College of Charleston
POLITICAL SCIENCE 405.01
Capstone Seminar: Politics of Statecraft

Dr. Guoli Liu
Spring 2019
Maybank Hall 307, Tuesday and Thursday 1:40-2:55 pm
Office: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 103
Office Hours: Tuesday, 3-4:30 pm and Wednesday 9-11:30 am, and by appointment
Telephone: 843-953-5883; Email: LiuG@cofc.edu

COURSE CONTENT AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This capstone seminar examines politics of statecraft in a globalizing world. Statecraft is the art of conducting government and diplomacy. This capstone seminar focuses on political development in China and the United States, and the dynamic relationship between the two countries. We explore contending perspectives of political development and key reform policies. China and the United States cooperate extensively, but there is also rising competition in their complex relationship. Our critical theoretical inquiry will be combined with empirical analysis of U.S.-China relations in the historical, bilateral, regional, and global context. Through such multi-dimensional analysis, we will gain a better understanding of principles, ethics, and practices of statecraft.

The capstone seminar is designed as a culminating experience for political science majors. It should enable you to put into practice the knowledge, values and skills you have developed as political science majors. The capstone experience includes: intensive reading and writing, independent research, an integrative experience, opportunity to apply theories and concepts to new problems and cases, and the opportunity to go beyond comprehending the views of others to articulate and defend one’s own views. This seminar will enhance your understanding of the multiple challenges confronting U.S.-China relations, improve your skills of scientific research, and enrich your theoretical insights on the changing reality of national and global life with a focus on statecraft.

COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

You are expected to (1) complete and study carefully all required reading; (2) address significant questions and articulate well-informed positions on key issues, (3) write a critical review paper and present your paper to the class, and (4) conduct independent research for a paper and present the paper to the class. You must attend all the seminars, come to every class well prepared, and participate actively and constructively in the discussion. Because of the substantial amount of reading for this seminar, I strongly encourage you to start reading the required texts immediately and move ahead as quickly as possible. Please make notes of your comments and questions about the reading. We will refer to the required reading frequently in our seminar.
You will be evaluated on the basis of your performance of a US critical analysis paper (10%), a China critical analysis paper (10%), class participation including two written reports (20%), two quizzes (20%), a research proposal with annotated bibliography (10%), a final research paper (20%) and a research presentation (10%). Careful preparation and active class participation are essential for the success of this seminar.

The most significant assignment will be your independent research project. It is designed to give you the opportunity to apply the research and writing skills you have developed as political science majors. You must go beyond what other researchers have done and conduct an original analysis. The research paper should be a serious, substantial piece of independent research (16-20 pages, double-spaced). The topic is to be chosen by you, and you are encouraged to use this opportunity to investigate an issue in which you have substantial interest. You can come see me, or email me, as often as necessary to formulate a topic and discuss the progress of your research. The proposal should indicate what question you intend to address, why the question is significant or interesting, and how you intend to answer it. The preliminary list of sources should be a fairly comprehensive bibliography. The paper is expected to be a scholarly paper, with all that the phrase entails: footnotes, bibliography, a coherent structure, and familiarity with relevant literature. It is important to cite all of your sources accurately. For all of your paper references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at http://polisci.cofc.edu). Although your final paper is due at the end of the semester, you will need to begin working on it immediately. Thus, there are a series of benchmarks throughout the semester to ensure that you make adequate progress. A one-page research paper proposal is due by February 7. Research proposal with annotated bibliography is due on March 7. By that point in the semester you should have located most of the materials you will be using. You will present and defend your proposal in class. The draft paper is due on April 2. Research presentation will begin on, April 9. The final version of the paper is due on Tuesday, April 23. Please plan well in advance, work hard, and complete your paper on time. Late paper will be graded down one full letter grade for each day that it is late.

