

China's Belt and Road and Its Impact in the Developing World

Department: Fudan International Summer Session

Course Code	SOCI170008		
Course Title	China's Belt and Road and Its Impact in the Developing World		
Credit	2	Credit Hours	36 credit hours + 3 tutorial hours (one credit hour is 45 minutes)
Course Nature	<input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Core Courses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Education Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Courses in General Discipline <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Courses <input type="checkbox"/> Others		
Course Objectives	<p>The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) proposed by Chinese government in 2013 has become an important pillar of China's domestic development strategy and its foreign policy. Through the BRI, China is reshaping its relationships throughout Asia and beyond as it engages politically, economically, diplomatically, and culturally with other developing countries and sub-regions. The BRI and its multi-faceted impact has invoked heated discussions, politicized debates and conflicted interpretations of China's motives. In this course, its prime goal is to provide a comprehensive and balanced picture of the BRI and China's growing influence in the developing world. It aims to facilitate students' understanding of the background, policy objectives, and implementation of the BRI. Through the course, we will engage with ongoing debates about China's rise and its international engagement in the developing world.</p>		
Course Description	<p>The course would introduce major motives of the BRI and its key components, and identify distinctive features regarding China's economic, political and cultural engagement in the developing countries. The BRI aims to promote connectivity in the fields of trade, infrastructure, currency through multi-layered collaboration among relevant countries and international organizations. The projects under the BRI are expected to connect the vibrant East Asia economic circle and other economic circles in the world. The BRI may help in consolidating China's status as the largest developing country and promoting South-South cooperation. The course would explain how the BRI is consequential in terms of affecting the development and regional cooperation models in Central Asia, the Middle East, South Asia and other related areas. In addition, students will be asked to make their own inquiries into examples and cases of China's enlarging footprints in the developing countries. Through the combination of lectures, readings, and case studies, the course may assist students to obtain a more informed and balanced understanding of China's changing role on the world stage and its significant impact to other countries in the 21st century. More importantly, the course would encourage students to critically think about the strengths and predicaments of an ascending China.</p>		
Course Requirements:			
<p>Students are required to keep up the readings and engage in active class discussions. Students who can read Chinese will have access to additional reading materials published in Chinese. Attendance is mandatory. Assignments include in-class discussion and presentation as well as a final open-book examination. Students are expected to make good use of academic research, and multi-media platforms</p>			

to deepen their understanding of selected topics related to China's BRI and its impact in the developing world.

Teaching Methods:

(e.g. Online live lectures, group discussion, etc.)

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the course will adopt the format of online live lectures. The course would also include intensive in-class discussions and interactions. Students would be encouraged to conduct some case studies and make presentations based on the peer-group discussions.

Instructor's Academic Background:

Dr. Minghao Zhao is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Studies, Fudan University. He is also Member of China National Committee, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP); Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Institute of International and Strategic Studies, Peking University; Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy, Tsinghua University. Prior to joining Fudan in 2019, he served as a senior fellow and deputy director for strategic studies at China Center for Contemporary World Studies, the in-house think tank of International Department of the CPC's Central Committee (IDCPC). His research focuses on China's foreign policy, Sino-US relations, and Asia-Pacific security. He is author of *Strategic Restraint: Is New-type Sino-US Relationship Possible* and *The Belt & Road Initiative and China's connectivity-oriented global diplomacy*. He has authored over 40 peer-reviewed scholarly articles and chapters in books. He has been awarded research grants from the National Social Sciences Fund of China, National Development and Reform Commission of China, China Development Research Foundation, the Sumitomo Foundation of Japan, and other institutions. His opinion pieces have been featured in *People's Daily*, *China Daily*, *New York Times*, *Project Syndicate*, *Nikkei Asian Review*, *The Diplomat* among other media outlets. He has contributed policy papers for Center for American Progress, US National Bureau of Asian Research, and Italian Institute of International Affairs among other research institutions. He has held visiting scholarships at research institutions in the United States, Italy, Japan, and Taiwan. He received a Ph.D. in International Relations, a MA in Diplomatic History, and a BA in Art Studies from Peking University. He also earned a LL.M in International Human Rights Law from a joint program by Lund University, Sweden and Peking University.

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Course Schedule:

This is a four-week summer course.

Week 1

An Introduction to the BRI

1.1 Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of

Commerce of the People's Republic of China with State Council authorization, March 2015

- 1.2 "At the Dawn of the Belt and Road: China in the Developing World", Rand Corporation, 2018.
- 1.3 Lionel Barber, "Globalization 2.0: An Optimistic Outlook," *Financial Times*, January 15, 2016.
- 1.3 Braz Baracuhy, "The New Geo-economics of Global Trade," *IJSS Voices*, September 13, 2013.
- 1.4 Dollar, David, "China's Rise as a Regional and Global Power." *Horizons* (Summer, No. 4): 162-172, 2015/ "Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs," Asian Development Bank, February 2017
- 1.5 Andrew Elek, "China Takes the Lead on Economic Integration," *East Asia Forum*, July 7, 2015.

