



Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Taiwan

Course Code / Title: (TP/INTR 320) Cross-Strait Relations between Taiwan and China

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

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

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

The relationship between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (PRC) has been marked by a seemingly endless cycle of confrontation, cooperation, and competition. In recent years, cross-strait tensions have risen to the point where the weight of public, political, and scholarly conversations has shifted again from peaceful to forced reunification. What caused these past and the latest changes? What do recent events mean for the future of cross-strait relations? To answer these questions and provide students with a framework for analyzing relations between Taiwan and the PRC, this class begins by covering major concepts in International Relations (IR) theory, including global IR theories that challenge traditional Western ones. Next, in light of the changing nature of cross-strait relations, the class explores prominent contemporary issues confronting Taiwan and China, including sovereignty, national identity, interdependence, international status, the role of Indigenous peoples, business ties, human rights, military contingencies, cultural exchange, and soft power, and the role of the United States and its allies. Field classes add to the diversity of voices and perspectives in the course. The class concludes by challenging students to apply the history and theory studied in a policy analysis project on their chosen topic.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- understand major concepts in IR theory and frameworks for analyzing cross-strait issues, including Chinese and other global, non-western approaches.
- trace the historical development of cross-strait relations.
- analyze prominent issues confronting Taiwan and the PRC, including China-Taiwan-U.S. relations.
- apply this knowledge to create a substantive policy analysis project on a current or historical aspect of the course topic.

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Course Requirements

- **Class Participation:** Active participation in the classroom is essential. Students are to read all assigned materials before each class session and come to class prepared to participate thoughtfully in discussions. Reading assignments average about 50-80 pages per class.

Class Participation Grading Rubric Template

	A – 90-100% Exemplary	B – 80-89% Proficient	C – 70-79% Developing	D – 60-69% Unacceptable	F – 0-59% Missing
Frequency of class participation	Actively contributes 2+ times per meeting	Actively contributes at least 1 time per meeting	Actively contributes at least half of the time during term	Actively contributes less than half of the time during term	Does not contribute
Quality of class participation*	Contribution is always thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, frequently interacting with peers	Contribution is mostly thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, usually interacting with peers	Contribution is somewhat thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, sometimes interacting with peers	Contribution is rarely thoughtful, accurate, and constructive, rarely interacting with peers	Does not contribute or interact with peers
Level of class preparation	Always fully prepared and on task	Mostly prepared and on task	Somewhat prepared and on task	Rarely prepared and on task	Consistently unprepared and not on task

* Contribution format can occur in different ways depending upon the course.

- **Presentation** in class on "Cross-Straits in the News." For this short presentation students select a recently reported cultural, historic, economic, or political news item connected to the course topic. Students briefly summarize what they read in the news or heard in a podcast, with the focus on analyzing and sharing what they think this news may mean for cross-strait relations or why it is important to understand this particular piece of the relationship.
- **Critical review essay** on a selected course reading. Students write one short book-review style paper of a class reading. This two- to three-page essay summarizes the thesis and main points of the selected reading, discusses how the author constructs its argument,

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- analyzes the evidence used to support it, and assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the work.
- **Midterm exam.** This essay exam is either in-class or a take-home paper and requires analysis of materials from class lectures, field classes, readings, and discussions.
 - **Policy Analysis Exercise (PAE).** The PAE is a case study that requires students to identify a problem or puzzle within the course topic of cross-strait relations, apply theoretical frameworks and specialized knowledge to analyze the problem and develop solutions to the problem. The result is a policy analysis report (about 2,000 words or 8 pages) focused on analysis and proposed solutions. A detailed case study guide is provided in class.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- 10% Presentation in class on "Cross-Straits in the News"
- 10% Critical review essay on a selected course reading
- 20% Class Participation
- 25% Midterm exam
- 35% Final Policy Analysis Exercise

Reading

- Acharya, Amitav. "From Heaven to Earth: 'Cultural Idealism' and 'Moral Realism' as Chinese Contributions to Global International Relations." In *Globalizing IR Theory: Critical Engagement*, edited by Yaqing Qin, 158-185. London and New York: Routledge (2020).
- Aggestam, Karin, Annika Bergman Rosamond, and Annica Kronsell. "Theorising Feminist Foreign Policy." *International Relations* 33, no. 1 (2019): 23-39.
- Bitzinger, Richard A. "Technonationalism and Emerging Technologies in Smaller States: Policy Report." RSIS Publications. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU Singapore, April 2022. https://www.rsis.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/PR220406_Technonationalism-and-Emerging-Technologies.pdf.
- Brysk, Alison. "Constructing Rights in Taiwan: The Feminist Factor, Democratization, and the Quest for Global Citizenship." *The Pacific Review* 34, no. 5 (2021): 838-870.
- Chang, Hsun. "Multiple Religious and National Identities: Mazu Pilgrimages across the Taiwan Strait after 1987." In *Religion and Nationalism in Chinese Societies*, edited by Cheng-tian Kuo, 373-96. Amsterdam University Press, 2017.
- Chang, Lung-chih. "Island of Memories: Postcolonial Historiography and Public Discourse in Contemporary Taiwan." *International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity* 2, no. 3 (2014): 229-244. <https://doi.org/10.18352/hcm.471>.

