

AFRICA CHINA RELATIONS COURSE

SPRING 2026

Professor: Dr. Agnes Ngoma Leslie

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Africa China Relations Course

AFS4935-01FA (16895); POS4931-4087(16941), CARP (29539) CLASS

MEETINGS:

Classroom: Matherly 0005

M | Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)

W | Period 7 - 8 (1:55 PM - 3:50 PM)

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY: 2-4 PM 435

Grinter Hall

Course Description

This course explores the evolving relationship between China and Africa using the political, economic, and cultural lens. China has grown to be one of the most prominent partners in Africa. This relationship is manifested in trade, infrastructure, politics, and physical environment. However, this relationship is complex with varied actors. This course explores the historical emergence of the relationship between China and the continent, the current areas of engagement and how these have impacted the latter. The course will be taught as a seminar and will use the case study approach to emphasize and analyze the main issues of engagement and sometimes confrontation. The course will also include guest lecturers who study various aspects of the topic. Students will engage with these researchers and write brief papers on their presentations.

Class Philosophy

This class will be taught as a colloquium. Each student will make at least one presentation. All students will be expected to do the readings and participate in the discussions. Students will also be availed the opportunity to listen to specialists studying China and Africa Relations.

Grading

Students' grades will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions, class presentations, term paper, research presentations based on the readings and guest research presentations as follows:

- 1) Attendance and Class Participation - 10 %
- 2) Leading one class discussion and synthesizing the readings = 15 % (4 pages, typewritten);
- 3) Policy paper on an African country - 10%
- 4) Two quizzes based on readings presentations and videos = 20% x 2 = 40 %
- 5) Synthesis of one guest presentation (10% each)
- 6) Term paper on one of the assigned topics = 15 %.

Grade Point Scale: A = 93 or above, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82, C+ = 77-79, C = 74-76, C- = 70-73, D+ = 67-69, D = 63-66, D- = 60-62, E = 59 or below

Except for the final paper, all writing assignments will be returned to students with comments before the final week of class. The professor reserves the right to make changes in order to meet the course objectives.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require classroom accommodation should first register with the Dean of Students Office who will provide them with the necessary documentation.

UF Religious Holidays Policy:

The UF Religious Holidays Policy is available at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academicregulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext>

Required Readings:

1. Taylor, Ian. *China's New Role in Africa*. 2009: Boulder: Lynne Rienner. (Required)
2. Gadzala, Aleksandra. *Africa and China: How Africans and their Governments are Shaping Relations with China*. Boulder: Bowman and Littlefield. (Suggested).

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 – Jan. 12 - **Introduction** – Course Objective, brief introduction to Africa and China.

- Jan 14 - Introduction - China Africa Relations

Reading 1. China in Africa: Implications of a Deepening Relationship, [Larry Hanauer](#), Lyle, J. Morris. RAND Corporation: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9760.html

Week 2 **Jan 19th MLK Day. No Class.**

Jan 21 - Status of the Africa China Relationship – Latest situation

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2021/12/06/focac-2021-chinas-retrenchmentfrom-africa/>

Navigating the Shift: Is China Losing Its Grip on Africa?Navigating the Shift: Is China

Losing Its Grip on Africa? **Mr. Samir Bhattacharya, Dec 6, 2024 (in File 2)**

https://www.eastwestcenter.org/publications/navigating-shift-china-losing-its-grip-africa?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22805324099&gbraid=0AAAAADj-5m--

IW0mtYNOiZ0K370pWZvE9&gclid=Cj0KCQiApfjKBhC0ARIsAMiR_IuXE7z_h8Sr2Pk_id6ufqsT1c0Nu5B3AQeEqrKIcekTP7DnD9ebRp0aAnMJEALw_wcB

1. What's in it for Africa and China? The Africa-China Relationship: Challenges and Opportunities

Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (2014) The Africa-China relationship: challenges and opportunities, Canadian Journal of African Studies/Revue canadienne des études africaines, 48:1, 145-169, DOI: [10.1080/00083968.2014.946298](https://doi.org/10.1080/00083968.2014.946298) Pages 145-169 | Published online: 01 Dec 2014

Week 3 – **History of China-Africa Relations and China Africa Policy**

Jan. 26. 1. A Historical Overview of China-Africa Relations (Chapter 2 – Shinn and Eisenman)

2. Africa Collective Role – African Union

Jan. 28 – **China's Africa Policy in Context**

1. China's Africa Policy in Context, (Chapter 1, Taylor)

2) Government of China white paper, "China's African Policy," January 2006.

