

China's BRI and Its Impact in the Developing World

Department: Fudan International Summer Session

Course Code	SOCI170008		
Course Title	China's BRI 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 Objective	<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>Attendance is mandatory. According to regulations of FISS, if students are absent over three times, their score would be F. Students are expected to actively participate in the discussion and make presentations. The topic of their presentations should be closely related to the course. Students are expected to make good use of academic research, and multi-media platforms to deepen their understanding of selected</p>			

topics related to China's BRI and its impact in the developing world.

Teaching Methods:

Online live lectures

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.

Course Schedule:

Introduction to the BRI (Background and Motivations)
 Progress and Challenge of the BRI (I)
 Progress and Challenge of the BRI (II)
 The BRI and China's Engagements with Asia
 The BRI and China's Engagements with Middle East
 The BRI and China's Engagements with Latin America
 The BRI and China's Engagements with Africa
 Students' Presentations
 Final in-Class Exam

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

See above and below.

Grading & Evaluation:

The final in-class exam on August 5 constitutes 50% of the overall grade, an oral presentation 30% and

individual performance in class discussions 10%, and the remaining 10% based on class attendance.

Teaching Materials & References:

Readings

• 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
<http://beltandroadforum.org/english/n100/2017/0410/c22-45.html>

1.2 Suisheng Zhao, "China's Belt-Road Initiative as the Signature of President Xi Jinping Diplomacy: Easier Said than Done," *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol.29, no.123, 2020
<https://usheartlandchina.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/BRIjcc20.pdf>

1.3 Lionel Barber, "Globalization 2.0: An Optimistic Outlook," *Financial Times*, January 15, 2016.
<https://www.ft.com/content/3dfc316-bad3-11e5-b151-8e15c9a029fb>

1.4 Dollar, David, "China's Rise as a Regional and Global Power: The AIIB and the 'One Belt, One Road'," The Brookings Institution, July 2015
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/chinas-rise-as-a-regional-and-global-power-the-aiib-and-the-one-belt-one-road/>

1.5 Andrew Elek, "China Takes the Lead on Economic Integration," *East Asia Forum*, July 7, 2015.
<https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2015/07/07/china-takes-the-lead-on-economic-integration/>

1.6 "The Belt and Road Initiative—Six Years On", Moody's Analytics, June 2019
<http://images.mofcom.gov.cn/lt2/201907/20190723205903080.pdf>

• China in Developing Asia

2.1 "Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs," Asian Development Bank, February 2017
<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/227496/special-report-infrastructure.pdf>

2.2 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
 (see Elearning)

2.3 Tommy Koh, "21st Century Maritime Silk Road," *The Straits Times*, August 4, 2015.
<https://tembusu.nus.edu.sg/news/2015/professor-tommy-koh-21st-century-maritime-silk-road>

2.4 Gurpreet S. Khurana, "Trump's New Cold War Alliance in Asia is Dangerous," *The Washington Post*, 14 November 2017
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/theworldpost/wp/2017/11/14/trump-asia-trip/>

2.5 Chen Xiangming, Pallavi Banerjee, Gaurav Toor, and Ned Downie, "China and South Asia:

Contention and Cooperation Between Giant Neighbors,” *The European Financial Review*, April 2014.
<http://www.eastbysoutheast.com/china-south-asia-contention-cooperation-giant-neighbors/>

2.6 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.

(see Elearning)

• China in Africa

3.1 Huang Zhengli and Xiangming Chen, “Is China Building Africa? ” *The European Financial Review*, June/July, 2016.

(see Elearning)

3.2 Deborah Brautigam, “Is China the World’s Loan Shark? ” *New York Times*, April 29, 2019;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/26/opinion/china-belt-road-initiative.html>

3.3 Deborah Brautigam, “The Chinese ‘Debt Trap’ Is a Myth,” *The Atlantic*, February 6, 2021
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2021/02/china-debt-trap-diplomacy/617953/>

3.4 Tang, Xiaoyang, “8 Geese Flying to Ghana? A Case Study of the Impact of Chinese Investments on Africa’s Manufacturing Sector.” *Journal of Contemporary China*, vol.27, no.114, 2018.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/10670564.2018.1488106>

3.5 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.
<https://www.wita.org/atp-research/silk-road-to-the-sahel-african-ambitions-in-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative/>

3.6 Irene Yuan Sun et al., *Dance of the Lions and Dragons: How are Africa and China Engaging, and How Will the Partnership Evolve*, McKinsey & Company, June 2017.
<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Featured%20Insights/Middle%20East%20and%20Africa/The%20closest%20look%20yet%20at%20Chinese%20economic%20engagement%20in%20Africa/Dance-of-the-lions-and-dragons.ashx>

• 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

(see Elearning)

4.2 Chen, Kayla and Xiangming Chen, “China and Latin America: Connected and Competing,” *The European Financial Review*, February/March, 2013.
<https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1086&context=facpub>

4.3 Michael Tanchum, “China’s One Belt, One Road Reshapes MidEast,” *The Jerusalem Post*, January 24, 2017.

<https://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Chinas-One-Belt-One-Road-reshapes-Mideast-479492>

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

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1229.html#:~:text=%20China%20Has%20Adopted%20a%20%22Wary%20Dragon%22%20Strategy,making%20of%20hard%20commitments%20to%20any...%20More%20

4.5 Chen Xiangming and Ivan Su, “A Different Global Power? Understanding China’s Role in the Developing World,” *The European Financial Review*, June/July 2014.

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download;jsessionid=3A6E619AF982C973BFB09B1825FCC1DD?doi=10.1.1.680.774&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Further Readings

1. Wang Jisi, “China's Search for A Grand Strategy: A Rising Great Power Finds Its Way,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol.90, no.2, 2011

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/25800458>

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

<https://www.ndrc.gov.cn/xxgk/zcfb/tz/201909/W020190905514523737249.pdf>

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

https://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/WR1338.html

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

(see Elearning)

5. Deborah Brautigam, *The Dragon's Gift: the Real Story of China in Africa*. Oxford University Press, 2011

(see Elearning)

6. Christopher K. Johnson, “President Xi Jinping’s ‘Belt and Road’ Initiative,” Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2016

(see Elearning)

7. Michael D Swaine, “Chinese Views and Commentary on the ‘One Belt, One Road’ Initiative,” *China Leadership Monitor*, vol. 47, no. 2, 2015

<https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/research/docs/clm47ms.pdf>

8. Selina Ho, "Infrastructure and Chinese power," *International Affairs*, vol.96, no. 6, 2020
(see Elearning)
9. Deborah Brautigam, "A Critical Look at Chinese 'Debt-trap Diplomacy': The Rise of a Meme," *Area Development and Policy*, vol.5, no. 1, 2020
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Deborah-Brautigam/publication/337816614_A_critical_look_at_Chinese_%27debt-trap_diplomacy%27_the_rise_of_a_meme/links/5e8f43954585150839cb607d/A-critical-look-at-Chinese-debt-trap-diplomacy-the-rise-of-a-meme.pdf
10. Florian Schneider ed., *Global Perspectives on China's Belt and Road Initiative: Asserting Agency through Regional Connectivity*, Amsterdam University Press, 2021
(see Elearning)
11. "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>
12. 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
https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/US_Strategy_toward_Chinas_BRI_web_1003.pdf
13. Keith Bradsher, "US Firms Want in on China's Global 'One Belt, One Road' Spending," *New York Times*, May 14, 2017.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/14/business/china-one-belt-one-road-us-companies.html#:~:text=U.S.%20Firms%20Want%20In%20on%20China%E2%80%99s%20Global%20%E2%80%98One,capitalize%20on%20China%E2%80%99s%20%E2%80%9COne%20Belt%2C%20One%20Road%E2%80%9D%20plan.>
14. Simeon Djankov et al., *China's Belt and Road Initiative: Motives, Scope, and Challenges*, PIIE Briefing 16-2, Peterson Institute for International Economics, March 2016
<https://www.piie.com/publications/piie-briefings/chinas-belt-and-road-initiative-motives-scope-and-challenges>
15. Richard Bluhm et al., "Connective Financing: Chinese Infrastructure Projects and the Diffusion of Economic Activity in Developing Countries," *AidData*, September 2018
http://docs.aiddata.org/ad4/pdfs/WPS64_Connective_Financing_Chinese_Infrastructure_Projects_and_the_Diffusion_of_Economic_Activity_in_Developing_Countries.pdf