

# CHINA & ASIA PACIFIC STUDIES (CAPS)

## **CAPS 1621 - From Samurai to Superpower: Japan in World History I (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 1621, ASIAN 2261

How did Japan evolve from samurai to superpower? We investigate this transformation in Japanese and world history over a two-semester sequence. Students are free to enroll in either semester independently. (All are welcome, but none required, to enroll in both semesters.) We begin in early Japan: the birthplace of the sun goddess Amaterasu, the imperial court devoted to her, and the samurai who rose to rule under her sway. Early Japan was also home to con-men and courtesans, mischievous gods and warring Buddhists, the world's first (and female!) novelist, and a surprisingly cosmopolitan culture of artists and scientists, comedians and entrepreneurs, human traffickers and international travelers. Our first semester exploring this eclectic culture culminates in the early modern era (1600-1868), when under samurai rule, Japan developed many modern elements that laid the groundwork for the revolutionary changes and superpower status examined in the second semester. We chart Japan's development not only through big events but also everyday life, delving into gender and sexuality, family and labor, arts and entertainment, and more.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## **CAPS 1622 - From Samurai to Superpower: Japan in World History II (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 1622, ASIAN 2222, GOVT 1623

In 1868, samurai revolutionaries and their allies seized the reins of power and established a new capital they called Tokyo. Against all odds, this fragile regime survived and made Tokyo a center of power that would transform both Japan and the world. This survey of Japanese history explores the rise and fall of Japan as a modern imperial power; its foreign relations; its economic and scientific development from feudalism to futuristic technologies; and Japan's many modern revolutions, from the rule of the samurai to Westernization and democracy, from democratic collapse to fascism and World War II, and from Japan's postwar rebirth to the present. We will examine not only big events but also everyday life, including gender and sexuality, family and schools, and art and popular culture.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## **CAPS 1740 - Imperial China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 1740, ASIAN 2740, MEDVL 1740

This course explores the history of imperial China between the 3rd century b.c.e. and the 16th century c.e. with a focus on the following questions: How did imperial Chinese states go about politically unifying diverse peoples over vast spaces? How did imperial Chinese approaches to governance and to relations with the outer world compare with strategies employed by other historical empires? How did those approaches change over time? How did major socio-cultural formations - including literary canons; religious and familial lineages; marketing networks; and popular book and theatrical cultures - grow and take root, and what were the broader ramifications of those developments? How did such basic configurations of human difference as Chinese (civilized)-barbarian identity, high-low status, and male-female gender operate and change over time?

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022, Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Spring 2016

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## **CAPS 1920 - Modern China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 1920, ASIAN 2920

This course surveys modern Chinese history from 1600 to present. Time will be devoted to each of the three major periods into which modern Chinese history is conventionally divided: the Imperial Era (1600-1911), the Republican Era (1911-1949), and the People's Republic of China (1949-present). It guides students through pivotal events in modern Chinese history, and uncovers the origins of China's painful transition from a powerful early modern empire to a country torn by civil unrest and imperialist invasion, and then from a vanguard of world revolution to a post-communist party-state whose global power is on the rise.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## **CAPS 2132 - Law and Society in Early Modern and Modern China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2132, ASIAN 2280, SHUM 2132

China was and still is regarded in the Western world as a country without the rule of law. In this course, students examine recent scholarship that challenges this simplified understanding of the role of law in Chinese politics and society. It approaches law in early modern and modern China both as a state institution of governance and control, and as a platform that facilitates interactions and negotiations between state and society, between different social forces, and between different cultures. At the same time, this course guides students to develop projects of their own choice, either addressing legal issues or using legal sources, from tentative proposals to research papers based on their examination of original or translated primary sources.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2133 - Social Debates in China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2133, ASIAN 2283

