Grading guidelines KIN4350 Spring 2025 "China – Features of a New Geopolitical Power"

Course description: https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/hf/ikos/KIN4350/

Brief description of content: In this course, we explore the many features of China's geopolitical rise, as well as the effects this has on other countries and, in turn, on China itself. On the basis of the lecturers' cutting-edge empirical research and a selection of topical academic texts, this course will build knowledge about China's status and orientation in global politics. Classes will deal with concrete areas, institutions, and actor constellations in which we can observe Chinese geopolitics. Attention will be paid to how China shapes and is in turn shaped by its geopolitical activities.

Term paper requirements

From course page: "The assignment should consist of 10-12 pages (or approximately 4,000 words). One standard page is approximately 2300 characters without spaces, including references. The front page and bibliography are not included in the page count. The term paper must be on a topic of your own choice from the course programme."

Further information about the term paper that the students received in class

Formal requirements

- Language: English
- No requirement to use Chinese language sources [since it is a cross-listed course, including students beyond HF/China studies programs]
- No original data collection or research needed
- Free choice of any standard citation system

Content requirements/goals for the term paper

- Present an **autonomous analysis** of your choice that reflects the course topic(s)
- Pursue a narrowly defined **research question** and ambition [i.e. *this is not your MA thesis*]
- Work with publicly accessible and consciously chosen **study material**, which usually includes: research literature (check out the further reading list in our PDF course plan and use the usual academic search engines, for example via the UiO Library, CrossAsia, or Google Scholar, etc.), data (bases), media reports, policy documents, and any other available and accessible information relevant for answering your research question --> in any case: briefly introduce and explain your selection of study material/literature/data and make sure to refer to it to corroborate your study and arguments
- Conduct an **intellectually ambitious** but **practically feasible** study (aligned with the requirements above)

- Identify the **theoretical or conceptual interest** that motivates your study and that guides and informs your analysis (even if your paper is just a review or amendment of one of the weekly readings); which basically means to make sure to name and briefly define key terms and concepts you are interested in and work with, or that the texts you analyze work with (e.g. "soft power", "security dilemma", "economic coercion", "hegemony", "dual use", "green transition", etc.)
- And try to be as precise as possible and to **operationalize** - with the help of the literature you work with - aspects of what you are studying in order to approach or answer your research questions (i.e. what needs to be fulfilled in order to speak of "economic coercion"; what are indicators of "soft power"; when is a conflict a "hot conflict"; what constitutes a "negative" or "positive" image of China in the press, etc.)

Communicated assessment criteria

The evaluation of the term papers will basically happen based on the expectations outlined above. This again (and further) includes that the term paper

- represents an autonomous academic study, not just a copying/unstructured paraphrasing of other texts
- is thematically linked to our course "China -Features of a New Geopolitical Power"
- demonstrates the author's ability to critically read and process scholarly literature
- identifies, selects and introduces relevant study material in order to pursue a research question
- includes a definition of (the) key term(s) that is/are linked to the author's interest in the topic and their approach toward answering the research question
- contains a standard academic citation system and applies it coherently throughout the text
- is 'readable' [i.e. no native writers' level of English or editing is required, but please make sure the text is not full of errors and typos]
- has been submitted by the deadline.

The above information was shared in class and forms the basis for the grading of the term papers that were submitted.

Curriculum

- For the (mostly) required reading, please see the course's **Leganto page**: https://bibsys-k.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/nui/lists/21105021150002204?institute=47BIBSYS_UBO&auth=SAML

- A comprehensive bibliography (including further reading) can be found on the course's **Canvas page**: https://uio.instructure.com/courses/55673/modules

- I can also make the full course schedule and reading list (as PDF) available, if needed