Learning Objective

This course provides students with a comprehensive knowledge and critical understanding of China-Africa contemporary relations framed by relevant international relations, foreign policy and development debates. It unpacks the foundations of China’s foreign policy towards Africa, the main features of relations, the achievements and challenges and how it impacts the continent’s development and its international relations.

Content

The course is divided in three parts. Part I introduces China’s foreign policy towards Africa, focusing on how it has evolved since 1949, its normative underpinnings and drivers and the complexity of actors and agents involved. The second part deconstructs the various dimensions of China’s engagement in Africa, specifically development assistance, trade and economic cooperation, extractive and other industries, security issues and soft power. The final part examines the overall impact of China in Africa’s development and the implications for the continent’s international relations and the future of Africa.
Course Outline

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Learning Outcome

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Summarise the history of China-Africa relations;
- Describe and explain the sources, drivers and the complexity of actors and agents in China’s Africa policy;
- List and discuss the most important dimensions of China-Africa relations, as well as identify main achievements, challenges and changing features;
- Analyse China’s developmental impact in Africa;
- Assess in what ways China’s rise is affecting the continent’s geopolitics and its positioning in global affairs.
**Student Assessment**

5%: Tutorial (and in-class) attendance and participation
Students are expected to actively engage in debates and learning activities designed to help them develop critical thinking on the subject matter. They are also encouraged to engage in occasional in-class discussions.

45%: Case study group project
Students are to prepare and present a case study of their choosing related to one of the topics from week 5 to 12 (to be approved by the lecturer). The topic proposal should be submitted in written format (A4 page stating research topic, question/s and research design) by teaching week 3. Between teaching weeks 5 to 12 each group is to make an oral presentation and discuss their case study with their colleagues (in tutorials). Assessment criteria will include: team work, depth of background research, consistency of arguments and depth of analysis, clear and succinct articulation of ideas, and performance of the team during discussions.

50%: Final written examination (2h30mins)
In the final exam students will have to answer 3 out of 10 questions covering topics lectured during the term. Assessment criteria include knowledge of the topic, ability to summarise and undertake critical analysis, evidence of background reading, and clear and concise articulation.

**Adopted Textbooks**


**Other relevant books**


Course content and readings by lecture
Students are expected to read 1 or 2 items in the recommended supporting literature in advance of each lecture so as to productively engage in discussions with the lecturer and colleagues.

1- Introduction and course overview
In this first session the lecturer will introduce the course make arrangements for tutorials and answer any questions that students may have relating to this course.

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 1
Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 2

Part I. Introduction to China’s foreign policy towards Africa

2- Historical background of China Africa relations
This class will provide the students with a background on the history of China-Africa relations. It will focus on the evolution of China’s Africa policy in the second half of the 20th century and the changing role of Africa in China’s foreign policy.

Readings:
Alden & Large (2018) chapter 3
Brautigam, D. (2009) The Dragon’s Gift (Chapter 1 & 2)
George T. Yu (1966), ‘China’s Failure in Africa’, Asian Survey, 6:8; 461-468 [Link]
3- **Sources of China’s Africa contemporary foreign policy**
This session will explore the political and economic drivers, the principles and policies underpinning China’s growing engagement in Africa as well as latent tensions between rhetoric and practice.

Readings:

Zhao (2017) chapters 5 and 7

Alden, Chris (2008) *China in Africa* (Chapter 1)


4- **The role of FOCAC and key players in China’s Africa policy**
This class will focus on the role of the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in structuring China-Africa relations. It will also unpack the different layers and the multitude of Chinese actors and agents involved in the making and deployment of China’s Africa policy, with reference to their respective functions, how they operate and how they interact in practice.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 9 & 10

Alden (2008) *China in Africa* (Chapter 2)


II: The various dimensions of China’s engagement in Africa

5. *Economic cooperation: trade and Investment (16 Sep)*

This session will unpack and examine China-Africa economic flows (trade and investment) with reference to geographic distribution, targeted sectors, balance, developmental impact and major challenges at present.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 11