In this sophomore seminar, we will explore cultural, political, and social debates in China's transition from an early modern empire to a republic, and then from a vanguard of world revolution to a post-communist party-state. Through examining primary sources in various forms (treatise, speech, and film), we will focus on issues such as Confucianism, Western-inspired cultural and legal concepts, nationalism, communism, feminism, liberalism, as well as indigenous understandings and appropriations of imported -isms. The course is organized around four debates: those between constitutional reformers and revolutionaries at turn of the 20th century; between New Culture radicals and statist reformers in the 1920s and 1930s; between politicians who resorted to social and political revolutions to save China and writers who believed in the transformative power of culture; and between liberals and leftist intellectuals in post-1989 China; with an interlude addressing the 1960s and the 1970s, when dissenting voices were encouraged in some ways and brutally suppressed in others. Students will participate in four debates organized at the end of each 3-week section. Each student will submit four short response papers on the four social debates the course covers. In consultation with the instructor, each student will choose a social debate from modern China that is NOT addressed in the classroom, developing a historiographical paper as his/her final essay.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2230 - Introduction to China: Outsiders in History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2230

This is an introduction of Chinese civilization from ancient times up to the end of the Chinese empire in 1911. It is intended to familiarize students with the major concepts of Chinese history, society, and culture, focusing on agents that have been often neglected in canonical histories, such as socially marginalized people, the natural and ecological environment, and local and global networks.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2232 - Introduction to China: Getting Rich in Modern China (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2232

People outside China often talk about "China's rise," the changes in world economics and politics that come from the increase of the economic power of the People's Republic. From a domestic perspective, though, China's rise represents a promise to regular people that they will lead richer lives, both literally and figuratively. This course will examine the nature and history of that promise as it is experienced through literature, film, and other cultural texts. Why and how do PRC citizens want to get rich, and what happens when they don't? How does economic class shape identity in contemporary China? Can parts of the population be happy outside of the pursuit of material wealth? This class is one of several topical courses in the Department of Asian Studies that serve as introductory courses to important aspects or themes of Chinese civilization. The course assumes little or no background in the study of China.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2262 - Medicine and Healing in China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2562, BSOC 2561, ASIAN 2262, STS 2561

An exploration of processes of change in health care practices in China. Focuses on key transitions, such as the emergence of canonical medicine, of Daoist approaches to healing and longevity, of scholar physicians, and of traditional Chinese medicine in modern China. Inquiries into the development of healing practices in relation to both popular and specialist views of the body and disease; health care as organized by individuals, families, communities, and states; the transmission of medical knowledge; and healer-patient relations. Course readings include primary texts in translation as well as secondary materials.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2271 - China's Literary Heritage: An Introduction in Translation (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2271

This is an introductory course designed for, though not limited to, non-majors with or without any knowledge of Chinese language, history, or culture. It offers a guided survey of the history and development of major literary themes, genres, and traditions that still today are assumed to be an integral part of China's cultural identity. Readings include works of poetry, prose and fiction, all in English translation.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

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**CAPS 2281 - Gender, Family, and Confucianism in East Asia (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 2281, FGSS 2281, HIST 2981

This course offers a broad understanding of the crucial roles East Asian women played in culture, the economy, and society from antiquity to the early twentieth century. By rethinking the pervasive stereotype of the passive and victimized East Asian women under by staunch Confucian patriarchy, it aims to examine women's struggles, negotiations, and challenges of the normative discourse of femininity, with a focus on patrilineal family, the female body and reproduction, domesticity and women's economic labor, women's work, literacy and knowledge, and the modernization of women. We will examine how Confucian notions of gender and family were, far from being fixed, constantly redefined by the historical and temporal needs of East Asian contexts. This examination is undertaken through a combination of reading original texts and secondary scholarship in various disciplines, including philosophy, anthropology, history, literature, and material culture. No knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean necessary.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2435 - Global Maoism: History and Present (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2435, SHUM 2435

