China in World Politics

This course begins with China's extraordinary economic rise after January 1992. It asks how this formidable change in the world balance of power has both transformed how China experiences its interests, as in the need for huge amounts of imported energy, and how nations all around the world, in region after region, are impacted by China's new clout and new interests.

Applying diverse international relations approaches and assessing events and problems and possibilities from the perspective of a host of different governments in different regions, the course looks to the future, grappling with alternative futures as shaped by what the different outcomes could become, given China's continuing rise toward global economic hegemony.

Required books (4)

Dambisa Moyo, Winner Take All: China's Race for Resources and What it Means for the World, Basic Books
Dittmer and Yu, eds., China, the Developing World and the New Global Dynamic, Rienner

Assignments: There are 3 exams, - a 6 week exam, an 11 week exam and a final exam. All are open book exams. Essay questions will be distributed in advance. All exams also contain short answer questions.

Course outline

I (5 weeks) The Domestic and International Politics of Economic Growth and Energy Imperatives

Readings: 1- Lawrence and Martin, "Understanding China's Political System" (available on line)
2- Moyo, Winner Take All (OK to skip chapter 5)
3- Chellaney, ch. 3, energy
4- Dittmer and Yu, ch. 7 (Africa) and 8 (Middle East)
5- Suettinger, chs. 4-5
6 week exam

II (2 weeks) Diverse Theoretical Approaches

Readings: 1- Chellaney, chs. 1-2
2- Dittmer and Yu, chs. 1-3
3- Suettinger, chs. 1-3

III (3 weeks) Hot Spots: Taiwan, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia

1- Dittmer and Yu, ch. 4 (Southeast Asia)
2- Chellaney, chs. 4-5
3- Suettinger, chs. 6-9

11 week exam

IV (2 weeks) Other Regions

1- Dittmer and Yu, chs. 5, 6, and 9, South Asia, Central Asia (and Russia and Mongolia), and Latin America
2- up-to-date e-articles

V (3 weeks) Toward the Future: A New Grand Bargain or Power Transition and War or Soft Power and China's Global Hegemony or...?

1- Suettinger, ch. 10, Epilogue and Conclusion
2- Dittmer and Yu, ch. 10
3- Contemporary International Relations (a journal from Beijing to be purchased at the start of the semester)
4- up-to-date e-articles

Final Exam

Essay I (60 minutes)

The Standing Committee of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party invites you, the world's leading international relations theorist who specializes in Chinese foreign policy, to write a theoretically-informed paper for their advisers explaining why China and its policies are more welcome in some places but not in others and what the Politburo should do to promote a world that better serves their interests. (Make use of events and policies covered throughout the course to show what policies help China and which do not)
Essay II (30 minutes)

Based on recent events (e-articles) and Chinese analyses (your issue of CIR), how should outside observers understand the political causes inside of China of today's Chinese foreign policy choices and the consequences for the rest of the world of those policy choices.

Short Answers (30 minutes) Respond to 10 out of 18 questions