half of the course incorporates brief lectures, extensive discussion, and collaborative analysis of secondary texts and primary documents. Preparation for class by completing the reading and any related assignments is essential. A significant component of your preparation for class will include working with the texts to formulate answers to the discussion questions, using evidence to support your conclusions. Each day you should bring to class: 1) a copy of the assigned reading for that day (typically one of the assigned monographs listed below), 2) a printed paper copy of the reading guide and discussion questions, and 3) your own notes (hand-written is acceptable, even encouraged) and answers to the questions posed to you. Your preparatory notes, and notes on our discussions, will provide the basis for much of your directly evaluated written work in this course. I cannot urge you strongly enough to put in regular work getting ready for each day's class – it will benefit your performance in all other areas of the course immensely.

All papers for this course must follow correct citation format using footnotes or endnotes in University of Chicago style. Consult your book for a guide. For more precise questions, you should consult *The University of Chicago Style Manual* (currently in its sixteenth edition), in Burling Library. If you use a Mac or a word processing program other than Microsoft Word, you should save your file in rich text format (.rtf). Extensions on written assignments for sickness or other emergency must be approved by the instructor in advance. Papers turned in late, without an approved extension, will not be accepted.

Grades will be assigned in the course according to the following formula:

- historiography paper 15%
- paper proposal 5%
- bibliography 5%
- research presentation 5%
- class participation 20%
- research paper 50%

Please come to class every day. Unexcused absences will, over time, begin to negatively affect your final grade for the course. Do not come to class more than five minutes late unless you have a very good reason. If you arrive more than five minutes late I may consider you absent from the day's class meeting. Students with a documented disability should contact me early in the semester to discuss learning needs and strategies for facilitating course engagement. Please also provide any necessary documentation to the Dean of Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern (sternjm@grinnell.edu). Students should also be aware of Grinnell's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism, it goes without saying, will not be tolerated in this course.

COURSE TEXTS

- Warren I. Cohen, *America's Response to China: A History of Sino-American Relations*, fourth edition (Columbia, 2000)
- Jürgen Osterhammel and Neils P. Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History* (Princeton, 2005 [2003])
- John King Fairbank, *The United States and China*, fourth edition, enlarged (Harvard, 1976)
- Zi Zhongyun, *No Exit: The Origin and Evolution of U.S. Policy toward China, 1945-1950* (Pacific Century Press, 2003)
- James Mann, *About Face: A History of America's Curious Relationship with China, from Nixon to Clinton*, with new afterword (Vintage, 2004)
- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History*, 2nd edition (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1998)

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week One: U.S.-China Relations in Historical and Contemporary Perspective

MONDAY, SEPT. 3: DEFINING "CHIMERICA"

Niall Ferguson, "What 'Chimerica' Hath Wrought," *The American Interest* (Jan/Feb 2009), <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=533>

Warren I. Cohen, *America's Response to China: A History of Sino-American Relations*, fourth edition (Columbia, 2000), pp. 1-147.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5: TURNING POINTS – A CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS?

G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 80, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 2008), pp. 23-37 [JSTOR].

Warren I. Cohen, *America's Response to China: A History of Sino-American Relations*, fourth edition (Columbia, 2000), pp. 148-292.

1. Historiographical Context – Globalization

Week Two: Globalization and Globalisms

MONDAY, SEPT. 10: GLOBALIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER

Jürgen Osterhammel and Neils P. Petersson, *Globalization: A Short History* (Princeton, 2005 [2003]).

A.G. Hopkins, "The History of Globalization – And the Globalization of History?" in A.G. Hopkins, ed., *Globalization in World History* (Pimlico, 2002), pp. 11-46.

Akira Iriye, *Global Community: The Role of International Organizations in the Making of the Contemporary World* (University of California, 2006), pp. 1-36.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12: CHINA'S INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND GLOBALIZATION

John King Fairbank, *The United States and China*, fourth edition, enlarged (Harvard, 1976), pp. 143-195.

Hans van de Ven, "The Onrush of Modern Globalization in China," in A.G. Hopkins, ed., *Globalization in World History* (Pimlico, 2002), pp. 167-193.

(Also recommended: J.K. Fairbank and S.Y. T'eng, "On the Ch'ing Tributary System," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (Jun. 1941), pp. 135-240 [JSTOR])

Week Three: Globalization Cont.

MONDAY, SEPT. 17: CONTEXTUALIZING CHINA'S "RESPONSE"

Robert B. Marks, *The Origins of the Modern World: A Global and Ecological Narrative from the Fifteenth to the Twenty-first Century*, second edition (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007), pp. 1-19, 95-154.

Alain Peyrefitte, *The Immobile Empire: The First Great Collision of East and West – The Astonishing History of Britain's Grand, Ill-Fated Expedition to Open China to Western Trade, 1792-1794* (Knopf, 1992 [1989]), pp. xxxix-xxxiii, 537-553.

DOCUMENTS: "The Reception of the First English Ambassador to China" (1792); Emperor Qianlong, "Letter to King George III" (1793).

