**Researching Chinese Foreign Policy**

**Fall 2017**

School of Foreign Service

Georgetown University

Room: TBA

Tuesdays, Thursdays, 3:30-4:45pm

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**Learning and Teaching Goals**

This course is intended to teach undergraduate students how to do research on Chinese foreign policy. Part of the class will focus on learning about the history and nature of Chinese foreign policy, with a particular emphasis on contemporary China. However, *the emphasis of the class is on exposing students to an array of research methods and problems, using Chinese foreign policy as a sample subject.* Students will learn techniques and methods that they can apply to other research in their time at Georgetown. They will also learn how to read research in a more sophisticated way.

This course is divided into four parts. The first section looking provides a historical overview of Chinese foreign policy from 1949 to the end of the Cold War. The second section will look at how to devise a research question, write a literature review, and construct arguments in the study of Chinese foreign policy. Section three combines an overview of the data available for studying Chinese foreign policy with methods. We will discuss the application of archival work and historical analysis, interviews, surveys, and content analysis to the study Chinese foreign policy. Section four will look at the state of research on contemporary China foreign policy to include Chinese economic policy, role in international institutions, patterns of use of force, military modernization, and trends in relations with Northeast Asia, Taiwan, the United States and the world. In the last week of lecture we will discuss best practices in writing a good academic paper, giving a solid presentation or writing for a policy audience.

Students will learn how to conceptualize, design, and execute an original research project on a policy-relevant topic. To this end, students will learn how to develop and employ suitable research methods; how to collect and use appropriate data; and ultimately, how to write a coherently argued research paper and give an effective presentation. In addition, students will learn to constructively critique and contribute to the work of others. The methods reviewed in this class are primarily qualitative, though some quantitative pieces are also assigned.

**Class 1: Introduction**

**Section I: chinese foreign policy: historical treatments**

**Class 2: China in the Post War Era**

**Class 3: Chinese Foreign Policy in the Cold War**

**Class 4 Chinese Foreign Policy after the Cold War**

**SECTION II: THE BASICS OF RESEARCH**

**Class 5: What is a research question? What are theories? What is a case study? How do we know what to study?**

**Class 6: How to Do a Literature Review**

**Class 7: Definitions and Why They Matter**

**Class 8. Short presentations of initial research questions.**

**SECTION THREE: DATA SOURCES**

**Class 9: Using Archives and Primary Sources**

**Class 10: Official and and Social Media**

**Class 11. Chinese Leadership Sources**

**Class 12. Understanding U.S. Government and Think Tank Sources**

**Class 13. Interviews and Survey Work**

**Research Design due to professor and research partners.**

**SECTION FOUR: APPLICATIONS TO CONTEMPORARY CHINA**

**Class 14: China in International Institutions**

**Class 15: Economics and Foreign Policy**

**Research Design due to professor and research partners.**

**Class 16: Chinese Use of Force**

**Class 17: Chinese Military Modernization**

**Research Critique due to professor and research partners ONE DAY BEFORE CLASS (October 30 at 5:00pm).**

**Class 18: Critiques**

**Class 19:** **U.S.-China Relations**

**Response to research critiques due to professor and research partners.**

**Class 20: Taiwan**

**Class 21: China in Northeast Asia**

**Class 22: China in the World**

**Class 23-27: Research Presentations (One)**