



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
China's Domestic and Foreign Policies	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Konstantinas Andrijauskas	Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Vokiečių str. 10, LT-01130, Vilnius, tel. +370 52514130, e-mail: tspmi@tspmi.vu.lt
Other:	

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Optional

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Seminars	Autumn semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: English language proficiency (at least level B2 required)	Co-requisites (if relevant): None

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	140	32	108

Purpose of the course unit		
<p>The principal goal of this course unit is to introduce the politics of contemporary China from both domestic and foreign policy perspectives. The course examines three main topics: (1) China's contemporary political history focused on the period from the mid-19th century to the present day, (2) its various domestic political issues ranging from separatist challenges to matters of economic development, and (3) finally its foreign policy theory and practice which would confirm Beijing's status of the world's most clear-cut emerging superpower.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Would demonstrate knowledge about the main features of China's domestic and foreign policies: their key historical and intellectual sources, principal challenges, directions and implementation means	Problem-oriented lecturing and demonstration (multimedia), active study methods (group discussions), individual study, research methods (search for information)	Seminar discussions, examination, research paper
Would be able to critically assess the arguments for China as an emerging superpower and to identify its place in the current global economic and security configuration	Problem-oriented lecturing and demonstration (multimedia), active study methods (group discussions), individual study, research methods (search for information)	Seminar discussions, examination, research paper
Would be able to gather and systematically prepare information through individual efforts: find, evaluate and present data about the selected topic related to the course.	Research methods (search for information, literature analysis, preparation of the research paper), individual study	Research paper

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
1. Introduction	2						2	2	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 1
2. Imperial China's Domestic and Foreign Policies	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Rudolph & Szonyi, chs. 7 & 28
3. China's Political History from Empire to the People's Republic	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 2
4. China's Political History during the Maoist Era	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 3
5. China's Political History during the Reform Era	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 4
6. China's Governing Ideology	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 5
7. China's Political System	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 6
8. China's Economic Miracle and Political Economy	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 8; Rudolph & Szonyi, ch. 14
9. China's Regional Diversity and Special Administrative Regions	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 18
10. China's Autonomous Regions	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, chs. 16 & 17; Rudolph & Szonyi, chs. 4 & 25
11. The Politics of Taiwan	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Joseph, ch. 19; Rudolph & Szonyi, ch. 12
12. China's Foreign Policy Actors, Goals and Tools	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Shambaugh, chs. 5 & 15
13. China's Relations with East Asia	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Rudolph & Szonyi, ch. 8; Lanteigne, ch. 7; Shambaugh, ch. 13
14. China's Relations with the US and Europe	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Shambaugh, chs. 10 & 12
15. China's Relations with the developing world	1		1				2	4	Required reading: Shambaugh, chs. 11 & 14
Overview	2						2		
Research paper								30	
Examination								20	
Total	18		14				32	108	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
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Seminar participation and discussions	30%	during the semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - answer to the question - consistency of the argument - depth of analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attendance and participation during seminars – 20% • short mid-term examination – 10%
Research paper	30%	during the semester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - answer to the research question posed - consistency of the argument / structure of assignment - quality of literature / sources / data - depth of analysis - style of writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research paper form – up to 3000 words introduction to conclusion inclusive, based on at least ten academically valid sources, and answering a commonly agreed-upon research question relevant to the course
Final examination	40%	during the examination session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - answer to the question - consistency of the argument - demonstration of literature knowledge / quality of data - depth of analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examination form – in-class, closed-book, open-question

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Joseph, William A. (ed.)	2019	<i>Politics in China: An Introduction</i>	3 rd edition	Oxford University Press
Lanteigne, Mark	2020	<i>Chinese Foreign Policy: An Introduction</i>	4 th edition	Routledge
Rudolph, Jennifer and Michael Szonyi (eds.)	2018	<i>The China Questions: Critical Insights into a Rising Power</i>		Harvard University Press
Shambaugh, David (ed.)	2020	<i>China & the World</i>		Oxford University Press
Recommended reading				
Carrai, Maria Adele, Jennifer Rudolph and Michael Szonyi (eds.)	2022	<i>The China Questions 2: Critical Insights into US – China Relations</i>		Harvard University Press
Dillon, Michael	2021	<i>China in the Age of Xi Jinping</i>		Routledge
Gill, Bates	2022	<i>Daring to Struggle: China's Global Ambitions under Xi Jinping</i>		Oxford University Press
Lam, Willy Wo-Lap (ed.)	2018	<i>Routledge Handbook of the Chinese Communist Party</i>		Routledge
Mayer, Maximilian, Emilian Kavalski, Marina Rudyak and Xin Zhang (eds.)	2025	<i>Routledge Handbook on Global China</i>		Routledge

Nathan, Andrew J. and Andrew Scobell	2012	<i>China's Search for Security</i>		Columbia University Press
Ross, Robert S. and Jo Inge Bekkevold (eds.)	2016	<i>China in the Era of Xi Jinping: Domestic and Foreign Policy Challenges</i>		Georgetown University Press
Rudd, Kevin	2024	<i>On Xi Jinping: How Xi's Marxist Nationalism Is Shaping China and the World</i>		Oxford University Press
Shirk, Susan L.	2023	<i>Overreach: How China Derailed Its Peaceful Rise</i>		Oxford University Press
Sutter, Robert G.	2016	<i>Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War</i>	4 th edition	Rowman & Littlefield

NOTE: Including Open Educational Resources in the reading list is recommended