

## Seminar on China-US Relations

Instructor: Fan, Shiming  
Associate Professor, SIS, Peking University

### Course Textbooks/Required Reading

Warren I. Cohen: *America's Response to China*  
Ezra Vogel: *Living with China*  
Suisheng Zhao: *China-U.S. Relations Transformed*

### Course Overview and Objectives

Seminar on China-US Relations explores the relationship between China and the United States from its beginning to the present. It will discuss historical legacies under both domestic context and international background, as well as contemporary issues of Sino-American relations. It encourages participants to think about what were/are the shaping forces of China-US relationship? Where are the common and diverging interests of the two countries presently? And how a stable and mutually benefited bilateral interaction could be gained in the future? Students are expected to understand the origin and the complexity of China-US relations.

### Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Consistent attendance and class participation, 10%
2. Mid-term essay, 20%
3. A term paper of no less than 15 pages (double spaced) , 40%
4. Final Exam, 30%

### Assignments and Reading Schedule

#### **Week one: China and the United States: A Comparison and an Introduction**

Reading assignment: (1) CIA Fact Book: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>  
(2) John K. Fairbank: *The United States and China*, Chapter 1-5

#### **Week two: A Special Relationship? An overview of pre-modern China-US interaction**

Reading assignment: (1) Warren Cohen: *America's Response to China*, pp1-54  
(2) Michael Hunt: *The Making of a Special Relationship*, pp299-313

#### **Week three: Idealism and Pragmatism: America and Chinese Nationalism**

Reading assignment: (1) *Response*, chapter 4, pp82-104

#### **Week four : The United States and Communist takeover of China**

Reading assignment: (1) *Response*, chapter 6, pp135-176  
(2) Tsou Tang: *American Failure in China*

#### **Week five : Mid-term Essay Session: Why the United State lost China?**

#### **Week six : China and the US in the Cold War**

Reading assignment: (1) Warren Cohen, *Response*, Chapter 6, 7, and 8;

#### **Week seven: Defining post Cold War China-US Relations**

Reading assignment: Vogel, *Living with China*, pp17-52  
Robert Ross: *After the Cold War*, pp3-39  
Suisheng Zhao: *China-US Relations Transformed*, pp1-19

**Week eight: The Taiwan Problem in Sino-US Relations**

- Reading assignment: (1) Vogel, *Living with China*, chapter 1  
(2) Alan D. Romberg: Rein In at the Brink of the Precipice

**Week nine: Human rights in Sino-US relations**

- Reading assignment: (1) Vogel, *Living with China*, chapter 5;  
(2) China's white paper on human rights in China;  
<http://www.china.org.cn/e-white/index.htm>  
(3) report to US Congress on Human rights in China;  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2004/41640.htm>  
(4) Zi Zhongyun, "The Clash of Ideas: Ideology and Sino-US Relations," in  
Suisheng Zhao, *Chinese Foreign Policy: Pragmatism and Strategic Behavior*

**Week ten: Economic Relationship: who wins and who losses?**

- Reading assignment: (1) Suisheng Zhao: *China-US Relations Transformed*, chapter 7 and 12  
(2) Vogel, *Living with China*, chapter, 4 and 6;  
(3) <http://www.uschina.org/> ;  
(4) [http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east\\_asia\\_pacific/china/china\\_trade.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/eap/east_asia_pacific/china/china_trade.html)

**Week eleven: Security and Strategic Issues in Sino-US Relations**

- Reading assignment: (1) Vogel, *Living with China*, chapter 2  
(2) Suisneg Zhao: *China-US Relations Transformed*, chapter 5, 6 and 12  
(3) China's National Defense in 2010,  
<http://www.china.org.cn/e-white/index.htm>

**Week Twelve: Final exam**