Maoism and Chinese Communism are not history after Mao's death in 1976. In China, Maoism holds the key to the enduring success of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), one of the most remarkable organizations of the 20th and 21st centuries that has survived the collapse of communism in Europe and the USSR. With the beneficial transformation brought by capitalism and globalization in China, the end of the Cold War and the narrative of the end of history cannot explain the resurgence of Maoism.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2575 - Tyranny and Dignity: Chinese Women from the Cultural Revolution to the White Paper Revolution (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2575, FGSS 2575

This course focuses on the human condition of Chinese women after 1949. In the name of the Women's liberation movement since the early 1900s, do Chinese women eventually hold up the half sky? From the cradle to the grave, what was most challenging in women's life? How did political, economic, and cultural forces frame women's professional careers and private life? No judgments nor imaginations. Using multi-media, such as Chinese independent documentary films, music, and photographs, students will discover the hidden stories behind the mainstream narratives. Workshops with film directors, pop music singers, and photographers offer students an unusual way of accessing all backstage field experiences.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 2931 - Making of an Empire in China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2931, ASIAN 2293

The Great Qing (1644-1911), a multi-ethnic empire that conquered China proper from the northeastern borderlands, expanded into central Asia, Mongolia, and Tibet, and consolidated the China-based empire's control over its southwestern frontiers. An heir to both Chinese and Inner Asian traditions, the Qing empire laid the foundation for the modern Chinese nation-state. In this course, students will focus on the political, legal, social, cultural, and intellectual aspects of China's long eighteenth century. Students will also locate the early modern Chinese empire in a regional and global context, examining its power influence in Korea and Southeast Asia, and its encounters and interactions with Western and Japanese imperialist powers. These encounters and interactions contributed to the domestic turmoil and foreign invasions that eventually led to the demise of China's imperial tradition. But they also gave rise to new forces that would shape the fate of modern China in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. From Spring 2021 onward, this course fulfills the pre-1800 requirement for History Major

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

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**CAPS 2932 - Engendering China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2932, ASIAN 2291, FGSS 2932

In contemporary China, as in many other places of the world, the ideology and social reality of gender relations is highly paradoxical. Women are flattered for their power as consumers and commitment to the family while they are also expected to engage in wage-earning employment. Men, on the other hand, face constant pressure of being tough and social problems such as costly betrothal gifts as unintended consequences of a gender regime that is supposedly male-oriented. Are these paradoxes a betrayal of the socialist experiment of erasing gender differences? Are they remnants of China's long imperial tradition? This course explores the power dynamics of gender relations in China from ancient times to the present. It leads students to examine scholarship that challenges the popularly accepted myth of lineal progression of China toward gender equality, and to understand women's and men's life choices in various historical settings. At the same time, this course guides students to adopt gender as a useful analytical category, treating China as a case study through which students are trained to engender any society past and present.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 3000 - Seminar on American Relations with China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3305, HIST 3391

A historical review of the fragile and volatile U.S.-China relationship from the opening by Richard Nixon in the early 1970s until the present. Several individual sessions will be led by current or former executive branch or congressional officials, business people, journalists, representatives of nongovernmental organizations and others who have worked in China or have participated in the making of U.S. policy toward China.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: CAPS majors.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

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**CAPS 3021 - History of Korea-China Relations (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3021, HIST 3021

This course examines the long, complicated history of Korea's relationship with China, focusing on the period from the fourteenth century to the present. Rather than having a nation-bound interpretation of history, the course explores how Korea's national identity—from the Choson dynasty, through the colonial period, to the contemporary era of the two Koreas—has been shaped and negotiated in close relation to its interactions with China. By addressing various issues in Korean history that reflect Korea's strong ties and conflicts with China, the course not only offers a comprehensive understanding of Korean history from a broader comparative perspective but also contributes to the transnational history of East Asia. No prior knowledge of Korean or Chinese is required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

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**CAPS 3049 - China's Next Economy (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3044, ASIAN 3304

This course provides students with an analytical framework to understand China's ongoing economic transformation. The courses goals include: 1) to familiarize students with different perspectives on China's economic development and future prospects; 2) to provide a close working knowledge of the evolving current situation, with a focus on internal variation within China-telling different Chinese stories, not one China story-and particularly emphasizing urbanization and the goal of shifting from manufacturing and export-led to services and domestic-led economy; and 3) to give students hands-on experience using Chinese economic data in the context of a brief research note. Each week will connect to current events and debates, with students writing three blog posts over the course of the semester to bring academic research and social scientific analysis to bear upon policy-relevant questions and developments.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (GLC-AS, SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 3303 - Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Chinese Literature (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3303

This course covers some of the most important and influential modern Chinese fiction, poetry, and film. Each semester has an independent theme, but in every semester the group reads canonical writers from the early 20th century, watches Socialist film, and studies the work of the post-80s generation. All texts in this course will be available in English; all primary texts will also be available in Chinese. (LL)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Fall 2013, Spring 2009Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**CAPS 3307 - Readings in Classical Chinese Literature (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CHLIT 3307

A guided reading in the original language designed to introduce students to a variety of genres and styles of classical Chinese literature while at the same time helping students achieve competence in reading classical Chinese at an advanced level. The syllabus, with a rotating thematic focus, normally includes philosophical works, historical texts, poetry and prose, anecdotes and fiction. Please consult the Department of Asian Studies course offerings for each year's thematic focus. (LL)

**Prerequisites:** Advanced reading knowledge of classical and modern Chinese required.**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA, EALANG)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2017Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**CAPS 3329 - Literature of Leaving China (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3329, COML 3985

Ever since the creation of the concept of a culturally and geographically stable center in China, people have been intentionally excluded from that center. Disgraced officials are sent to far-flung provinces, loyalists to past regimes hide out across China's borders, and dissidents have their entry visas revoked, making it impossible for them to return home. The experiences of these people, and the poems and stories they write, tell us a great deal about what it means and how it feels to be included and excluded. What is the difference between the way China looks from the inside and the way it looks from the outside? Who has the power to decide who gets to live in China, and how and why do they use it? What is the relationship between our identities and our homes? Texts studied will range from 300 BCE to the present; all will be read and discussed in English. (LL)

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2019Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**CAPS 3370 - Nature and Ecology in Ancient Chinese Travel Writing (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 3370

This course traces the development of travel writing from the Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 221) to the Song dynasty (960–1279). Special attention is paid to the ways in which Chinese writers have ceaselessly negotiated humankind's relationship with the natural world in their accounts of travel—both imagined and actual. Readings include poetry, prose, and philosophical works, all in English translation. (LL)

**Prerequisites:** knowledge of Chinese language, history and culture is helpful but not necessary.**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2020, Fall 2017Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**CAPS 3385 - The US-China Relationship: A Labor Perspective (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ILRGL 3385

The US-China relationship has emerged as one of the definitive economic and political vectors of the 21st century. There is little question that the US and China will remain the two most powerful polities for decades to come, and in recent years their respective governments have become increasingly hostile. While this imperial rivalry is very real and poses grave threats to humanity, this course aims to transcend methodological nationalism by approaching the US-China relationship from the perspective of workers. In doing so we will interrogate the complex and deeply interwoven set of political, economic, and social linkages between these two capitalist behemoths.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: sophomores, juniors, and seniors.**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (ICE-IL, ICL-IL)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2022Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)**CAPS 3387 - The Asian Century: The Rise of China and India (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ILRGL 3380, ASIAN 3380, GOVT 3384, AEM 3388

The course will be thoroughly comparative in order to highlight both the specificity of each country as well as more generalizable dynamics of 21st century development. It will be divided into a number of inter-related modules. After a framing lecture, we will briefly cover the two countries' distinct experiences with colonialism and centralized planning. Then we will move on to dynamics of growth, which will seek to explain the relative success of China in the era of market reforms. In analyzing political consequences, we will assess how new forms of cooperation and conflict have emerged. This will involve attention to both internal dynamics as well as how rapid development has seen an increasing accumulation of political power in the East. It goes without saying that accelerating growth has led to huge social change, resulting in profound reorganizations of Chinese and Indian society. Finally, the course will conclude by returning to our original question - is this indeed The Asian Century? What does the rise of China and India mean for the rest of the world, and how are these two giant nations likely to develop in the future?

**Enrollment Information:** Open to: undergraduate students.**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (ICE-IL, ICL-IL)**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL); (SAAREA)**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2020, Fall 2017Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**CAPS 3525 - Life and Death in China Under Mao (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 3525

How to define and interpret the human condition in China under Mao's ruling (1949-1976)? What was human resilience in the face of power? How did Chinese people constantly find ways to re-organize their lives in a pragmatic way? How to evaluate the human cost of institutional arrangements? In this undergraduate course, we will use first-hand resources and case studies to closely analyze life and death in the Mao Era. Reading the lived experiences of five social classes, such as industrial capitalists, workers, peasants, cadres, and intellectuals, in those successively political movements after 1949, students will gain an understanding of how the Chinese navigated their lives in difficult times. They might be a senior partner for Shell in Shanghai, a hearted Christian and wife, an outspoken intellectual who was persecuted over years, and a former hard laborer who is today one of Asia's best-known financiers or women from China's countryside and so forth. The course will shed light on the interrelations between institutional frames, individual identity, gender and revolutionary politics in the Mao Era and will highlight the many different experiences of life and death in Mao's China, in terms of class, gender, generation.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 3827 - China and the World (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3827, ASIAN 3327

Study of the dramatic rise of China through reviewing major developments in contemporary Chinese foreign policy since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC), and concentrating more specifically on major developments in Chinese foreign policy during the 1980s and 1990s. Such a wide-ranging survey of Chinese foreign policy involves not only a consideration of the evolution of China's relations with its major bilateral partners but also an investigation of how China has defined its broader relationship with the international system. In addition, students are asked to consider which causal factors have been of primary importance in motivating Chinese behavior.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (GLC-AS, SSC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Summer 2021, Summer 2020, Fall 2017, Spring 2016

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 3857 - American Foreign Policy (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3857

This course is dedicated to surveying and critically evaluating the theoretical models and decisions that seek to explain American foreign policy with an emphasis on the post-WWII period. We will cover the different foreign policy decision-making models and prominent issues in foreign policy such as grand strategy, Congress, the presidency, and public support.

**Distribution Requirements:** (SBA-AG), (SSC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA, EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2013, Fall 2011, Summer 2010

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**CAPS 3967 - What is China? (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3967, ASIAN 3395

China is often thought of as being isolated from the outside world. It is imagined as existing in historic seclusion, and, following the establishment of the People's Republic, as pursuing a path of autarky. Such separation has then only been somewhat modified by the set of economic reforms that Deng Xiaoping first instituted in the late 1970s. In this lecture we will seek to turn such conventional wisdom on its head through examining what China is via a consideration of transnational currents within the country's development. However, the course's primary focus will not be upon the past, but rather the present and attempting to determine just where the point of intersection between China and the rest of the world is. Coming to terms with such an issue will provide those who enroll in the class with a deeper, more nuanced, understanding of China's rise and this trend's implications for the rest of the world. We will accomplish this task through a combination of surveying the existing literature on China and transnational politics, and considering new theoretical perspectives on both.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (GLC-AS, SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

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**CAPS 4001 - China in Transition (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3007

This seminar, using faculty-directed research projects, is intended to survey China's transformation through revolution and reform since 1949, and to examine major issues under the themes of modernity and sustainability in the reform era.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment preference given to: CAPS juniors and seniors.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

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**CAPS 4002 - Chinese Perspectives on International and Global Affairs (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 3017

This course, offered by faculty members of Peking University's School of International Studies, provides Chinese perspectives on contemporary China's international relations.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

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**CAPS 4003 - Experiencing Global China (4 Credits)**

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4010 - Honors Thesis Tutorial I (4 Credits)**

Honors students conduct research to prepare a thesis on a topic of their own choosing under the direction of a faculty member. The application must be successfully submitted and an Honors Committee formed by the end of applicant's junior year in order for the student to be an honors candidate. Permission to enroll in CAPS 4020 is contingent upon the advisor's judgment of the viability of the student's honors thesis by the end of the semester.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: CAPS majors.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-UG); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4020 - Honors Thesis Tutorial II (4 Credits)**

Honors students complete research and finish a thesis on a topic of their own choosing under the direction of a faculty member.

**Prerequisites:** CAPS 4010.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-UG); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

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**CAPS 4030 - Making Sense of China: The Capstone Seminar (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 4037, ASIAN 4435

This course serves as a survey of major issues within Chinese politics and foreign policy and constitutes the capstone seminar for CAPS students. It is intended to give students an opportunity to explore aspects related to Chinese politics, economics, and society that they may have touched upon in other China-focused courses at Cornell, but have not been able to examine as fully, and with the degree of care, that they would like. In this regard, the substance of the course will be developed through an iterative process between the instructor and the seminar participants. We will spend the first part of the course doing a series of recent influential readings on contemporary China and developing initial research projects. The second half of the class will be organized around student led presentations of research projects (accompanied by relevant academic, media, and policy readings).

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-UG); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

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**CAPS 4049 - The Rise of China and Change in World Politics (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4454

The rise of China is one of the most important and defining themes in changing world politics. This seminar course is intended for students to examine major issues and topics concerning the rise of China against the backdrop of paradigmatic change in world politics from a historical and theoretical perspective, and to engage in the academic discourse and policy debate about dynamics of China's rise and its implications for world politics, and vice versa, how evolving world politics inform and influence the process of China's rise - namely, mutual constitution of rising China and the changing world.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (GLC-AS, SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4075 - Fashion and Politics in Twentieth-Century China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4075

Through readings and discussions, this seminar will take multiple approaches to explore history, politics and society in 20th century China from the perspective of fashion. How to define politics from the dimension of fashion? What's a politicized fashion? How did fashion reflect the power structure? How did fashion become a way of obedience and resistance?

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG), (HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4127 - The Body Politic in Asia (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4127, ASIAN 4415, FGSS 4127, BSOC 4127, STS 4127, SHUM 4127

Visions of bodily corruption preoccupy ruler and ruled alike and prompt campaigns for moral, medical, and legal reform in periods of both stability and revolution. This seminar explores the links between political, sexual, and scientific revolutions in early modern and modern Asia. The focus is on China and Japan, with secondary attention to South Asia and Korea. Interaction with the West is a major theme. Topics include disease control, birth control and population control, body modification, the history of masculinity, honorific violence and sexual violence, the science of sex, normative and stigmatized sexualities, fashion, disability, and eugenics. The course begins with an exploration of regimes of the body in traditional Asian cultures. The course then turns to the medicalization and modernization of the body under the major rival political movements in Asia: feminism, imperialism, nationalism, and communism.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (SAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4355 - Work and Labor in China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ILRGL 4355, ASIAN 4443

China's transition to capitalism has resulted in more than a generation of rapid and nearly uninterrupted growth. It increasingly dominates the production of all sorts of goods, from the very low end and labor intensive, to the high value added and capital intensive. China is aiming to dominate future product cycles, and is making major inroads in digital technology, AI, and robotics. This spectacular re-emergence as a world power has also increasingly lead to political conflict, both domestically and internationally. This course proceeds by assessing the interplay between marketization and economic transformation on the one hand, and social change and resistance as seen from the perspective of workers, on the other. While the course is specifically concerned with labor issues, we will see that the workplace is a prism that condenses and refracts much broader transformations occurring in Chinese society.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: juniors and seniors.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (ICE-IL, ICL-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4406 - Readings in Chinese History and Business Culture (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CHIN 4406

