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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Test (February 13)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Test (April 2)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay (Due: April 5)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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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. Required readings are marked with asterisks. Read double asterisked articles first.

Topics and Readings

January 9  
Course Introduction and Overview: Defining the ‘China Challenge’
1. Ding Gang, “Western Intellectuals have weak minds….**”
2. Kaiser Kuo, “Why do the Chinese People like their government?” 2019.**
4. Randall Peerenboom, The China Model: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest, Chapter 1.

January 16 The Sinocentric World Order and its Collapse

1. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 4 (“China’s Ignominy”).**
2. Howard French, All Under Heaven, Introduction**
4. Video: “Two Coasts of China”

January 23 China as Revolutionary State: The Mao Era

4. John Garver, “China as the Epicenter of the World Revolution.”*
5. Video (The Mao Years)

January 30 China’s ‘Second Revolution’: Deng’s ‘Going Out” Policies

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

February 6 China’s ‘Third Revolution’: Foreign Policy under Xi Jinping

2. Minxin Pei, “China Under Xi Jinping”**
3. Ian Johnson, “Will China Be Supreme?” NYRBa*
February 13  Midterm Test
February 20  No Class: Reading Week
February 27  China: “A New Tianxia?”
     the US debate on Beijing’s Ambitions” CSIS, 2021.**
  2. Xiaoyu Pu, “Rethinking China’s Rise: China’s Scholars Debate
     Strategic Overstretch,” International Affairs, 2018.*
  3. Nadege Rolland, “China’s Vision for a New World Order”*
  4. Iain Johnston, “China in a World of Orders.”**

March 5  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.”**

March 12  China’s “Soft Power” Challenge
  2. David Shambaugh, “China’s Cultural Power”*
  3. Daniel Lynch, China’s Futures: Chapter 6 (Soft Power)**
  5. Anne Marie Brady, “Magic Weapons.”
  6. Maria Repnikova “Soft Power-Ethiopia”

March 19  The Military-Technology Challenge
  1. Tai Ming Cheung, “Innovate to Dominate”
  2. Adam Liu and Xiaojing Li, “Support for Unification”
  3. CRS PLA Update (2022)
  4. Dennis Blasko, “PLA Weaknesses…”
  5. TBA

March 26  The Economic Challenge
  1. David Shambaugh, China Goes Global: The Partial Power, Chapter 5*
  2. Aaron Friedberg and Charles Boustany, “Answering China’s
     Economic Challenge.”**
  3. James Reilly, “China’s BRI.”*
  4. Video: “China from the Inside Out”
April 2  **Territory, Identity and Security**

1. Nathan and Scobel, China’s Search for Security Chapter 9.
2. James Leibold, *Xinjiang*, CLM 59
3. Kharis Templeman, “How Taiwan Stands up to China.”
4. Victoria Tinbor Hui, “HK faces Tianmen 2.0”

April 2  **End-of-Term Test** (Takehome)