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.

**September 17**

**The Sinocentric World Order and its Collapse**

4. Video: “Two Coasts of China”

**September 24**

**China as Revolutionary State: The Mao Era**

4. Video (The Mao Years)

**October 1**

**China’s ‘Second Revolution’: Deng’s ‘Going Out’ Policies**

1. Henry Kissinger, *China* (“The Indestructible Deng”)
3. Fravel and Medeiros, “China’s New Diplomacy,”
4. Video “Born Under the Red Flag”

**October 8**

**China’s ‘Third Revolution’: Foreign Policy under Xi Jinping**

2. Ian Johnson, “Will China Be Supreme?” *NYRB*

**October 15**

**Term Test**
October 22

**Chinese Nationalism Reassessed**

1. Lucian Pye, "Chinese Nationalism Shanghaiced."
2. Suisheng Zhao, "China’s Pragmatic Nationalism, Can it be Managed?"
3. Julia Lovell, "It’s Just History: Patriotic Education in the PRC."

October 29

**China and the World: The Economic Dimension**

2. "China’s ‘Belt and Road’ Dream Assessed."
3. Video: "China from the Inside Out"

November 5

**Reading Week: No Class**

November 12

**China and the World: The Security Challenge**

2. Nathan and Scobell, *China’s Search for Security*, Chapter 11
   ("Military Modernization: From People’s War to Power Projection")

November 19

**China’s “Soft Power” Challenge**


November 26

**Domestic Challenges and the Future of China’s Rise**

1. Frank Pieke, *Knowing China*, Chapter 6, 7 ("Not Just a Chinese Century")

December 3

**Term Test**