

Departmental Seminar Congress and China

PLS 495

Fall 2007

Course Meetings:

M & W: 5:00-6:15 p.m. (Leutze Hall 111)

Instructor: Prof. Jungkun Seo (Dept. of Public and International Affairs, UNCW)

Office: Leutze Hall 272

Office Phone: (910) 962-2287

E-mail: seoj@uncw.edu

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 2:00-4:00 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to allow you for an opportunity to apply your basic understanding of political science to actual policy analysis. Furthermore, given the nature of the class size, you can expect an intense interaction with your instructor.

For fall 2007, I have particularly designed this departmental course to a study of Congress and China. Few countries will figure more prominently in America's politics in the future than China. China's rapid ascent is already a potent political issue on Capitol Hill and with fully two-thirds of Americans worried about the implications of China's rise for the United States, the debate in Congress is spilling over into the 2008 presidential campaign. Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have thrown down the gauntlet, demanding that Beijing slash its huge trade surpluses with the United States or face punitive duties on Chinese goods sold in America. Not to be outdone, Republican candidates are calling on China to spend less on the military and do more to promote stability and cooperation in East Asia. Next summer the Olympics may not be the only reason Americans are fixated on Beijing.

This is hardly the first time China has roiled America's politics. From the earliest campaigns against the importation of cheap Chinese labor after the Civil War, to the bruising battles in the 1950s over "who lost China" to communism, to the current debate over the outsourcing of American jobs to China, Democrats and Republicans have sought to exploit public sentiment toward China for partisan gain – sometimes at considerable cost to America's geopolitical interests. Often such election-year gambits have amounted to little more than China bashing. But hope as well as fear has shaped the politics of China in the United States. Political leaders can be just as quick to extol China's promise, especially its fabled market, as they are to fulminate about China's policies and behavior. When it comes to China, the politics of "oversell" in the United States defies easy categorization.

So, in a nutshell, specific topics for your research might be one of the followings; immigration policy during the 1880s, containment policy during the 1940s-50s, and trade policy during the 1990s. Or, you can pick up your own research topic, but you need to get the consent from your instructor first.

What you are encouraged to do throughout the semester is as follows:

- 1) Do literature review to understand how political scientists understand the role of Congress in making China policy over time.
- 2) Pick up your own research question.
- 3) Propose your research design including making research question, explaining relevance of your research, building your theory to solve the puzzle, and providing the evidence for your theory.
- 4) Finally, building on literature review and research design, write a research paper on the topic you selected.

COURSE READING

Andrew Gyory, 1998. *Closing the Gate: Race, Politics, and the Chinese Exclusion Act* (University of North Carolina Press)

Thomas J. Christensen. 1996. *Useful Adversaries: Grand Strategy, Domestic Mobilization, and Sino-American Conflict, 1947-1958* (Princeton University Press)

James Mann, 2007. *The China Fantasy: How Our Leaders Explain Away Chinese Repression* (Viking Adult)

REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Report of Literature Review (Due September 26th): 20 %
- 2) Research Design (Due October 31st): 30 %
- 3) Research Paper (Due December 14th): 50%

* Letter grades will be assigned according to the following point totals:

A=92.5 or more	A-=89.5-92.49	
B+=87.5-89.49	B=82.5-87.49	B-=79.5-82.49
C+=77.5-79.49	C=72.5-77.49	C-=69.5-72.49
D+=67.5-69.49	D=62.5-67.49	D-=59.5-62.49
F= less than 59.5		

INCOMPLETE

A grade of incomplete (“I”) will be given if unforeseeable circumstances keep you from completing the course requirements within the normal semester. Under these circumstances you submit the missing assignments during the subsequent semester (not revisions of previously graded work).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the *University of North Carolina Bulletin* and the *Student Handbook*. Violations of these rules in any assignment may be subject to a minimum penalty of failing grade for the assignment and could result in a grade of “F” for the course.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Disability Services; and, (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. The contact number is 910-962-7555.