China in World Politics

The course begins with the extraordinary rise of the People's Republic of China after a new leader, Deng Xiaoping, takes power and opens China to the world market. It focuses on China's maritime reorientation in response to political challenges from 1989 to 1993, when China had to begin importing oil.

The course then explores how ruling groups in China's Communist Party imagine their and China's futures. These ruling groups seeks to maintain the authoritarian CCP political system and to return China to civilizational centrality. The consequence of a new ruling group with new goals combined with awesome capabilities which flow from China's economic rise allows China to fundamentally alter the regional and global balances of power, creating new challenges and opportunities, especially for China's neighbors. All countries and regions are compelled to re-think how to respond to China's sustained and rapid rise.

Using diverse international relations approaches, the course, after covering Chinese policy in all the regions of the world, asks what all of the tremendous changes brought by the rise of China portend for China's and the world's futures. The course concludes by exploring diverse forecasts of those futures in an age in which the PRC will most likely become the world's largest economy.

Required Books

Daniel Lynch, China's Futures
Zheng Wang, Never Forget National Humiliation
Andrew Small, The China-Pakistan Axis
Bellacqua, ed., The Future of China-Russia Relations
Howard French, China's Second Continent (Africa)
e-articles from the library
e-articles from the instructor
Assignments

There is a 6 week exam, an 11 week exam and a final. All tests are open book. Essay questions will be provided in advance of the exam. There also are short answer questions. The essay questions for the final exam appear at the end of the syllabus.

Course Outline

I (3 weeks)

The 1989-1993 Turning Point: Economic Rise, Energy Imperatives, Maritime Geopolitics, the Middle East

Lynch, Preface and chs. 1-3

Small, ch. 5

e-articles: Dooley, The Great Leap Outward: China's Maritime Renaissance

Henry Paulson, Dealing with China, ch. 5 (on oil)

Scott Harold, Opportunist Cooperation under Constraints: Non-Proliferation, Energy Trade, and the Evolution of Chinese Policy Toward Iran

II (2 1/2 weeks)

National Identity and National Purpose

Zheng Wang, all

Lynch, ch. 6

Small, ch. 4

Bellacqua, chs. 10-11 (Taiwan)

6 week exam
III (2 1/2 weeks)

Asia

Lynch, ch. 5

Bellacqua, ch. 9

East Asia (Japan, the Koreas, and non-traditional security)

e-articles: Ji Zhiye et al., The Inherent Logic Behind Rising China-Japan Tensions, CIR, March-April 2014: 1-65 (PRC views)

Berger, "Japan: The Model Impenitent, ch. 6 in War, Guilt and World Politics after WW II

Ryosei Kokubun, Sino-Japanese Relations From the '1972 Framework' to the '2006 Framework'

Sheila Smith, Intimate Rivals, chs. 6 and 5

Southeast Asia


Shi Yinhong, The Latest Transfer in China's Foreign Strategy: From 'Military Strategy' to 'Economic Strategy'

Xue Li and Xu Yanzhou, China Should Adjust Its South China Sea Policy

South Asia

Small, chs. 1-4 and 6-7

e-articles: Mathew Mosca, India in Qing Strategic Thought, ch. 6 in From Frontier Policy to Foreign Policy

Bertil Lintner, The Indian Ocean and Postscript, ch. 7 and Postscript in Great Game East: India, China and the Struggle for Asia's Most Volatile Frontier
IV (1 week)
Russia, Mongolia, Central Asia and Xinjiang

Bellacqua, chs. 1-8

e-articles: Mackerras, Xinjiang in China's Foreign Relations
Seytoff, Why the Uyghur people will continue to reject China's colonial and apartheid rule
Wang Lixiong, The Elephant and the Mouse
Didi Tang, China counterterrorism strategy questioned amid spate of attacks

V (1 1/2 weeks)
Africa, Latin America, Australia, the South Pacific, the Arctic and Antarctica

Africa
French, all

Latin America

e-articles: Cheng, China's Approach to BRICs
Wu Hongying, Upgrading China-Latin America Relations
Ellis, Time to Talk about India and Latin America

11 weeks exam
VI (4 weeks)

Toward the Future

Bellacqua, Introduction

Lynch, ch. 7

Small, Epilogue

e-articles: Ash, Xi Jinping's China is the greatest political experiment on Earth (bullish)

Liu Mingfu, The World is Too Important to Be Left to America (bullish)

Kirby, Why China is so worried about labour unrest (bearish)

Peter Zeibian, The China Wars, ch. 14 in The Accidental Superpower (bearish)

e-articles to be forwarded by instructor on unfolding events

Final Exam

1 (30 minutes) Essay

Explain, using as much IR theory as possible, both the domestic and international factors which make it difficult for CCP ruling groups to construct an Asia happily subordinated to a benign and magnanimous PRC hegemony

2 (60 minutes) Essay

Use course material and IR theory to show both which author's forecast for China's future is most likely to be correct and also which author's forecast is most likely to be wrong. Do not discuss the forecast considered in essay number one.

3 (30 minutes) Short answer questions