

China, the Third World and the Cold War

Department: Fudan International Summer Session 2026

Course Code	GEIS10008						
Course Title	China, the Third World and the Cold War						
Credit	2	Experiment (including Computer) Credit		Practice Credit		Aesthetic Education Credit	
Credit Hours Per Week	9 credit hours per week, 36+3 tutorial hours in total (one credit hour is 45 minutes)	Education on The Hard- Working Spirit Credit Hours		Language of Instruction	Engli sh	Honors Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Course Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Core General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Specific General Education Course <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Course in General Discipline <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others			2+X Major :			
				<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Core Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Advanced Course Non 2+X Major : <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Compulsory Course <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Elective Course			
Course Objectives	<p>This course introduces students to the basic knowledge and understanding of the People's Republic of China's foreign relations with Asia, Africa and Latin America during the Cold War. After completing the course students are expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Know and comprehend the most significant ideas and events in the Cold War in the Third World; 2. Understand the framework in which the People's Republic of China has interacted with the Third World throughout the 1950s until 1991; 3. Detailed knowledge of the histories of selected bilateral relations after assignment; 4. A way to approach contemporary issues in Chinese politics, society and culture through a historical lens; 5. Experience in interpreting sources, engaging in historical debates, delivering analytical arguments both orally and in written form. 						

<p>Course Description</p>	<p>This course will examine the foreign relations between the People’s Republic of China’s and the Third World during the Cold War. Asia, Africa and Latin America were pivotal in the global struggle for influence between the United States, the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China. Moreover, the competition between capitalism and communism in the Third World contributed to the evolution of many of the states, ideologies and movements that shape international politics today. The course will place a particular emphasis on the following topics: China’s position in the Cold War, the role of ideology, decolonization and the response of the Cold War powers, and the political economy of the Third World during the Cold War. We will look at several of the most prominent examples of each of these phenomena.</p> <p>Although this course is global in its scope, it of course cannot cover all aspects of the topic. The particular emphasis will be placed on Sino-African relations and less so on Latin America.</p> <p>The format of the course is, for the most part, a discussion-based seminar. It will introduce students to historical research and writing methods. It will also give them the opportunity to think creatively through writing their own policy memoranda. Students should come away from this course with a greater understanding of a region of the world that will become increasingly important over the course of the twenty-first century.</p>
<p>Course Requirements:</p> <p>Prerequisites: There is no requirement for pre-requisite courses, but students are expected to familiarise themselves with the essential reading materials listed below. Assessment of this course is composed of the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attendance: 10% <p>Participation in discussion is absolutely critical to this class and will have a very significant impact on the final grade. Students should come prepared for each class by doing the assigned readings before class. Students should bring all primary source documents listed in the reading to class either in either paper or electronic form. Effective participation means not only attendance in class, however, but also willingness to contribute to class discussion and exchange ideas with fellow students.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Seminar participation: 30% <p>For individual group-led discussion, it shall be consisted of two sessions: the first session shall be formal presentation; the second session is student activity based – the responsible group shall be in touch with the TA to decide the format of the discussion, e.g. focus question discussion, role play, debate etc. The responsible group shall lead the activities of ALL students. The following criteria is to be considered: a) structure; b) content; c) delivery; d) organisation and innovation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Assignment (3 * 4 pages): 60% <p>Every four classes, each student will write a four-page policy memorandum based on the readings. In writing the memorandums students will attempt to take on the roles of critical historical actors in the</p>	

developments described in the readings. The memoranda should be to the point and cogently argued. They should make the case for pursuing a particular kind of policy by carefully analysing the assigned readings and the available primary source texts. Successful memoranda will demonstrate a thorough mastery of the readings and the issues involved and explain why particular choices need to be made. All of the memoranda topics can be found under the individual class sessions below.

Teaching Methods:

45m lecture and 90m seminar discussion (including student-led discussion)

Course Director's Academic Background:

Dr Jodie Yuzhou Sun is Associate Professor in Modern African and Global History at the Department of History, Fudan University, China. She is also a Non-resident Research Fellow of Fudan Development Institute and Research Fellow of the International Studies Group, University of the Free State, South Africa. She holds an MSc in African Studies and a DPhil in History from the University of Oxford. Her research interests are modern African history, Cold War history and China-Africa relations. She is the author of [*Kenya's and Zambia's Relations with China 1949-2019*](#) (James Currey, 2023) a finalist for the African Studies Association's 2024 Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize. She has published in *Cold War History*, *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, *Journal of Southern African Studies*, and *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. She is an elected Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and an Executive Board member of the Chinese in Africa/Africans in China Research Network. Between 2023-24, she is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for African Studies, Stanford University.

Besides Fudan, she has previously taught in the University Oxford and Stanford University. In 2024, China, the course 'Third World and the Cold War' has been awarded the Municipal First-Class Undergraduate Programs in Shanghai Universities.

Instructor's Academic Background:

Same above.

Members of Teaching Team

Name	Gender	Professional Title	Department	Responsibility

Course Schedule (Please supply the details about each lesson):

Lecture 1: China's Revolution Meets the Cold War Order: Origins and Ideas (1949–50)

Readings

- * Westad, Odd Arne. "The New International History of the Cold War." *Diplomatic History* 24 (2000): 551–65.
- * Chen, Jian. *Mao's China and the Cold War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001. 1–48.
- Engerman, David. "Ideology and the Origins of the Cold War, 1917–1962." In *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, Vol. 1, edited by Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad, 20–43. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Rofel, Lisa, and Claudia Rojas, eds. *New World Orderings: China and the Global South*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2022. Introduction, 1–20.

Primary Sources

- Mao Zedong, "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship" (1949).
- Wilson Center Digital Archive (Chinese Foreign Policy Database).

Lecture 2: The Korean War and China's Entry into Hot War (1950–53)

Readings

- * Chen, Jian. *Mao's China and the Cold War*. 85–117.
- * Stueck, William. "The Korean War." In *The Cambridge History of the Cold War*, Vol. 1, edited by Melvyn P. Leffler and Odd Arne Westad, 266–87. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Shen, Zhihua, and Yafeng Xia. *A Misunderstood Friendship: Mao Zedong, Kim Il-sung, and Sino–North Korean Relations, 1949–1976*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018. Chapter II.
- Phillips, Matthew, and Naoko Shimazu, eds. *Cold War Asia: A Visual History of Global Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Primary Sources

- North Korean poster collections (visual primary sources).
- Wilson Center Digital Archive (Korea War-era PRC/NK/USSR documents).

Lecture 3: Bandung to Belgrade: Afro-Asianism Worldmaking and Non-Alignment (1955–61)

Readings

- * Westad, Odd Arne. *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. 97–109.
- * Lawrence, Mark Atwood. "The Rise and Fall of Non-Alignment." In *The Cold War in the Third World*, edited by Robert J. McMahon, 139–155. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- * Prashad, Vijay. *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*. New York: The New Press, 2008. 31–51.
- Čavoški, Jovan. *Non-Aligned Movement Summits: A History*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2024.

Primary Sources

- Afro-Asian Networks (as a curated gateway for decolonization-era materials).
- Bandung communiqués / speeches (Zhou Enlai, Nehru, Sukarno) via Wilson Center Digital Archive or major national archives.

Lecture 4: Doing Cold War History: Archives, Methods, and Evidence

Starter set

- Shanghai Municipal Archives collections (on PRC foreign affairs / local hosting of delegations, etc., depending on what's available).
- Wilson Center Digital Archive + Adam Matthew (as scalable document repositories).

Lecture 5: From Alliance to Split: Sino-Soviet Relations and Third World Competition (1949-63)

Readings

- * Chen, Jian. *Mao's China and the Cold War*. 49–84.
- * Friedman, Jeremy. *Shadow Cold War: The Sino-Soviet Competition for the Third World*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015. 25–59.
- * Lüthi, Lorenz M. *The Sino-Soviet Split: Cold War in the Communist World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.
- Rofel and Rojas, eds., *New World Orderings*. Chapter 2, 40–54.

Primary Sources

- Sino-Soviet split documents (party-to-party correspondence, memoranda) via Wilson Center Digital Archive.

Lecture 6: Third World Socialisms as Practice: Maoism, Translation, and African Experiments

- * Sun, Jodie Yuzhou. “Historicizing African Socialisms: Kenyan African Socialism, Zambian Humanism, and Communist China’s Entanglements.” *International Journal of African Historical Studies* 52, no. 3 (2019): 349–374.
- * Cook, Alexander. “Introduction: The Spiritual Atom Bomb and its Global Fallout.” In *Mao’s Little Red Book: A Global History*, edited by Alexander Cook, 1–22. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Lal, Priya. “Maoism in Tanzania: Material Connections and Shared Imaginaries.” In *Mao’s Little Red Book: A Global History*, edited by Alexander Cook, 96–116. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Schenck, Marcia C. *Remembering African Labor Migration to the Second World: Socialist Mobilities between Angola, Mozambique, and East Germany*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.

Primary Sources

- PRC pamphlets/manuals circulated in Africa; visiting delegation reports; training materials

Lecture 7: Congo Crisis: Insurgency, Counterinsurgency, and Revolutionary Aid (1959–65)

* Sun, Jodie Yuzhou. “Supplied cash and arms but losing anyway: Chinese support of the Lumumbist insurgencies in the Congo Crisis (1959–65).” *Cold War History* (2022).

* Cook, Alexander C. “Chinese Uhuru: Maoism and the Congo Crisis.” *positions: asia critique* 27, no. 4 (2019): 569–595.

• Namikas, Lise A. *Battleground Africa: Cold War in the Congo 1960–65*. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2013. Chapters 2–7.

• Rofel and Rojas, eds., *New World Orderings*. Chapter 6, 112–126.

Primary Sources

• UN debates, diplomatic cables, and intervention-related documents.

Lecture 8: Vietnam: Escalation, Negotiation, and China’s Strategy (1964–69)

* Chen, Jian. *Mao’s China and the Cold War*. 205–237.

* Westad, Odd Arne. *The Global Cold War*. 158–206.

• Zhai, Qiang. “Beijing and the Vietnam Peace Talks, 1965–68: New Evidence from Chinese Sources.” Cold War International History Project Working Paper No. 18 (1997).

• Mao, Lin. “China and the Escalation of the Vietnam War.” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 11, no. 2 (2009): 35–69.

Primary Sources:

• CWIHP document collections on Vietnam/PRC policy; PRC statements on peace talks; Vietnamese party/government sources.

Lecture 9: Cultural Cold War: Writers, Students, and the Politics of Internationalism

* Popescu, Monica. *At Penpoint: African Literatures, Postcolonial Studies, and the Cold War*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2020. Introduction.

* Brazinsky, Gregg A. *Winning the Third World: Sino-American Rivalry during the Cold War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. 132–165.

• Yoon, Duncan M. *China in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century African Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023. Chapter 1, 17–53.

• Rofel and Rojas, eds., *New World Orderings*. Chapter 3, 55–70.

Primary Sources:

• Literary magazines, student association newsletters, cultural delegation reports; “friendship” society ephemera (often in archives + digitized collections).

Lecture 10: Development as Competition: Aid, Planning, and Political Economy

* Brazinsky, Gregg A. *Winning the Third World*. 270–303.

* Sun, Jodie Yuzhou. “‘Now the cry was Communism’: The Cold War and Kenya’s relations with China, 1964–70.” *Cold War History* 20, no. 1 (2020): 39–58.

• Iandolo, Alessandro. *Arrested Development: The Soviet Union in Ghana, Guinea, and Mali, 1955–*

1968. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2022. Chapters 4-5.

- Rofel and Rojas, eds., *New World Orderings*. Chapter 5, 94–111.
- Brazelton, Mary Augusta. *China in Global Health: Past and Present*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Primary Sources

- Aid agreements, feasibility studies, speeches on “self-reliance,” development plans; project reports.

Lecture 11: Triangular Diplomacy: Sino-American Rapprochement and the Third World (1969–72)

- * Chen, Jian. Mao’s China and the Cold War. 238–276.
- * Brazinsky, Gregg A. *Winning the Third World*. 304–346.
- Xia, Yafeng. “China’s Elite Politics and Sino-American Rapprochement, January 1969–February 1972.” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 8, no. 4 (2006): 3–28.
- Ingleson, Elizabeth O’Brien. *Made in China: When US–China Interests Converged to Transform Global Trade*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2024. Chapters 1-2.

Primary Sources

- Nixon visit materials; PRC and US diplomatic cables; UN voting records; communiqués (Wilson Center Digital Archive + US FRUS volumes).

Lecture 12: Decolonisation in Crisis: Angola, Socialist Internationalism, and Proxy War (1974–89)

- * Schmidt, Elizabeth. *Foreign Intervention in Africa: from the Cold War to the War on Terror*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013. 103–142.
- * Telepneva, Natalia. *Cold War Liberation: The Soviet Union and the Collapse of the Portuguese Empire in Africa, 1961–1975*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2022. Chapter 7.
- Gleijeses, Piero. “Moscow’s proxy? Cuba and Africa 1975–1988.” *Journal of Cold War Studies* 8, no. 2 (2006): 3–51.
- Sun, Jodie Yuzhou and Yuan, Mingqing, ‘Networking liberation, translating revolution: China’s support of anti-colonial struggles in lusophone Africa (1954-1975)’, *The Liberation of Portuguese Africa, 1961-75: International Exile and Solidarity*, edited by Pedro Aires Oliveira, Fernando Tavares Pimenta and Aurora Almada e Santos (Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025): 197-221.

Primary Sources:

- Liberation movement communiqués; Cuban/USSR/PRC statements; UN debates on Angola; CWIHP/WWICS collections.

Course-wide primary-source ‘hubs’:

- Chinese Foreign Policy Database. Wilson Center Digital Archive. History and Public Policy Program. Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, available at: [<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/theme/chinese-foreign-policy-database>].
- Adam Matthew, Marlborough, Archives Direct, available at: [<https://www.amdigital.co.uk/login>].

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

The instructor will divide the class into several groups, each of which will lead designated class discussions every two weeks. All students are expected to read and bring the readings (including the primary sources) to the class. The discussion itself can take the shape of presentation, debate, or role play.

If you need a TA, please indicate the assignment of assistant:

The selected TA will contribute to the class by preparing teaching materials, guiding student-led seminars, addressing student concerns and marking regular and final assignments.

Grading & Evaluation (Provide a final grade that reflects the formative evaluation process):

- 1) Attendance: 10%
- 2) Seminar participation: 30%
- 3) Assignment: 60%

Usage of Textbook: Yes (complete textbook information form below) No

Textbook Information (No more than two textbooks) :

Title	Author	ISBN N	Publishing Time	Publisher	Type I	Type II
					<input type="checkbox"/> Self-compiled Textbook (Published) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mainland Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Other Textbook (Published)	<input type="checkbox"/> National Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial and Ministerial Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> School Level Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Others
					<input type="checkbox"/> Self-compiled Textbook (Published) <input type="checkbox"/> Non-mainland Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Other Textbook (Published)	<input type="checkbox"/> National Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial and Ministerial Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> School Level Planning Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Others

Teaching References (Including author, title, publisher, publishing time, ISBN):

Chen, Jian. *Mao's China and the Cold War*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Westad, Odd Arne. *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Leffler, Melvyn P. and Odd Arne Westad, eds. *Cambridge History of the Cold War*, vol I, II, III.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

McMahon, Robert J., ed. *The Cold War in the Third World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Table column size can be adjusted according to the content.