This course is designed for those who have completed Mandarin of advanced level (or equivalent). It aims to further improve students' Chinese proficiency in a business history and transcultural context to provide students with a greater preparation for future studies and career endeavors in a native Chinese environment. China's rapid economic growth has aroused keen interest in discussion of China's business and economy on a global scale. To aid students in understanding China's unprecedented rise, authentic Chinese materials selected from a variety of sources will be introduced in class. These course materials introduce both China's past, present, and future, as well as its current role and challenges in the global economy. Key topics for discussion provide insight into the Chinese way of doing business and the multifaceted nature of China's micro and macro business environment.

**Prerequisites:** two years (on heritage track) or three years of Chinese, or equivalent.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS, GLC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4418 - Stories of Love and Romance in Stories from Tang Dynasty (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASIAN 4418

Through guided reading in English translation, this course explores topics, themes and techniques that define a type of narrative work known as chuanqi (stories of the marvelous), written during the Tang dynasty (618-907) on the subject of love, romance, commitment and betrayal. The aim of the course is to help students achieve an appreciation for the early development of Chinese fiction in the context of Tang literary and popular culture.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA, EALANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2019, Spring 2011  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4420 - Tang Poetry: Themes and Contexts (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with CHLIT 4420

Through guided readings in Chinese of selected poems of the Tang dynasty (618-907) on various themes and in different styles, students develop the essential analytical skills for reading Tang poetry while gaining an understanding of its social, cultural, and historical contexts. (LL)

**Prerequisites:** minimum three years of Chinese and/or one year of Classical Chinese or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA, EALANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2018, Spring 2017  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4502 - Becoming a China Hand (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 4503

China's prominence in the news cycle and policy discourse reflects the immense and growing tension in China's relations with the United States and other countries around the world. Substantively, there is hardly a profession or sector where what happens inside China does not touch upon or impact what happens outside China. Throughout this course, we will grapple with ongoing debates over China's rise and whether policies of engagement with China have succeeded or failed. These debates are unfolding in many different communities and idea marketplaces, across many different modes and styles of analysis and writing. Each of the reading and writing assignments are aimed at developing literacy and proficiency in three different modes of analysis and writing about China: academic, policy, and journalistic. While many courses provide introductions to different aspects of China, and many seminars examine more specialized questions at even deeper levels, there are few that directly invite students to examine and explore the different ways in which scholars and professionals have written about and come to understand China.

**Enrollment Information:** Primarily for junior CAPS students.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4772 - China Imagined: The Historical and Global Origins of the Chinese Nation (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4772, ASIAN 4478

As China, with its China Dream, rises in power on the global stage, what China means to its inhabitants and outsiders has become an issue increasingly relevant to business, international relations, and cultural exchange, and a topic that draws intensive attention from historians and social scientists. This course brings together undergraduate and graduate students who are interested in shifting meanings embedded in the concept of China, either as part of their research agenda, or as a useful lens for comparative analysis. Focus will be on how China as an Empire/ a Nation was conceptualized by different people in different periods and in different contexts, and on the reality and representation of China as political, cultural, racial, and geographical entities.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2023, Spring 2021, Fall 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4773 - Twice A Stranger: Transnational Figures and Their Stories (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4773, SHUM 4773

What does it mean to travel across political and cultural boundaries? How are people's thought, behavior, and identity shaped by such experiences and vice versa? How do historians explore and represent transnational and transcultural figures and their stories? Is it possible for historians to help the audience not only understand but also experience transnationality through narrative? The relationship between analytical history and history as narrative is complex and everchanging. We build on this relationship not by theorizing it but by examining history works and practicing writing history, in the context of lives and stories of transnational figures, that integrates analysis and narrative. Students read analytical works and narratives about people who operated, willingly or not, in multiple geographical, political, cultural, and religious worlds. While reflecting on the pros and cons of approaching history writing in different ways, students also develop skills in working on primary sources and develop projects on transnational figures of their own choice from any areas or historical times, from proposal to full-fledged papers.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, HA-AG), (GLC-AS, HST-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4827 - China, Tibet and Xinjiang (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 4827, ASIAN 4448

