[Appendix G]

Course Syllabus

St. John’s University

Institute of Asian Studies

SYLLABUS

Contemporary China

ASC 1230
Department
Institute of Asian Studies

Course Name
Contemporary China

Course Number
ASC 1230

Course Description
An introduction to modern China from WWII to the present with special emphasis on the political, social and economic problems facing the divided Chinese Nation. A historical overview of contemporary China shall in parallel assess China’s role in East Asia and the world.

Credit
3 credits

Course Objectives
The course shall provide the student with a cogent but comprehensive overview of China’s history from the Pacific War to the present. The class shall trace the tragedy and dislocation resulting from the Japanese invasion and occupation and the ensuing civil war which brought about the division of China. The course shall trace the social/political/economic roots of the People’s Republic of China from 1949 to the contemporary era. Likewise the course will highlight the political and economic success story of the Republic of China on Taiwan.
Course Requirements/Grading

1. Exams
   There shall be two essay type exams, a Midterm and the Final Exam/Dates TBA.

   A properly researched and original paper shall count for 25% of the grade. The paper of 10-12 pages, must be neatly typed and foot-noted; the paper is due before the Thanksgiving Recess. Late presentations will suffer grade penalty. Plagiarism—frat, internet papers or purchased term papers may result in course failure. A critical Book Report of 5 pages on one of the volumes in the bibliography will be due in November. The Report must present a critique of your selection.

3. Class Participation
   Participation is encouraged and expected based on assigned readings and will count for 10% of the grade.

4. Final Grading Determination
   The Final Grade will be determined as follows:
   Midterm 25%
   Research Paper 25%, Book Report 10%
   Final Exam 30% and Class Participation 10%

Course Outline/Class: 15 weeks/45 class lecture hours. Supplementary assignments, required text reading, research preparation/90 hours.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Charm Offensive; How China's Soft Power is Transforming the World
by Joshua Kurlantzick
New Haven; Yale University Press, 2007

China: The Balance Sheet What the World Needs to Know About the Emerging Superpower
by C. Fred Bergsten

Selected readings from the China Quarterly and the Economist
Course Outline

Introduction
Presenting China on the eve of the Pacific War. The consolidation and success of Nationalist China between 1927-37 and through the invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and the road to war.


Triumph and Tragedy--China wins the war over Japan, 1945 but slides into civil war with the communists. The Republic of China, founding member of the United Nations in San Francisco.

Loss of the Mainland--Chiang Kai-shek withdraws to the island of Taiwan (Formosa). Mao’s communists establish the People’s Republic on 1 October 1949; China is formally divided.

The People’s Republic of China--Organization of the Communist Party and of the State. Profile of the early communist hierarchy --Mao Tse-tung, Chou En Lai, Lin Piao

The Economy of Communist China--Leaps and, Slips--the disaster of communes, the Great Leap Forward and the Famine

Thought Reform--Remolding the Mind, Smashing the Spirit--early reeducation campaigns and liquidation of enemies. The Hundred Flowers Movement.


The Nixon Visit/China tilts towards the U.S.--Sino/American relations--from 1972 to 1979

The Deng Xiaoping Era--The evolution of Economic reforms with the Communist Party at the helm.

Sino/American/Soviet triangular politics--A Cold War Chess Game
Washington plays the “China Card” against Moscow/Peking plays the “U.S. Card”


Tragedy at Tiananmen June 1989--Sino/American relations in the aftermath
PRC relations with the USA--From Nixon to Clinton to Bush.

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China's Birdcage Economy—Free to Prosper in the Political Cage

The Taiwan Factor--A prosperous and democratic China as a counterpoint to the PRC.

The Taiwan Straits Crisis--the PRC/ROC showdowns in 1996 and 2000.

Strait Talks--Cross Straits Relations, business trumps politics

PRC Policies--Post September 11, 2001--cooperation or confrontation?

Made in China—PRC Factory to the World?

Countdown to the 2008 Summer Olympics

China—From Comrade to Citizen—the October 2007 Communist Party Congress

The Path to Chinese Unity?
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Becker, Jasper. Hungry Ghosts Mao’s Secret Famine


Carpenter, Ted Galen. America’s Coming War with China: A Collision Course Over Taiwan.


Chao, Linda and Ramon Myers. The First Chinese Democracy: Political Life in the Republic of


Dorogi, Thomas Laszlo. Tainted Perceptions: Liberal Democracy and American Popular Images

Gilley, Bruce. China’s Democratic Future; How it will Happen and Where Will it Lead?

Goodman David and Gerald Segal, eds. China’s Rising Nationalism and Interdependence.


Gutmann, Ethan. Losing the New China—A Story of American Commerce. San Francisco:


