

# POL380H1: Topics in International Politics – Global China

Summer 2024

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## Course Overview:

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, China's economy generated extraordinary rates of growth. By the early 2000s, this sustained economic development led China to a moment of global expansion that has had significant implications for international politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Nowhere has the material and political imprint of a globalized China been as profound as in the global south.

This seminar will introduce students to contemporary topics and issues in the realm of “global China”. The aim of this course is to map China's global footprint in various economic and political arenas, and guide students as they develop a toolkit of analytical skills for further studies in international politics, comparative politics, development studies, and Chinese politics. The course will begin with a selection of articles that focus on methodological and theoretical approaches to studying global China. The selection of books, articles, and other readings we will explore in this course offer multiple perspectives on diverse topics in the study of global China, and our seminar discussions will focus on highlighting tensions and synergies between the course readings.

## Requirements:

### **1. Participation (20%)**

Students are expected to come to class having completed the weekly readings and be prepared to participate in discussion. Students are expected to ask questions of the instructor, weekly seminar leaders, and classmates. Active participation will require students be sufficiently familiar with the course readings to think on their feet, and students should use seminars as an opportunity to draw links between ideas or concepts from other weekly readings, weekly podcasts, and topics raised by others in the class.

### **2. Seminar Leader (10%)**

At the beginning of the course, students will sign up to be a seminar leader. Each week, we will have 2-3 seminar leaders who will work together to set the stage of our weekly discussion. Seminar leaders will be tasked with getting the ball rolling, and should introduce substantive questions based on the readings, (i.e., questions that bring us beyond factual understanding of the weekly readings). The goal of seminar leaders is to introduce nuanced and complex questions that will guide our conversation.

### **3. Reflection Papers (30%)**

Each student will be required to write two brief reflection papers on weekly readings of their choosing (each worth 15% of student's final grade, no more than 450 words each). The reflections should not simply be a summary of the weekly readings but should demonstrate critical and

analytical engagement with the course material. Where possible, students should build connections between their readings and discussions, as well as draw links to concepts introduced in previous classes throughout the semester. The use of outside sources for reflection papers is neither required, nor encouraged. (Due 10:00am on the day of the corresponding class).

#### **4. Podcast (10%)**

Each student will upload one podcast to the Quercus course page during a week of their choosing. The podcast should be no more than 5-minutes in length and should offer a deep dive into a story in the news relating to Chinese relations with the global South (the story does not need to relate to the weekly discussion topic). The purpose of the podcast is to keep an inhouse forum of weekly events relating to Chinese relations across the low and middle-income world. The central focus of student's podcast should be to bring us up to speed on current events relating to China and the global South, and the podcast should synthesize reporting from multiple news sources. Where possible, students should draw on non-Western news sources such as All Africa, The East African, Al Jazeera, The Asia Times, or other sources of their choosing. Students are required to submit a reference list along with the podcast and should cite at least four different sources covering the story. While the purpose of the podcast is ultimately to share evolving news issues to the class, students are encouraged to offer some original analytical content of the issue they are reporting on in their podcast. (Due 10:00am on the day of the corresponding class)

#### **5. Final Essay (30%)**

The final evaluation for this course will be an essay of approximately 2000 words. The essay prompt will be shared with students on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and due the final day of class – June 17th. Students will be offered two options in the prompt: i) respond to a specific question based on course readings; or ii) explore a new topic in global China, while relating it to course readings. Success on the final essay will require that students have a strong working knowledge of the weekly readings in order to produce quality work on a short timeline.

**Assignment scheduling and due dates:** Students must submit at least one of their reflection papers by May 30th. Students will also receive half of their participation grade by May 30th. In addition, at least one of the following assignments must be submitted by May 30th: podcast, seminar leader.

**Handing in Assignments:** Students must submit their reflection papers in PDF format through Quercus. Final essay will only be accepted in hard copy to me.

**Late Policy:** A penalty of 10% per day will apply for late assignments.

**Plagiarism:** Don't do it. Here's how not to: [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

**Office Hours:** By Appointment.

## Reading Schedule

*\*All readings are available through the UofT library, or publicly available online. Where full books are listed below, students will be given specific excerpts to read and prepare for class. Please also note, small adjustments to specific readings may be made throughout the course – you will be given notice well in advance of any changes.*

### **Week 1: (May 6<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>)**

**1: Introduction, greetings, and discussion of course.**

**2: Perspectives, challenges, and approaches to the study of *Global China***

Ching Kwan Lee, “Global China at 20: Why, How and So What?,” *The China Quarterly* 250 (June 2022): 313–31.

Ivan Franceschini and Nicholas Loubere, “Global China as Method,” *Elements in Global China*, July 2022.

Deborah Brautigam, “A Critical Look at Chinese ‘Debt-Trap Diplomacy’: The Rise of a Meme,” *Area Development and Policy* 5, no. 1 (January 2, 2020): 1–14.

Anarkalee Perera and Matt Ferchen, “Why Unsustainable Chinese Infrastructure Deals Are a Two-Way Street,” *Carnegie-Tsinghua Center*.

### **Week 2:**

**3: Development Finance (May 13<sup>th</sup>)**

Min Ye, *The Belt Road and Beyond: State-Mobilized Globalization in China: 1998–2018*, 1st ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2020).

Diego Hernandez, “Are ‘New’ Donors Challenging World Bank Conditionality?,” *World Development* 96 (August 2017): 529–49.

Rebecca Ray, “A New Era in China’s Overseas Development Finance?,” (Boston University 2023), [https://www.bu.edu/gdp/files/2023/01/GCI\\_PB\\_017\\_CODF\\_EN\\_FIN.pdf](https://www.bu.edu/gdp/files/2023/01/GCI_PB_017_CODF_EN_FIN.pdf).