Seminar intended to examine the increasingly complex relationship that has evolved between China and the rest of the international system, with particular focus on the rise of Chinese nationalism and the extent to which those in Tibet, Xinjiang, and, to a lesser extent, Taiwan, are contesting such a trend. In so doing, the course emphasizes the interrelated, yet often contradictory, challenges facing Beijing in regards to the task of furthering the cause of national unity while promoting policies of integration with international society and interdependence with the global economy.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, SBA-AG), (GLC-AS, SSC-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4870 - China and Asian Security (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with GOVT 4877, ASIAN 4475

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA, SAAREA, SEAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4888 - Directed Study - Beijing (1-4 Credits)**

This directed study course allows CAPS students to enroll at Beida (Peking University) in courses offered to international students by the Peking University School of International Studies.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-ITL); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4931 - Vitality and Power in China (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4931, ASIAN 4429, STS 4911, BSOC 4911, RELST 4931

Chinese discourses have long linked the circulation of cosmic energies, political power, and bodily vitalities. In these models political order, spiritual cultivation, and health are achieved and enhanced through harmonizing these flows across the levels of Heaven-and-Earth, state, and humankind. It is when these movements are blocked or out of synchrony that we find disordered climates, societies, and illness. In this course, we will examine the historical emergence and development of these models of politically resonant persons and bodily centered polities, reading across primary texts in translation from these otherwise often separated fields. For alternate frameworks of analysis as well as for comparative perspectives, we will also examine theories of power and embodiment from other cultures, including recent scholarship in anthropology and critical theory.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4963 - China's Early Modern (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 4963, ASIAN 4461, MEDVL 4963

Theories of modernization have inspired, informed, and plagued histories of middle and late imperial China. For the Song-Qing eras (roughly 10th-19th centuries), comparative studies have variously found and sought to explain modernization emerging earlier than in Europe, an absence of modernization, or alternative paths of modernization. Regional models have argued for pan-East Asian systems and patterns of modernization. Global models have argued that China had a vital role in European development as a provenance of modernizing institutions and ideas, as a source of exploited resources, or otherwise as an integral part of global systems. In this course we explore these historiographical debates and develop critical perspectives, including approaches to escaping Eurocentric and teleological frameworks.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2020, Spring 2016, Fall 2014

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)



**CAPS 4998 - Engaged Learning About Policy Making in Washington D.C. (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with PUBPOL 4060, AMST 4998, ALS 4998, GOVT 4998, NS 4998

The core course at Cornell in Washington is an engaged learning class that focuses on understanding and analyzing the professional experience of being in DC. Its primary purpose is to give students a chance to synthesize the lessons of their internship work by examining and reflecting on that work, investigating the context and structures of the policy and political world with which they are engaging, and learning and practicing the professional forms of writing that the community uses. This process occurs through readings, written assignments, guest speakers, and signature events. An internship is required for the class.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: students in the Cornell in Washington program.

**Distribution Requirements:** (OCE-IL), (SBA-AG), (SBA-HE)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will have employed engaged learning techniques through readings, class sessions, reflective journals, guest speakers, and other activities to examine the professional norms and codes of working in the policy world.
- Students will have identified the day-to-day processes of the American policy and political community in DC, its aims and goals, and how it works at the ground level.
- Students will have composed a series of policy memos and done an oral presentation in order to be able to construct a policy analysis and recommendation.
- Graduate students will have assessed the state of knowledge in their particular policy area.

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**CAPS 4999 - CAPS Independent Study (1-4 Credits)**

Independent study course in topics not covered in regularly scheduled courses. Students select a topic in consultation with the faculty member who has agreed to supervise the course work.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: juniors or seniors.

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-UG); (EAAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)