

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

SII 199S
The China Challenge

Spring, 2019
Mr. Falkenheim

Course Description

China's meteoric rise to great power status has triggered an intense international debate over its global implications. While many analysts see Beijing's rise as posing a threat to global political and economic stability, Chinese leaders have argued forcefully that China's efforts to regain its historic preeminence will result in a 'win-win' outcome for all states. This course will assess the merits of these contending positions through an historical examination of China's 20th century renaissance.

The course will begin by tracing the long period of imperial decline in the 19th century, culminating in China's revolutionary rebirth as a Marxist state in 1949. A major focus will be on the Mao-era legacy of revolutionary diplomacy and the foreign policy consequences of its later transformation into a market-authoritarian powerhouse. The course will end with an assessment of the implications for Canada and the international community of China's expanding power and influence.

This course is organized in a seminar format, with students rotating responsibility for summarizing and commenting on the readings.

Grading Scheme

2 Term Tests @ 25% each=	50%
Participation	20%
Essay	30%

Readings

Topics and assigned readings will be posted as PDFs or links on a weekly basis in the modules sections of Quercus, on the schedule contained in the syllabus.. No text is required.

Topics and Readings

September 10 Course Introduction and Overview: Defining the 'China Challenge'

1. Randall Peerenboom, The China Model: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest, Chapter 1.
2. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 11.
3. Video "Two Coasts of China"

September 17

China's Century of Revolution

1. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 4 ("China's Ignominy").
2. Edgar Snow, Red Star Over China, ("Mao's Autobiography")
3. Video "China: Century of Revolution)

September 24

China as Revolutionary State: The Mao Era

1. Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, Chapter 4
2. Liang Heng, Son of the Revolution, pp. 1-44
3. Video (The Mao Years)

October 1

China's 'Second Revolution': The Deng Era and Beyond

1. Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China, Chapter 5
2. Liang Heng, Son of the Revolution, Chapter 17-20.
3. Video "Born Under the Red Flag"

October 8

Thanksgiving: No Class Meeting

October 15

China in the World: An Overview

1. Fravel and Medeiros, "China's New Diplomacy,"
2. Ian Johnson, "Will China be Supreme?"
3. Video: "China from the Inside Out"

October 22

Term Test

October 29

Chinese Nationalism Reassessed

1. Lucian Pye, "Chinese Nationalism Shanghaied."
2. Susan Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower, Chapter 4.

November 5

Reading Week: No Class Meeting

November 12

China and the World: The Economic Dimension

1. David Shambaugh, China Goes Global: The Partial Power, Chapter 5
2. “China’s ‘Belt and Road’ Dream Assessed.”

November 19

China and the World: The Security Challenge

1. David Shambaugh, China Goes Global, Chapter 7.
2. Nathan and Scobell, China’s Search for Security, Chapter 11
 (“Military Modernization: From People’s War to Power Projection”)

November 26

China’s “Soft Power” Challenge

1. Stanley Rosen, “China and US Soft Power Compared.”
2. Nathan and Scobell, China’s Search for Security, Chapter 12.

December 3

Domestic Challenges and the Future of China’s Rise

1. Frank Pieke, Knowing China, Chapter 6, 7 (“Not Just a Chinese Century”)
2. William Overholt, China’s Crisis of Success, Chapters 5 & 6.

December 6

Term Test