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19: LOCATING SOURCES – THE CENTER FOR RESEARCH LIBRARIES, *FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES* SERIES, AND ONLINE ARCHIVES

WORKSHOP: "Moving from questions to sources and back again."

**DUE: Preliminary research prospectus detailing "theme of interest," 2-3 related research topics/questions, and related sources.

2. Historiographical Context – International Relations and Cultural Change

Week Four: Early Foundations of U.S-China Relations

MONDAY, SEPT. 24: SOVEREIGNTY AND INFORMAL EMPIRE

Fairbank, *The United States and China*, pp. 196-219, 307-335.

Joseph A. Fry, "From Open Door to World Systems: Economic Interpretations of Late Nineteenth Century American Foreign Relations," *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 65, No. 2 (May 1996), pp. 277-303 [JSTOR].

Paul W. Harris, "Cultural Imperialism and American Protestant Missionaries: Collaboration and Dependency in Mid-Nineteenth-Century China," *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 60, No. 3 (Aug. 1991), pp. 309-338 [JSTOR].

Teemu Ruskola, "Canton is Not Boston: The Invention of American Imperial Sovereignty," *American Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 3 (Sep. 2005), pp. 859-884 [JSTOR].

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 26: MEETINGS WITH BURLING LIBRARY ARCHIVISTS AND LIBRARIANS

Week Five: Educational and Cultural Diplomacy

MONDAY, OCT. 1: INTERNATIONALISM AND NATIONALISM

Fairbank, *The United States and China*, 220-304.

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism* (Oxford University Press, 2007), 177-196.

Mae Ngai, "The Architecture of Race in American Immigration Law: A Reexamination of the Immigration Act of 1924," *Journal of American History*, Vol. 86, No. 1 (June 1999), 67-92.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3: U.S. CULTURAL DIPLOMACY IN CHINA

Richard T. Arndt, *The First Resort of Kings: American Cultural Diplomacy in the Twentieth Century* (Potomac Books, 2005), 24-48.

Frank Ninkovich, "Cultural Relations and American China Policy, 1942-1945," *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (Aug. 1980), pp. 471-498 [JSTOR].

Frank Ninkovich, "The Rockefeller Foundation, China, and Cultural Change," *The Journal of American History*, Vol 70, No. 4 (Mar. 1984), 799-820.

3. Sources and Transnational Approaches

Week Six: "TWO SUNS IN THE HEAVENS"

MONDAY, OCT. 8: EARLY PATTERNS OF U.S.-CHINA COLD WAR RELATIONS

Fairbank, *The United States and China*, 338-357.

Zi Zhongyun, *No Exit: The Origin and Evolution of U.S. Policy Toward China, 1945-1950* (EastBridge, 2003), Preface & 1-125.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 10: "A NEW STAGE"

Zi Zhongyun, *No Exit*, 125-208, 237-264.

Week Seven: Cold War Networks

MONDAY, OCT. 15: WRITING WORKSHOPS.

**DUE: Paper proposals and preliminary bibliographies.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17: THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Fairbank, *The United States and China*, 358-390.

Zi Zhongyun, *No Exit*, 209-236, 265-292.

[Chen Jian, readings TBD.]

****FALL BREAK, Oct. 19-28****

Week Eight: Revisiting "Chimerica" – A New Open Door?

MONDAY, OCT. 29: "ABOUT FACE"

Fairbank, *The United States and China*, 417-494.

James Mann, *About Face: A History of America's Curious Relationship with China, from Nixon to Clinton* (Vintage, 2000 [1998]), 3-114.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31: WRITING WORKSHOPS (HISTORIOGRAPHY PAPER OUTLINES).

**FRIDAY, NOV. 2, 5:00 PM – Due: Historiography paper (5-7 pages).

4. Outlining and Organization

Week Nine: Formulating and Planning a Research Topic

MONDAY, NOV. 5: PRELIMINARY TOPIC AND QUESTION PRESENTATIONS.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7: INSTRUCTOR MEETINGS (ALL SEMINAR MEMBERS).

Week Ten: Working with Sources

**MONDAY, NOV. 12, 5:00 PM – Due: Outlines, revised bibliographies.

MONDAY, NOV. 12: NO MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14: TBD.

5. Answering Questions, Summarizing Findings

Week Eleven: Expanding the Bibliography

MONDAY, NOV. 19: NO MEETING.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21: INSTRUCTOR MEETINGS (BY APPOINTMENT).

Week Twelve: Honing the Argument

MONDAY, NOV. 26: INSTRUCTOR MEETINGS (BY APPOINTMENT).

**Due: Full bibliographies.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28: NO MEETING.

Week Thirteen: Contextualizing and Presenting Evidence

MONDAY, DEC. 3: PRESENTATIONS WORKSHOP.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5: NO MEETING.

**FRIDAY, Dec. 7, 5:00 PM – Due: Research paper first version.

Week Fourteen: Assessing Significance

MONDAY, DEC. 10 & WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS.

****EXAM WEEK, DEC. 17-21****

Revised research paper due by Friday, 5pm, 12/21/2012