

## The U.S.-China Relationship



The U.S.-China relationship has been marked by misperceptions, unfulfilled expectations and a high degree of emotionalism. This mix has produced dramatic swings in the way these nations have viewed and treated each other. Friendship has alternated with hostility, with resultant major and at time disastrous consequences for both peoples. China's increasing economic and political weight forecasts a more active and assertive Chinese role on the international scene. How China and the United States relate to each other under these changing circumstances will have a great bearing on the fate of both nations and on the global order.

The course will examine the interaction between China and America from the inception in the late 18th century to the present, with greater emphasis on more recent events. It will not dwell on description: the focus will be on discerning the underlying and persisting factors which have made Sino-U.S. relations so special and difficult. Though issues will be viewed largely through the eyes of American witnesses and commentators, a Chinese perspective will also be provided.

As you will quickly discover, the reading requirements are daunting. Your burden will be eased to some extent by the straightforward and stimulating nature of the selections.

### **Grading:**

Mid-Term Essay outlining proposed term research	20%
Final Paper	40%
Daily attendance, participation, assignments	40%

<h3><b>Reading Assignments</b></h3>
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## **The U.S. and China**

Tues Apr 2	<b>Introduction</b> A brief overview of the course....where we will go, how we will approach the issues.
Thur Apr 4	<b>China's Early Encounters with the West</b>  Thomson, <i>Sentimental Imperialists</i> , prologue and chs. 1-3 ("East Asia in the American Mind", "East Asia as it Really Was", and "Commerce and Investment: The China Market")  *Zheng, ch. 2 (pp 39-69)
Tues Apr 9	<b>America's Growing Involvement: Missionaries, Open Door, Manifest Destiny, and Immigration</b>  Thomson, <i>Sentimental Imperialists</i> , ch. 4, 6, 7 & 9 Hunt, <i>Making of a Special Relationship</i> , pp. 24-40, 81-114
Thur Apr 11	<b>Rise of Chinese Nationalism</b>  *Zheng, <i>Never Forget National Humiliation</i> , ch 3 (pp 71-84)  Thomson, <i>Sentimental Imperialists</i> , chs. 11-13 Cohen, <i>America's Response to China</i> , ch. 3-4

- Tues Apr 16      **Japanese Expansionism and the War in the Pacific**  
 Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 16  
 Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 5  
 White, *In Search of History*, pp 66-101
- Thur Apr 18      **Chinese Civil War and the Recognition Controversy**  
 Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 16  
 Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch.6  
*U.S. Relations with China*, pp 901-904, 917-919, 923-938
- Tues Apr 23      **Decades of Tension and Deadlock: The Korean War, McCarthyism and PRC Radicalism**  
 Thomson, *Sentimental Imperialists*, ch. 17  
 Cohen, *America's Response to China*, ch. 7  
 Kissinger, *On China*, pp. 113-147
- Thur Apr 25      **The Changing Scene**  
 Kissinger, *On China*, pp. 202-274
- Tue Apr 30      **The China-American Roller Coaster**  
 Kissinger, *On China*, pp. 377-439, 447-513  
 Zheng, *Never Forget National Humiliation*, pp. 165-176
- Thur May 2      **Where Do We Go from Here**  
 Shambaugh, ed., *Tangled Titans: The United States and China*, pp. 29-46, 103-122, 125-143, 181-205, 293-310, 389-407