Due to the intensive nature of this seminar, regular attendance and participation in class is required. A class sign-up sheet will be distributed at the beginning of each class. You must come to every class on time and remain active until the end of the class. You are allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences during the semester; additional absences, unless you can clearly prove personal emergencies or illnesses, will result in the loss of 2 points each additional time. This course will only work successfully if everyone attends class regularly, comes prepared, and participates in discussion. I reserve the right to call on students who do not take the initiative to involve themselves in the discussion. The readings are designed to provoke, and discussion will focus on the readings and the issues they raise. Contributions to seminar discussion should be informed by the assigned material, although you are of course encouraged to bring to discussion knowledge, ideas, and opinions you have acquired outside the class. It is also essential that students tolerate competing views and treat each other with respect.
Grading Scale:  

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Any student with a diagnosed learning or psychological disability which impedes your carrying out required course work, or which requires special accommodations, should advise me during the first two weeks of the course so we can review possible arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

Academic honesty is very important! When you enrolled in the College of Charleston, you signed the Honor Code. I expect you to abide to the code and it is the only way to maintain the integrity and value of your degree. You will fail this course if you have found to have cheated on an exam or plagiarized any portion of your paper. I will turn the case of Honor Code violation to the Honor Board and vigorously pursue further disciplinary action. Everyone must highly value academic integrity and abide to the Honor Code.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

The following required textbooks are available from the College Bookstore. For each important topic especially for the topics that you are conducting independent research, you must go beyond our required reading to search for additional library sources.


**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

**A. Theoretical Perspectives and Methodological Approaches**


B. Politics and Foreign Relations of China and the United States


The following scholarly journals and magazines may provide useful resources for your independent work. For complete access to the digital contents of these newspapers and journals, go to the CofC Libraries site [https://library.cofc.edu/](https://library.cofc.edu/)
Use the “Ask Us” (online chat) service [http://answers.library.cofc.edu/](http://answers.library.cofc.edu/) if you need assistance accessing these or any other sources.

*American Political Science Review*  
*Asian Survey*  
*Foreign Affairs*  
*Foreign Policy*  
*International Organization*  
*International Security*  
*International Studies Quarterly*  
*China Quarterly*  
*Journal of Conflict Resolution*  
*Journal of Peace Research*  
*Journal of Politics*  
*Perspectives on Politics*  
*Political Science Quarterly*  
*World Politics*  
*Journal of Contemporary China*  
*Journal of Chinese Political Science*  
*TIME*  
*The Economist*  
*The New York Times*  
*The Washington Post*

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

1. **Introduction**  
   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Introduction.  
   Sutter, Chapter 1.  
   Page and Gilens, Chapter 1.  
   Green, Introduction.  
   Shambaugh, Introduction.  
   Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Preface.  
   Lauren, Craig, and George, Preface and Introduction.  
   *(Deadline for completing the reading, January 10, 2019)*

2. **The Historical Evolution of Statecraft**  
   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Chapter 1.  
   Sutter, Chapters 2-3.  
   Green, Chapters 1-3.
Lauren, Craig, and George, Chapters 1-7.  
(January 17)

3. Contending Theoretical Perspectives: Realism and Liberalism  
   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Chapters 2-3.  
   Sutter, Chapters 4-5.  
   Green, Chapters 4-6.  
   Chan, Chapters 1-5.  
   (January 24)

**US Critical analysis paper due on Tuesday, January 29.**  
*(Democracy in America? Read the entire book by January 26)*

**US Critical analysis presentation on January 29-31.**

4. Constructivism and Other Theoretical Perspectives  
   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Chapters 4-5.  
   Green, Chapters 7-8.  
   Chan, Chapters 6-8.  
   (February 7)

**One-page research paper proposal is due by February 7.**

5. Analyzing Foreign Policy  
   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Chapters 6-10.  
   Sutter, Chapters 6-7.  
   Green, Chapters 9-11.  
   Lauren, Craig, and George, Chapters 8-9.  
   (February 19)

   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Chapters 11-12.  
   Sutter, Chapters 8-9.  
   Green, Chapters 12-15.  
   Lauren, Craig, and George, Chapters 10-12.  
   (February 26)

**China Critical Analysis Paper due on February 26.**  
*(China's Crisis of Success. Read the entire book by February 25)*

**China Critical Analysis Paper presentation on February 26-28.**

**First participation report is due on Tuesday, March 5.**

7. Statecraft Case Studies  
   Smith, Hadfield, and Dunne, Chapters 14-24.
Sutter, Chapter 10.
(March 7)

**Research proposal with annotated bibliography is due on March 7.**

8. Alternative Perspectives on China’s Rise
   Sutter, Chapter 11.
   Shambaugh, Chapters 1-3.
   Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Introduction, Chapters 1-4.
   (March 14)