Direct link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/000944550704300309>

3. Current Status: FOCAC

Week 4

Feb. 2 – China Africa Relations with Individual Countries – How China Fares with Individual Countries – Zambia

SINO-ZAMBIAN RELATIONS: 'AN ALL-WEATHER FRIENDSHIP' WEATHERING THE STORM

Dominik Kopin'ski and Andrzej Polus:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=IcroBAAQBAJ&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=inoZambian+relations:+%E2%80%98An+all-weather+friendship%E2%80%99+weathering+the+storm+Dominik+Kopin+%CC%81ski+and+Andrzej&source=bl&ots=swJMqwzLR->

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/2661168_Economic_Statecraft_in_China's_New_Overseas_Special_Economic_Zones?from_view=full_text&from_uniq_view_btn=Full+Text&sig=ACfU3U1yT5hjPHumZyHLMWILgMFsItAC5g&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewiJ2d_KsZn1AhUdQjABHdgWCy0Q6AF6BAgCEAM#v=onepage&q&f=false

Feb, 4. Oil Diplomacy (Taylor, Chapter 2)

Week 5 – Africa China Economic Partnership

FEBRUARY 9: QUIZ 1

February 11 -

1. **Economic Statecraft.** Deborah Bräutigam and Tang Xiaoyang, “Economic Statecraft in China’s New Overseas Special Economic Zones,” IFPRI Discussion Paper no. 01168 (March 2012). Direct Link:
ifpri.org/sites/default/files/publications/ifpridp01168.pdf.
2. Does Chinese Employment Benefit Africans? Investigating Chinese Enterprises and their Operations in Africa, TANG XIAOYANG, African Studies Quarterly | Volume 16, Issue 3-4 | December 2016:

<https://journals.flvc.org/ASQ/article/view/136101/140576>

WEEK 6 –1. INVESTMENTS AND TRADE – COMPLEMENTS AND CONFLICT

Feb. 18. 1. The Impact of Cheap Chinese Goods (Taylor, Chapter 3)

1. Chinese Merchants Thrive in Senegal, Where People ‘Needed Stuff’ New York Times:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/23/world/africa/chinese-merchants-thrive-in-senegal-wherepeople-needed-stuff.html>

2. **The Political Economy of Galamsey and Anti-Chinese Sentiment in Ghana, Richard Aidoo**

<https://journals.flvc.org/ASQ/article/view/136098/140568>

African Studies Quarterly | Volume 16, Issue 3-4 | December 2016.

Week 7 – China and Human Rights

Feb. 23 -

1) The Issue of Human Rights – (Taylor, Chapter 4)

Feb. 25

2. Workers' Rights – Zambia: November 3, 2011 2:45AM EDT, Zambia: Workers Detail Abuse in Chinese-Owned Mines; Enforce Health, Safety, and Labor Laws in Copper Mining Industry:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2011/11/03/zambia-workers-detail-abuse-chineseowned-mines>

3. Zambia's new President Sata sets new mining rules for China

<https://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2011/0928/Zambia-s-newPresident-Sata-sets-new-mining-rules-for-China>

Week 8 – China's Belt and Road Initiative and Africa

March 2. Introduction: China-Africa Relations: The Belt and Road Initiative and Its Impact on Africa. Agnes Ngoma Leslie: *African Studies Quarterly* | Volume 19, Issue 3-4 | October 2020:

<https://asq.africa.ufl.edu/files/V19i3-4a1.Introduction-China-Africa.pdf>

3. Understanding China's Belt and Road Infrastructure Projects in Africa, Dollar, David. September 2019

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/understanding-chinas-belt-and-road-infrastructure-projects-in-africa/>

March 4th

POLICY PAPER DUE – March 4th

1. **China's Belt and Road Initiative in Africa, Debt Risk and New Dependency: The Case of Ethiopia** **ISTVÁN TARRÓSY**

