

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Taiwan

Course Title: Cross-Strait Relations between Mainland China and Taiwan: Theories and Practice

Course Code: TP/INTR 320

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: Political Science / International Relations, Asian Studies

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites/Requirements: None

Description

Historically, the fraught relationship between mainland China and Taiwan has been marked by a seemingly endless cycle of confrontation and competition. However, in recent years there has been a drastic change wherein both sides have been involved in more cooperative measures. What caused this change? What does it mean for the future of cross-Strait relations? To answer these questions, this class begins by covering major concepts in International Relations (IR) theory, providing students with a framework for analyzing topics dealing with cross-Strait relations. Secondly, in light of the changing nature of cross-Strait relations, the course also explores prominent contemporary issues confronting mainland China and Taiwan, including sovereignty, interdependence, identity, international status, military contingencies and U.S.-China-Taiwan relations. The course concludes by challenging students to apply the history and theory of the class to a project incorporating current aspects of life in Taiwan.

Objectives

- Understand the major concepts in IR theory and frameworks for analyzing cross-Strait issues.
- Trace the historical developments of cross-Strait relations
- Explore prominent issues confronting mainland China and Taiwan, including sovereignty, interdependence, identity, international status, military contingencies and U.S.-China-Taiwan relations.
- Apply this knowledge to create a substantive project on a current aspect of Taiwanese life/culture

Course Requirements

Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. This course is front-loaded during the first three weeks of the semester, with three class meetings per week. The remainder of the course includes lectures by subject matter experts that allow students to connect the impact of cross-Strait relations to aspects of life in Taiwan.

Approximately 30 pages of reading per class are assigned. Students are expected to arrive to class prepared and ready to participate. Students are assigned as lead discussants on selected reading materials. Students are required to submit a research paper. There is also an extended research

CET Syllabus of Record

project. The selection of the topics of the paper and the project both require the instructor's approval. Class participation and discussion are essential to the students' final grades.

Methods of Evaluation

Class Participation 10%

Active participation in discussion, preparedness for class

Assignments: 20%

Student presentations, leading discussion on assigned weeks

Term Paper: 40%

10-15 pages with endnotes and bibliography. This paper is due one week after the last class with the instructor.

Final Project: 30%

The ideal final project takes the material covered in the course as a starting point and applies it to the student's interest in an aspect of life in Taiwan. The project may use the term paper as a jumping off point, but it may not simply reuse material from it and must use original research/data. The project may consist of a research essay, multi-media project, or a performance. and must be pre-approved by the professor. This project is due at the end of the program.

Primary Texts

Amitav Acharya, *International Relations Theory and Cross-Strait Relations, Taiwan Security Research*

Yu-Shan Wu, "Theorizing on Relations across the Taiwan Straig: Nine Contending Approaches," *Journal of Contemporary China* 9:25 (November 2000), pp. 407-428.

Alexander L. George, *Bridging the Gap: Theory and Practice in Foreign Policy* (Washington, D.D.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1993), chapter. 1.

Scott L. Kastner, "IR Theory and the Relationship across the Taiwan Strait," in Jean-Mare F. Blanchard and Dennis V. Hickey, eds., *New Thinking about the Taiwan Issue: Theoretical Insights into its Origins, Dynamics and Prospects* (London and New York: Routledge, 2012), pp. 189-201.

Stephen M. Walt, *The Origins of Alliances* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1974), chapter 5.
Robert Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition* (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1977, 1989, 2002), chapter 1.

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), chapter 6.

CET Syllabus of Record

Rawi Abdelal et al., "Identity as a Variable," *Perspectives on Politics* 4:4 (December 2006), pp. 695-711.

Shiping Zheng, "Making Sense of the Conflict between Mainland China and Taiwan," in Vendulka Kubalkova, ed., *Foreign Policy in a Constructed World* (Armonk New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2001), chapter 8.

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* (New York: Penguin Books, 1966).

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clashes of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996), chapters 7, 9.

Yung Wei, "From Multi-System Nations to Linkage Communities: A New Conceptual Scheme for the Integration of Divided Nations," *Issues & Studies*, 33:10 (October 1997), pp. 1-19.

Gregory Henderson, Richard Ned Lebow and John G. Stoessinger, eds., *Divided Nations in a Divided World* (New York: David McKay, 1974).

John J. Metzler, *Divided Dynamism: the Diplomacy of Separated Nations, 2nd edition* (New York: University Press of America, 2014), chapters 7, 8.

Lowell Dittmer, "East Asia's Divided Nations: A Comparative Analysis," EAI Working Paper No. 162 (2014).

Stephen D. Krasner, *Sovereignty: Organized Hypocrisy* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1999), chapter 1.

Jacques deLisle, "Taiwan: Sovereignty and Participation in International Organizations," (July 2011), *Foreign Policy Research Institute E-Notes*.

Bruce Jacobs, "One China, diplomatic isolation and a separate Taiwan," in Edward Friedman ed., *China Rise, Taiwan's Dilemmas and International Peace* (New York: Routledge, 2006), pp. 85-109.

Nancy B. Tucker, "John Foster Dulles and the Taiwan Roots of the Two China Policy," in Richard H. Immerman, ed., *John Foster Dulles and the Diplomacy of the Cold War* (New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1990), pp. 235-262.

I Yuan, "Norm-centered Constructivism and Cross-Strait Relations," *Issues and Studies*, (September 2012), Vol. 48, No. 3, pp. 75-104.

Outline of Course Content

Time spent per topic: one class or less

CET Syllabus of Record

Topic 1 – Theories and Approaches (I): General Perspectives

Topic 2 – Theories and Approaches (II): International, Interaction and Domestic Dimensions

Topic 3 - Roots of Mainland China and Taiwan's Ideological Struggle

Topic 4 – Divided Nations and Separated States Models as Applied to Mainland China and Taiwan

Topic 5 – International Law and International Status: Past and Present

Topic 6 – ROC's Mainland China Policy

Topic 7 – PRC's Taiwan Policy

Topic 8 – Economic Integration

Topic 9 – Offense / Defense Postures

Topic 10 – US-China-Taiwan Triangle Relations

Topic 11 – An Alternative View on Political History: The Impact of Culture and Power on Changing National Identities

Topic 12 – Soft Power and Cultural Influences