**Spring break: March 17-23, 2019**

9. Politics, Environment, and Economic Development
   Shambaugh, Chapters 4-5.
   Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapters 5-9.
   (March 27)

10. Society, Law, and Media
    Shambaugh, Chapter 6.
    Lieberthal, Li, and Yu, Chapters 10-12.
    (April 2)

**Draft research paper is due on Tuesday, April 2.**

11. The Military and Security
    Chan, the entire book.
    Shambaugh, Chapter 7.
    Lawrence, 2013.
    (April 9)

12. Research Paper Presentation
    (April 9-16)

**Second participation report is due on Thursday, April 18.**

13. Visions for the Future
    Sutter, Chapter 12.
    Green, Conclusion.
    Shambaugh, Chapter 8.
    Lauren, Craig, and George, Conclusion.
    (April 18)

**Final research paper is due on Tuesday, April 23, 2019.**
POLI 405: Statecraft

US Critical Analysis Paper Assignment

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on a critical issue of statecraft and develop a position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) further develop your effective writing skills.

You can choose one of the following topics based on a chapter in Benjamin Page and Martin Gilens, *Democracy in America? What Has Gone Wrong and What We Can Do About It*. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least six additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at http://polisci.cofc.edu).

Please select your topic no later than Thursday, January 17, 2019. No more than two people can have the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between 6-8 pages. The paper is due in class by **Tuesday, January 29, 2019**.

1. More Democracy
2. Unequal Wealth Distorts Politics
3. Thwarting the Will of the People
4. The Political Clout of Wealthy Americans
5. Corporations and Interest Groups
6. Polarized Parties and Gridlock
7. Equal Voice for All Citizens
8. Overcoming Gridlock and Democratizing Institutions
9. A Social Movement for Democracy
10. Signs of Progress
POLI 405: Statecraft

China Critical Analysis Paper Assignment

This assignment provides you with an opportunity to (a) enhance your ability to evaluate the key perspectives on a critical issue of statecraft and develop a position of your own, (b) use a variety of sources as evidence in support of an argument, and (c) further develop your effective writing skills.

You can choose one of the following topics based on a chapter in William Overholt, *China’s Crisis of Success*. You should start with the reading for your topic and summarize the key arguments. After a critical evaluation of the competing perspectives, you must develop your own position on the issue under review. Beyond the materials for this class, you need to use at least six additional library sources. All papers must include a complete list of references in a standard format. Please make sure that you give full credit to the authors of source materials. For your references and citations, please carefully study and follow the “Department of Political Science Citation Guide” (available at http://polisci.cofc.edu).

Please select your topic no later than Thursday, January 31, 2019. No more than three people can have the same topic. The paper should be typed, double spaced, between 6-8 pages. The China Critical Analysis Paper due on February 26.

1. “Foreword” and “Introduction” (Key Research Questions)
2. China Model/Asia Model
3. The Economic Crisis of Success
4. Critical Social Issues of the Transition: Inequality, Corruption, Environment
5. China’s Governance Crisis of Success
6. China’s Political Economy under Xi Jinping
7. What Will Happens?
Participation Report Assignment

Spring 2019

Active class participation by everyone is very important for the success of our seminar. The participation report is designed to encourage you to actively and constructively contribute to our joint academic endeavor. You are required to submit two written reports. The first report is due in class on March 5, 2019. The second report is due on April 18. Please limit each report to a total of eight pages. The participation report is a summary of your contribution to the class. Please include the following in your report:

1. Comments and questions about the required readings;
2. A summary of your comments and questions in class;
3. Concise discussion of relevant academic issues and current events;
4. Additional readings that you have done for the class;
5. Additional comments and suggestions about the class;
6. Anything else that is significant for the progress of our class.
7. Do you have perfect attendance? If not, why?
8. What are the strengths and weaknesses of our textbooks? Please comment on all main textbooks that you have read. Please answer this question in more details in your second participation report.
9. **What is the most interesting journal article beyond our required readings that you have read for the seminar?** Please feel free to examine any scholarly work that you find most interesting and significant for your study. Please limit this section of your paper to **three pages**. Please submit a PDF file of the journal article with our second participation report.
10. An objective of your second report is for you to review your Capstone experience. You can carefully examine your main objectives, progress, and future work/study plan as a political science major. Please limit this section of your paper to **three pages**.