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- Chen, Dean P. "America's Liberal Culture, One China, and the Security of Taiwan." *American Journal of Chinese Studies* 22 (Sept. 2015): 209-233.
- Chen, Iting. "Reimagine Cross Strait Intimacy." In *Cold War Sex Work: The Sexual and Political Economy of Taiwan Cross-Strait Relations*. Ph.D. dissertation, Lingnan University, 2020.
- Chu, Marcus P. *China, Taiwan, and International Sporting Events: Face-Off in Cross-Strait Relations*. London: Routledge, 2023.
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- da Silva, Jorge Tavares, and Zélia Breda. "Tourism as an Agent of Peace and Reconciliation in Cross-Strait Relations." In *Role and Impact of Tourism in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation*, edited by Jorge Tavares da Silva, Zélia Breda, and Fabio Carbone, 136-147. Hershey, PA: IGI Global, 2021.
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- Figueira, Carla. "Indigenous Peoples as Non-State Diplomatic Actors in the Public/Cultural Diplomacy of Taiwan: A Case Study of Dispossessions: Performative Encounter(s) of Taiwanese Indigenous Contemporary Art." *International Journal of Taiwan Studies* 3, no. 1 (2020): 62-92.
- French, Howard W. "The Real Stakes of Taiwan." *Foreign Policy*, June 24, 2022.
- Gartner, Scott Sigmund, Chin-Hao Huang, Yitan Li, and Patrick James. "Taiwan in Historical Perspective." In *Identity in the Shadow of a Giant: How the Rise of China is Changing Taiwan*, 21-42. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press, 2021.
- Glaser, Charles L. "Washington Is Avoiding the Tough Questions on Taiwan and China: The Case for Reconsidering U.S. Commitments in East Asia." *Foreign Affairs*, April 28, 2021.

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- Lee, Jonghyuk. "Simulating a War Without Cost: The Implication of the Russo-Ukrainian War on the Cross-strait Relations in China." IDSS Paper No. 023/2022. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU Singapore (March 2022).
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- McIntyre, Sophie. "Soft Power and the Role of Art in the Development of Taiwan–Mainland China Relations. In *China in Australasia*, edited by James Beattie, Richard Bullen, and Maria Galikowski, 151-169. London: Routledge, 2019.
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- Zuo, Yana. "The U.S. Global Strategy and Its Taiwan Policy." *China Review* 18, no. 3 (Aug. 2018): 149-176.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – Taiwan's history

- Taiwan before the Maritime Age: The Indigenous Peoples
- Taiwan after the Maritime Age: Dutch, Spanish, and Han Chinese Settlers in the Late Ming (Koxinga)
- The Japanese Colonial Rule and the Republic of China on Taiwan: The Emergence of Taiwanese Identity?

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Topic 2 – Theories and Approaches

- Western Canonical Theories: Realism, Liberalism, Marxism, and Constructivism
- New and Alternative Global IR Theories and PRC Foreign Policy
- Global Interactions and Domestic Dimensions

Topic 3 – Roots of Taiwan and the PRC's Ideological Struggle

- Reunification: The Chinese Civil War and the KMT's Retreat
- The 228 Massacre and Its Historical Implications
- Sovereignty: The Chinese Revolution and Founding of the PRC

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

- The Cold War and Its Heritage
- The Historical Trajectories of the ROC's and PRC's Claims to the Exclusive Sovereignty of China

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

- The One China Principle and the Exclusion of Taiwan from International Organizations
- Taiwan's Isolation and Its Attempts at Paradiplomacy as a Response
- Soft Power and the Quest for Global Citizenship: Democracy, Feminism, and Marriage Equality in Taiwan

Topic 6 – ROC's China Policy

- The History of the ROC Government's One China Policy
- The Democratization of Taiwanese Politics and the Rise of Taiwanese Identity: Implications for Cross-strait Interactions

Topic 7 – PRC's Taiwan Policy

- The History of the PRC government's One China Policy
- The Role of the United States in Cross-strait Interactions
- Evaluating the Effectiveness of the PRC's Taiwan policy

Topic 8 – Economic Integration

- Understanding Cross-strait Economic Integration: Historical, Political and Economic Factors
- Taishang (Taiwanese Businesspeople) and China's Economic Development
- Weaponizing Trade? Recent Developments in China's Trade Policy towards Taiwan

Topic 9 – Soft Power and Cultural Influences as an Alternative View to Political History

- Soft Power and Cross-strait Politics
- Cross-strait Educational, Cultural, and Athletic Exchanges

Topic 10 – China-Taiwan-US Triangle Relations

- US Interpretations and Management of the One China Policy
- The PRC and the ROC's Perspectives on the US Involvement

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- The Rise of China as a Global Power: Implications for Cross-strait Relations

Topic 13 – The Future of Cross-Strait Relations