<https://asq.africa.ufl.edu/tarrosy-oct-2020/>

2. **Belt and Road Initiative in Africa: The Impact of Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya.** Githaiga, N. M.; Bing, w. China Report

<https://drupal.alliance.edu.in/drupal/sites/default/files/2021-08/Belt%20and%20Road%20Initiative%20in%20Africa.pdf>

WEEK 9 – ARMS TRADE/MILITARY AND PEACEKEEPING ENGAGEMENTS

March 9th. The Arms Trade (Taylor, Chapter 5)

March 11 - China Expands Its Peace and Security Footprint in Africa [Michael](#)

[Kovrig](#)

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/north-east-asia/china/china-expands-its-peace-and-securityfootprint-africa>

3. China's weapons trade: from ships of shame to the ethics of global resistance Samuel J. Spiegel and Philippe le Billon <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27694977>

SPRING BREAK MARCH 14 - 21

Week 10 – China's Soft Power

March 23: 1. Grand Strategy and China's Soft Power Push in Africa

By [Paul Nantulya](#), August 30, 2018: Africa Center for Strategic Studies:

<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/grand-strategy-and-chinas-soft-power-push-in-africa/>

2. Commentary: China-Africa Think Tanks Forum: China Broadens Soft Power Campaigns in Africa. Yun Sun, October 1, 2015

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/china-africa-think-tanks-forum-china-broadens-soft-power-campaigns-in-africa/>

March 25 - China Training -

1. **Power or Influence? Making Sense of China's Evolving Party-to-party Diplomacy in Africa**, Lina Benabdallah *African Studies Quarterly* | Volume 19, Issues
<https://asq.africa.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/168/V19i3-4a6.pdf>
2. Chinese Training Courses for African Officials a "Win Win" Engagement? Henry Tugend: <https://saiscari.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/sais-cari-brief-3-2014tugendhat.pdf>

Week 11 – Instructions for Writing term paper abstracts

1. MARCH 30

China-Africa Media Initiatives– Reflections of Chinese in African Media and Africans in Chinese Media: Africa and Chinese Coverage:

1. China-Africa media relations: What we know so far: Herman Wasserman,
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/2059436418784787>

APRIL 1

China-Africa Media Images

1. China and the Shaping of African Information Societies – Iginio Gagliardone
2. The Image of Africa in China: The Emerging Role of Chinese Social Media, Lianxing Li

https://asq.africa.ufl.edu/li_2016/

Week 12 – HOW AFRICANS ARE SHAPING RELATIONS WITH CHINA

April 6

1. Negotiating China: Reinserting African agency into China–Africa relations. *African Affairs*, Volume 112, Issue 446, January 2013, Pages 92– 110,
<https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/ads065>. (In file)

GILES MOHAN AND BEN LAMPERT

April 8 April 8 @11:59 PM– Abstracts for term paper due

1. "RESHAPING AFRICAN AGENCY IN CHINA-AFRICA RELATIONS"
By [Paul Nantulya \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
<https://africacenter.org/spotlight/reshaping-african-agency-china-africa-relations/>
2. Contextualizing African Agency in Ethiopia-China engagement in wind energy infrastructure financing and development: Frangton Chiyemura:

<https://www5.open.ac.uk/ikd/sites/www.open.ac.uk.ikd/files/files/workingpapers/Contextualizing%20African%20Agency%20IKD%2088.pdf>

Week 13

APRIL 13 - SECOND QUIZ

April 15

African Populations in China

1. The Bridge is not Burning Down: Transformation and Resilience within China's African Diaspora Communities by **Adams Bodomo, ASQ**
https://asq.africa.ufl.edu/bodomo_feb2018/
2. African Students in China: Research, Reality, and Reflection. Li, Anshan. *African Studies Quarterly*. Volume 17, Issue 4. February 2018:

https://asq.africa.ufl.edu/li_anshan_feb2018/

April 20 - Chinese Populations in Africa

<https://theconversation.com/chinese-workers-on-africas-infrastructure-projects-the-link-with-host-political-regimes-195732>

Conclusion: What is the Way Forward?

April 22nd – Term Papers due – No Class.

Term Paper Due: April 22nd @ 11:59 PM

Classes End – April 22nd