

# SHANGHAI NORMAL UNIVERSITY

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	Centre for African Studies
<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>	Professor Frank Youngman
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>Contemporary Africa-China Relations – African Perspectives</b>
<b>COURSE TYPE</b>	Graduate
<b>SEMESTER</b>	Second Semester – March to July, 2016

### COURSE RATIONALE

The Chinese Government's *Second Africa Policy Paper* of 2015 states that the relationship between China and Africa should be one of "mutually beneficial cooperation" and argues that "China has always sincerely supported Africa's development". Chinese Government officials regularly talk of a "win-win" partnership between the two sides. But China and individual African countries are highly unequal in their economic and political strength and global significance. Furthermore, there is great diversity amongst the African Union's 54 states, which are at different levels of development. Is it possible in this situation to have symmetrical bilateral relations? Is China's engagement with African countries actually promoting development on the continent? To what extent do relations with China serve the economic and political interests of African countries? How do Africans view China's role in their countries? This multi-disciplinary course explores these questions by studying African perspectives on contemporary Africa-China relations. Examining African viewpoints will enable Chinese students to develop an all-round analytical understanding of this important relationship within the international political economy and to identify strategies for strengthening it.

### COURSE FORMAT

The course content has three main parts with 15 separate units on particular topics. The course will have one 3-hour class each week with each class covering one unit. The teaching and learning methods on the course will include lectures, group activities, exercises, student presentations and intensive reading. Students will be exposed to a diversity of views in order to gain an in-depth understanding of issues, debates and controversies from African viewpoints. Classes will take the form of interactive seminars. Students will be expected to do preparatory reading, to attend all classes, and to contribute actively in class. Individual and group tutorials will be offered outside of class to provide additional information and explanations.

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Explain different African perspectives on China's involvement in Africa
2. Analyse key issues within Africa-China relations taking into account African viewpoints
3. Discuss critically the role of China in African development
4. Identify strategies for strengthening Africa-China relations

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Part 1. Background**

- Unit 1 – Analysing contemporary Africa-China relations
- Unit 2 - A historical review of Africa-China relations
- Unit 3 - Africa's development realities and aspirations
- Unit 4 – Analysing “African perspectives”

### **Part 2. Key Issues in Africa-China relations**

- Unit 5 - China-Africa trade and investment
- Unit 6 - China and African agriculture
- Unit 7 - China's development assistance to Africa
- Unit 8 - China's education and cultural cooperation in Africa
- Unit 9 - China and African peace and security
- Unit 10 - China and environmental issues in Africa
- Unit 11 - Chinese migrants in Africa

### **Part 3. The Role of China in Africa**

- Unit 12 - Representations of China's involvement in Africa in the African media
- Unit 13 - China and African development
- Unit 14 - The question of “African agency” in Africa-China relations
- Unit 15 - Strengthening Africa-China relations

## **ASSESSMENT**

The course grade will be based on class participation (10%), mid-semester paper (30%) and final paper (60%). Grades will be awarded as follows: 90% - 100% (A: Excellent); 80% - 89% (B: Good); 70% - 79% (C: Average); 60% - 69% (D: Pass); 59% and less (E: Fail). Students are advised to submit a draft of each paper for comment before final submission.

## **TUTORIALS**

I will be available in my office at stated times for individual and/or group meetings. Contact me at: Email: [youngman48@outlook.com](mailto:youngman48@outlook.com) Cell: 15026543485

## **PRESCRIBED READING**

Selected materials in English in electronic format will be circulated to course participants and will constitute the prescribed reading for the course.

## **KEY TEXT**

The main reference book for the course is:

Shinn, D.H. and Eisenman, J. (2012). *China and Africa. A century of engagement*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

## **INTERNET RESOURCES**

A list will be distributed of web-sites and blogs in English that specialise in the analysis of Africa-China relations.