



GLOBAL SUMMER PROGRAMME 2020

LGST235 CHINA'S BELT & ROAD INITIATIVE: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

- Instructor Name: Henry GAO
- Title: Associate Professor
- Email: gaohenry@gmail.com / henrygao@smu.edu.sg
- Office: School of Law, Room 4036



A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Initially two obscure projects (The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-century Maritime Silk Road) announced in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has quickly become the centre-piece of China's economic diplomacy over the past few years. Spanning across Asia, Europe and Africa, the project is often called the "Marshall Plan" of China as it aims to promote the economic development of the less-developed countries in the three continents.

Taught by an advisor to the WTO and the Chinese government, this course will provide an in-depth analysis for the background for the BRI, the detailed strategy of China in each areas covered such as trade and investment, and how the BRI might result in an alternative economic order led by China.

B. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

- achieve a deep understanding of the background and content of the BRI
- critically analyse the challenges and opportunities BRI entails

C. PRE-REQUISITES / REQUIREMENTS / MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE COURSES (IF ANY)

This course does not require any pre-requisite.

D. ASSESSMENT METHODS / GRADING DETAILS

Individual Class Performance	20%
Group Written Report and Presentation	30%
Individual Reflection Paper	50%
Total	100%

E. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences.

All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructors of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

F. ACCESSIBILITY

SMU strives to make learning experiences accessible for all. If students anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers due to disability, please let the instructor know immediately. Students are also welcome to contact the university's disability services team if they have questions or concerns about academic provisions: included@smu.edu.sg.

Please be aware that the accessible tables in the seminar room should remain available for students who require them.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND EXPECTATIONS

Other than the group presentations, most of the classes will be taught in a highly-interactive way following the Socratic Method. The students will be expected to actively engage in discussions in class.

Individual class performance (20%): Students are expected to participate actively in discussions in class, using the knowledge they have gained from the readings and other preparations they have done before the class. Both of the quantity and quality of the contributions made by each student will be taken into account in the assessment.

Group presentation (30%): During the second half of the semester, the whole class will be divided into several groups to work on pre-assigned topics. Each group will make a presentation on its topic, answer questions from the floor and lead discussions with the rest of the class. The performance of each group will be assessed as a whole and each member of a group will receive the same grade.

The students are encouraged to form their own groups according to the rules set by the instructor.

Individual Research Paper (50%): At the end of the course, students will need to submit a reflection paper according to guidelines issued by the instructor. The paper shall have a minimum of 2,000 words.

H. CLASSROOM POLICIES

All students are reminded to refrain from making noise during class. Any student found chatting to each other or through electronic devices without prior authorizations will be immediately expelled from class.

I. IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT DATES

To be advised closer to the start of the course

J. CONSULTATIONS

All students are encouraged to raise questions that they might have during the class so that the whole class could benefit from the discussions.

In case any student wishes to ask questions after class, email is the preferred method of communication. The instructor reserves the right to share all questions asked after class with the whole class to ensure fairness to all students.

K. RECOMMENDED TEXT / READING LIST / CASE STUDIES LIST

To be advised closer to the start of the course

LESSON PLAN	
LESSONS	SESSIONS
LESSON 1 (Wed, 1 July)	INTRODUCTION
LESSON 2 (Thu, 2 July)	CHINESE HISTORY: PRE-1840
LESSON 3 (Fri, 3 July)	CHINESE HISTORY: 1840 – PRESENT
LESSON 4 (Wed, 8 July)	CHINESE CULTURE AND PHILOSOPHY
LESSON 5 (Thu, 9 July)	CHINESE POLITICAL SYSTEM
LESSON 6 (Fri, 10 July)	CHINESE ECONOMIC SYSTEM
LESSON 7 (Wed, 15 July)	CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY
LESSON 8 (Thu, 16 July)	CHINA AND THE GLOBAL TRADING SYSTEM
LESSON 9 (Fri, 17 July)	BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: BACKGROUND AND CONTENT
LESSON 10 (Wed, 22 July)	BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
LESSON 11 (Thu, 23 July)	GROUP PRESENTATIONS (Part 1) GROUP PRESENTATION IN CLASS
LESSON 12 (Fri, 24 July)	GROUP PRESENTATIONS (Part 2) GROUP PRESENTATION IN CLASS