Program: CET Taiwan
Course Code / Title: (TP/INTR 320) Cross-Strait Relations between Mainland China and Taiwan
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: International Relations / Political Science, 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 and culture

Course Requirements
Attendance requirements are outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Students are expected to come to class having completed all relevant class readings and to actively participate in class discussions.

Approximately 30 pages of reading per class are assigned. Students are assigned as lead discussants on selected reading materials. Students are required to submit a research paper. There is also an extended research 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.
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Grading
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*


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Outline of Course Content

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
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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