

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

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2024

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

Teaching Methods:

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.

Instructor's Academic Background:

Fanglu Sun is an assistant professor in the School of International Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. Before this employment in 2021, she taught in the School of International Relations & Public Affairs, Fudan University. She received her PhD from Rice University. Her research broadly focuses on the process and dynamics of international conflict, China's role in global security, and Chinese foreign policy. In her research, she applies quantitative analysis, spatial statistics, and formal modelling. Her work has been published as policy reports and peer-reviewed articles on Chinese Journal of International Politics, Chinese Political Science Review, International Journal, S+F Sicherheit und Frieden Security and Peace, OrizzonteCina Quarterly, etc. She is currently completing a book manuscript on data mining and analysis in political science.

Course Schedule:

This is a four-week summer course. Classes meet three times a week for three credit hours each.

Part 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 Joint Communiqués of the Leaders Roundtable of the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, May 2017, April 2019, July 2023.
- 1.3 Andrew Scobel, et al, *At the Dawn of the Belt and Road: China in the Developing World*, Rand Corporation, 2018, Ch.2
- 1.4 Meia Nouwens, *China's BRI A Decade on*. Asia-Pacific Regional Security Assessment, 2023. Available at:
<https://www.iiss.org/en/publications/strategic-dossiers/asia-pacific-regional-security-assessment-2023/aprsa-chapter-4/>
- 1.5 Get yourself familiar with the Belt and Road Portal - BRI Official Website. Available at

Part 2 China in 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 Gurpreet S. Khurana, "Trump's New Cold War Alliance in Asia is Dangerous," *The Washington Post*, 14

November 2017

2.3 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.

2.4 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 Jiemian, Center for American Progress, July 2015.

2.5 "Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs," Asian Development Bank, February 2017. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/publications/asia-infrastructure-needs>

Part 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 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.

3.4 "Dance of the Lions and Dragons: How are Africa and China Engaging, and How Will the Partnership Evolve?" McKinsey & Company, June 2017.

3.5 Paul Nantulya, Implications for Africa from China's One Belt One Road Strategy. *Africa Center for Strategic Studies*. March 22, 2019. Available at:

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/implications-for-africa-china-one-belt-one-road-strategy/>

Part 4 China in Latin America

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

4.4 China's Growing Influence in Latin America, CFR Report, June, 2023. Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/china-influence-latin-america-argentina-brazil-venezuela-security-energy-bri>

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4.5. Pepe Zhang. BRI in Latin America: A Game Changer. October 2019. Atlantic Council. Available at: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/issue-brief/belt-and-road-in-latin-america-a-regional-game-changer/>

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:

Students' performance and final grade for the course will be evaluated as follows:

Attendance	5%
Presentation	20%
Individual performance in class discussions	10%
Final open-book examination	65%

Teaching Materials & References:

Jisi Wang, "China's Search for a Grand strategy: A Rising Great Power Finds Its Way." *Foreign Affairs*, 2011

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

Michael 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

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

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

Simeon Djankov, Sean Miner, ed., *China's Belt and Road Initiative: Motives, Scope, and Challenges*, PII 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

Martin Weiss, *Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank*, Congressional Research Service Report, March 2017. Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44754/6>

Andrew Scobel, et al, *At the Dawn of the Belt and Road: China in the Developing World*, Rand Corporation, 2018

Alessia Amighini ed, *China's Belt and Road: A Game Changer*, ISPI, 2017

David Shambaugh. *China Goes Global*, Oxford University Press, 2013