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 14 Course Introduction and Overview: Defining the ‘China Challenge’

**September 21**

**The Sinocentric World Order and its Collapse**

4. Video: “Two Coasts of China”

**September 28**

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

4. Video (The Mao Years)

**October 5**

**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 12**

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

2. Ian Johnson, “Will China Be Supreme?” *NYRBa*
October 19  Midterm Test

October 26  China: “A New Tianxia?”

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

November 9  Reading Week: No Class

November 16  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.”
3. Video: “China from the Inside Out”

November 23  China’s “Soft Power” Challenge
2. Nathan and Scobell, China’s Search for Security, Chapter 12.
3. Daniel Lynch, China’s Futures, Chapter 6.

November 30  Territory, Identity and Security
1. Nathan and Scobel, China’s Search for Security Chapter 9.
2. TBA

December 7  End-of-Term Test