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 14


Chen, W., Dollar, D., & Tang, H. (2015). ‘Investment renaissance: China is important to the increasing foreign investment in Africa, but its role is far from dominant.’ *Finance & Development*, (4). 32. [Link]


6. Development assistance and economic statecraft (9 Sep)

This class will look at Chinese development assistance and other economic statecraft instruments (concessional loans, debt forgiveness, CAD fund, etc.), the rhetoric sustaining it, the purposes they serve and how they impact the host countries.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 1 & 4

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 8, 13


Brautigam (2009) The Dragon’s Gift (chapters 3,4,5 &6)

7. China in Africa's extractive industries

In this session we will examine Chinese’ companies foot print in Africa’s extractive’s industries, looking at engagement patterns, meaningful changes overtime and emerging challenges.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 8

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 14, 16


8. China in non-extractive industries in Africa

This class will analyse engagement patterns, developmental impact, meaningful changes overtime and emerging challenges facing Chinese involvement in other sectors (infrastructure, agriculture, industry...).

Readings:


9. China and African security issues

China's deepening presence and hence growing stakes on the continent is pushing Beijing to increasingly engage in African security affairs. This session will analyse the different modalities (PKO, anti-piracy operations, Peace building and post conflict reconstruction, etc) in which China is engaging and the underlying tension with its non-interference policy.

Readings:

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 20
Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 6


10. China’s soft power in Africa

In tandem with its economic penetration in Africa Beijing has been fostering its soft power on the continent, mostly through the strengthening of cultural, educational and media links with the region. In this class we will examine the various efforts in place, how they have progressed and to what extent these have been successful in promoting China’s soft power on the continent and what benefits and challenges they represent for host countries.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 3

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 4 & 5


III. China in Africa: assessing the overall impact

11. The impact of China in Africa’s development

This session will discuss the nature of China-Africa relations from a developmental perspective and debate advantages and limitations of China’s development model as a blueprint for the continent. This discussion will be framed by current debates in the field related to transferability of China’s development model, neo-colonialism and dependency theory.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 1

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 16, 17, 18


12. China’s rise, African agency and the future of the continent

In this class we will unpack in what ways China’s rise in Africa is impacting the continent’s interaction with other emerging and traditional powers framed by current debates on the extent of African agency in drafting their own destiny.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 1

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 15 & 19


Scarlett Cornelissen (2009) ‘Awkward embraces: emerging and established powers and the shifting fortunes of Africa’s international relations in the twenty-first century’ Politikon 36: 1; 5-26 [Link]


1- Conclusion and course revision (11 Nov)

In this last session we will review and discuss issues covering the whole course and debate the future of China Africa relations.

Readings:

Suisheng Zhao (2017) chapter 1

Alden & Large (2018) chapter 21
Online resources:

Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC official website) www.focac.org/eng/

Research institutions:

China-Africa Research Initiative (CARI at SAIS-Johns Hopkins University) www.sais-cari.org/

Centre for Chinese Studies [Link]

South African Institute of International Affairs
http://www.saiia.org.za/china?restcata=190&moduleld=534&Itemid=540

SAIIA: China Africa Factsheet


The China Africa Project, also based in South Africa, covers most dimensions of relations (many podcasts) [Link] have a weekly newsletter that you can subscribe for free

Blogs:
Prof. Deborah Brautigam's blog: http://www.chinaafricarealstory.com/

Ambassador David Shin’s blog: http://davidshinn.blogspot.sg/

Other sources:

China Africa Knowledge Project, US based, you can find mostly academic works on China Africa [Link]

Aid data, US based, mostly info re Chinese development finance: http://china.aiddata.org/

China Africa Reporting Project, from Wits Journalism school (Johannesburg), news on topical issues in Ch-Af relations: [Link]


The China Analyst, based in Beijing: http://www.thebeijingaxis.com/tca/ (scattered info)