

University Seminar: "China and the U.S. in a Globalizing World"

Professor Wyatt J. Brooks

University of Notre Dame

Spring 2019

Course Information

Class Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 – 4:45
Class Location:	B058 Jenkins and Nanovic Hall
Office Hours:	Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30
Office Location:	3035 Nanovic Hall
Course Website:	https://www3.nd.edu/~wbrooks/USEMS19.html
Email:	wbrooks@nd.edu

Course Description

China and the United States have the two largest economies and two largest militaries in the world. The relationship between these two countries is defined by tight economic links (such as trade flows and financial flows) and by areas of policy disagreement (as in human rights and foreign policy). This course is focused on studying the Chinese economy, and the economic interaction between the U.S. and China. In addition, no previous knowledge about China is assumed, and this course is designed to be an entry point into future study of Chinese history, culture and politics.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and complete all writing assignments. Classroom discussion materials cover topics of general interest that we explore together, while the writing assignments allow students to select topics to study in depth. Discussion material must be studied before each class so that students can actively participate. There will be writing assignments completed in the first twelve weeks of the course. Students will select one of their three assignments to expand into a term paper. Attendance will be taken at every lecture, and absences must be excused to avoid losing participation points.

Course Materials

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Instead, course materials will consist of freely available sources on the internet as assigned by the professor. Students are required to check their university email accounts for updates and assignments.

Writing Assignments and Term Paper

Students will complete three writing assignments related to the course. Each writing assignment requires an essay of 1,800-1,900 words, and include citations to relevant source material. Writing assignments are given a whole number grade on a scale from 0 to 25. Papers are graded for content, quality of writing, and quality of citations and research. Due dates and complete descriptions of the writing assignments are available on the course website.

Students will select one of their writing assignments to be expanded into a full term paper of 3,600-3,700 words. A full description of the requirements of the term paper can be found on the course website.

Class Participation

Not including the introductory lecture, there are 20 required lectures in this course. Each lecture presents the opportunity to earn a participation point for contributing to the in-class discussion. To receive the discussion point, students must volunteer to answer at least one question in the group discussion, or to give a response when called upon that demonstrates engagement and preparation for the lecture. In addition, each written assignment (besides the final term paper) is preceded by an in-class writing workshop where students provide one another feedback on their work. This class is also required, and participation points are received for attendance and participation. Excused absences with proper documentation according to university policies receive points for missed lectures.

Course Grade

There are 145 possible points in the course, which consists of 25 points for each of 3 written essays, 50 points for the term paper, and 20 points for participation.

Course letter grades are:

- 136-145: A; 131-135: A-; 126-130: B+; 121-125: B; 116-120: B-
- 111-115: C+; 106-110: C; 101-105: C-; 87-100: D; below 87: F

Academic Dishonesty

This class follows the binding *Code of Honor* at Notre Dame as described in *The Academic Code of Honor Handbook*. The graded work you do in this class must be your own. Students can review the code at: <http://honorcode.nd.edu>

Contact Etiquette

Email is the primary mode of communication between students and the instructor throughout this course. Students are required to check their university-assigned email accounts for all class instructions and updates. Students are encouraged to ask questions of the professor via email, but should expect that it may take up to 24 hours to receive a response. If students do not receive a response after 24 hours, students are encouraged to follow up.

To encourage students to complete their assignments early, the professor will not answer questions about assignments within 24 hours of their due date outside of office hours. As such, students are strongly encouraged to begin working on their assignments early, and ask all the questions they have about the assignment well in advance of their due date.

All email correspondence should be professional, and should make use of a salutation, a sign-off, proper grammar, and as little slang as possible. This policy is not to encourage formality for its own sake, but rather to build habits to prepare you for your professional life after graduation.

The professor will not communicate with any party outside the university about the performance of any student in this course, including the students' family. If your family has any questions about the course or your performance in it, they should discuss them with you.