Week 2

China in Developing Asia

- 2.1 Cheng, King and Jane Du, "Could 'Belt and Road' be the Last Step in China's Asian Economic Integration?" *Journal of Contemporary China* 27: 811-830, 2018
- 2.2 Tommy Koh, "21st Century Maritime Silk Road," *The Straits Times*, August 4, 2015.
- 2.3 Gurpreet S. Khurana, "Trump's New Cold War Alliance in Asia is Dangerous," *The Washington Post*, 14 November 2017
- 2.4 Chen, Xiangming, Pallavi Banerjee, Gaurav Toor, and Ned Downie, "China and South Asia: Contention and Cooperation Between Giant Neighbors." *The European Financial Review* (April): 10-16, 2014.
- 2.5 Ariella Viehe, "US and China Silk Road Visions: Collaboration not Competition," in "Exploring Avenues for China-US Cooperation on the Middle East," ed. Rudy deLeon and Yang Jiemin, Center for American Progress, July 2015.

Week 3

China in Africa

- 3.1 Huang, Zhengli and Xiangming Chen, "Is China Building Africa?" *The European Financial Review* (June/July): 41-47, 2016.
- 3.2 Deborah Brautigam, "Is China the World's Loan Shark?" *New York Times*, April 29, 2019; Deborah Brautigam, The Chinese 'Debt Trap' Is a Myth, *The Atlantic*, February 6, 2021
- 3.3 Tang, Xiaoyang, "8 Geese Flying to Ghana? A Case Study of the Impact of Chinese Investments on Africa's Manufacturing Sector." *Journal of Contemporary 4 China* 27: 924-941, 2018.
- 3.4 Chen, Yunnan, "Silk Road to the Sahel: African Ambitions in China's Belt and Road Initiative." *China-Africa Research Initiative Policy Brief*, No. 23, 2018.
- 3.5 "Dance of the Lions and Dragons: How are Africa and China Engaging, and How Will the Partnership Evolve?" McKinsey & Company, June 2017.

Week 4

China in Latin America and Middle East

4.1 Matt Ferchen, "The BRI in Latin America: New Wine in Old Bottle?" in Florian Schneider ed., *Global Perspectives on China's Belt and Road Initiative: Asserting Agency through Regional Connectivity*, Amsterdam University Press, 2021

4.2 Chen, Kayla and Xiangming Chen, "China and Latin America: Connected and Competing." *The European Financial Review*, 2013.

4.3 Michael Tanchum, "China's One Belt, One Road Reshapes MidEast," *The Jerusalem Post*, January 24, 2017.

4.4 Andrew Scobell and Alireza Nader, "China in the Middle East: A Wary Dragon," RAND Corporation, 2016.

4.5 Chen, Xiangming and Ivan Su, "A Different Global Power? Understanding China's Role in the Developing World." *The European Financial Review*, 2014.

Open-book examination is in the last class.

The design of class discussion or exercise, practice, experience and so on:

See above and below.

Grading & Evaluation:

The final open-book examination constitutes 65% of the overall grade, an oral presentation (20%) and individual performance in class discussions 10%, and the remaining 5% based on class attendance.

Teaching Materials & References:

Wang Jisi, "China's search for a grand strategy: A rising great power finds its way." *Foreign Affairs*, 2011

Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China with State Council authorization, March 2015

Third-Party Market Cooperation Guidelines and Cases, National Development and Reform Commission, China, August 2019

Rafiq Dossani, Jennifer Bouey, Keren Zhu, *Demystifying the Belt and Road Initiative: A Clarification of Its Key Features, Objectives and Impacts*, Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, 2020

Parag Khanna, *Connectography: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization*, Random House, 2016

Deborah Brautigam, *The dragon's gift: the real story of China in Africa*. Oxford University Press, 2011

Christopher K. Johnson, "President Xi Jinping's 'Belt and Road' Initiative," *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, 2016

Michael D Swaine, "Chinese views and commentary on the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative." *China Leadership Monitor* 47, no. 2, 2015

Tang Xiaoyang, "Co-evolutionary Pragmatism: Re-examine 'China Model' and Its Impact on Developing Countries." *Journal of Contemporary China* 29, no. 126, 2020

Selina Ho. "Infrastructure and Chinese power." *International Affairs* 96, no. 6, 2020

Deborah Brautigam, "A critical look at Chinese 'debt-trap diplomacy': The rise of a meme." *Area Development and Policy* 5, no. 1, 2020

Florian Schneider ed., *Global Perspectives on China's Belt and Road Initiative: Asserting Agency through Regional Connectivity*, Amsterdam University Press, 2021

"The Belt and Road Initiative: A New Means to Transformative Global Governance towards Sustainable Development," United Nations Development Programme and China Center for International Economic Exchanges, <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/china/docs/Publications/UNDP-CH-GGR%202017.pdf>

Gal Luft, "Silk Road 2.0: US Strategy toward China's Belt and Road Initiative," *Atlantic Council Strategy Paper*, No.11, The Atlantic Council, October 2017

"Western Firms are Coining It along China's One Belt, One Road," *The Economist*, August 3, 2017

Keith Bradsher, "US Firms Want in on China's Global 'One Belt, One Road' Spending," *New York Times*, May 14, 2017.

China's Belt and Road Initiative: Motives, Scope, and Challenges, PIIE Briefing 16-2, Peterson Institute for International Economics, March 2016

Richard Bluhm, Axel Dreher, Andreas Fuchs, Bradley Parks, Austin Strange, and Michael Tierney, "Connective Financing: Chinese Infrastructure Projects and the Diffusion of Economic Activity in Developing Countries," *AidData*, September 11, 2018