**4: China’s new multilateralism: Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative (May 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Mordechai Chaziza, “The Global Security Initiative: China’s New Security Architecture for the Gulf,” accessed September 1, 2023, <https://thediplomat.com/2023/05/the-global-security-initiative-chinas-new-security-architecture-for-the-gulf/>

Lunting Wu, “China’s Transition From the Belt and Road to the Global Development Initiative,” <https://thediplomat.com/2023/07/chinas-switch-from-the-belt-and-road-to-the-global-development-initiative/>

Andrea Ratiu, “How Beijing’s Newest Global Initiatives Seek to Remake the World Order,” *Atlantic Council*, June 21, 2023, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/how-beijings-newest-global-initiatives-seek-to-remake-the-world-order/>.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, “The Global Security Initiative Concept Paper,” [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230221\\_11028348.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/202302/t20230221_11028348.html).

David Arase, “China’s Global Security Initiative: Narratives, Origins and Implications,” in *Southeast Asian Affairs 2023*, ed. Thi Ha Hoang and Daljit Singh (ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute Singapore, 2023), 34–50.

**Week 3: No class May 20<sup>th</sup> for Victoria Day.**

### **5: Food and agriculture (May 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

Deborah Brautigam. *Will Africa Feed China?* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2015.

Irna Hofman and Peter Ho, “China’s ‘Developmental Outsourcing’: A Critical Examination of Chinese Global ‘Land Grabs’ Discourse,” *Journal of Peasant Studies* 39, no. 1 (2012): 1–48.

Juliet Lu, “Grounding Chinese Investment: Encounters between Chinese Capital and Local Land Politics in Laos,” *Globalizations* 18, no. 3 (2021): 422–40.

Isaac Lawther, “Why African Countries Are Interested in Building Agricultural Partnerships with China: Lessons from Rwanda and Uganda,” *Third World Quarterly* 38, no. 10 (October 3, 2017): 2312–29.

**Week 4:**

### **6: Critical minerals (May 27<sup>th</sup>)**

Ching Kwan Lee, *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor, and Foreign Investment in Africa* (Chicago ; London: The University of Chicago Press, 2017).

Henry Sanderson, *Volt Rush: the Winners and Losers in the Race to Go Green*. London, England: Oneworld, 2022.

China Global South Project, “Interactive Map of the Copper and Cobalt Sector in the DRC,” 2023, <https://chinaglobalsouth.com/cobaltmap/en/>.

**7: Security and peacekeeping (May 29<sup>th</sup>)**

Courtney J. Fung, *China and Intervention at the UN Security Council: Reconciling Status*, 1st ed. (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Camilla T. N. Sørensen, “That Is Not Intervention; That Is Interference with Chinese Characteristics: New Concepts, Distinctions and Approaches Developing in the Chinese Debate and Foreign and Security Policy Practice,” *The China Quarterly* 239 (September 2019): 594–613.

Miwa Hirono, “China’s Conflict Mediation and the Durability of the Principle of Non-Interference: The Case of Post-2014 Afghanistan,” *The China Quarterly* 239 (September 2019): 614–34.

**Week 5: Prompt for final essay distributed.****8: Surveillance (June 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

Josh Chin and Liza Lin. *Surveillance State : Inside China’s Quest to Launch a New Era of Social Control*. First edition. New York, New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2022.

Jonathan E Hillman and Maesea McCalpin, “Watching Huawei’s ‘Safe Cities,’” *Centre for Strategic and International Studies*, November 4, 2019

Sheena Chestnut Greitens, “Dealing with Demand for China’s Global Surveillance Exports,” *Brookings*, April 2020.

Huirong Chen and Sheena Chestnut Greitens, “Information Capacity and Social Order: The Local Politics of Information Integration in China,” *Governance*, April 2021.

**9: Technology (June 5<sup>th</sup>)**

Matthew S. Erie and Thomas Streinz, “The Beijing Effect: China’s ‘Digital Silk Road’ as Transnational Data Governance,” SSRN Scholarly Paper (Rochester, NY, February 3, 2022).

Henry Tugendhat, “Connection Issues: A Study on the Limitations of Knowledge Transfer in Huawei’s African Training Centres,” *Journal of Chinese Economic and Business Studies*, July 1, 2021, 1–27.

Henry Tugendhat and Julia Voo, “China’s Digital Silk Road in Africa and the Future of Internet Governance,” August 2021. *Working paper for China Africa Research Initiative, Johns Hopkins*

**Week 6:****11: Democratic Development (June 10<sup>th</sup>)**

Christopher Walker, “What Is ‘Sharp Power?’,” *Journal of Democracy* 29, no. 3 (2018): 9–23.

Xiaojun Li, “Does Conditionality Still Work? China’s Development Assistance and Democracy in Africa,” *Chinese Political Science Review* 2, no. 2 (June 2017): 201–20.

Michael Beckley and Hal Brands, “China’s Threat to Global Democracy,” *Journal of Democracy*.

Ann-Sofie Isaksson, “Chinese Aid and Local Ethnic Identification,” *International Organization* 74, no. 4 (2020): 833–52.

**10: The Media (June 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Joshua Kurlantzick, *Beijing’s Global Media Offensive: China’s Uneven Campaign to Influence Asia and the World* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Maria Repnikova, *Chinese Soft Power*, 1st ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

Emeka Umejei, *Chinese Media in Africa: Perception, Performance, and Paradox* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2020).

**Week 7:**

**12: Conclusions and discussion on the future of *Global China* (June 17<sup>th</sup>)**