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American Hegemony and the Rise of China

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| Course Code: | POL308 |
| Recommended Year of Study: | 2 or 3 |
| No. of Credit/Term: | 3 |
| Mode of Tuition: | Lecture-Tutorial |
| Class Contact Hour: | 3 |
| Category in Major Program: | Elective |
| Discipline: | Politics |
| Prerequisite: | None |

Course Aims:

This course examines the rise of China as a world power and its impact on Sino-U.S. strategic relationship. In particular, the course explores whether the rise of China has contributed to the end of the U.S.-led hegemonic system and is moving the world toward a new bipolar or multipolar system. In addition, the course analyzes the evolution of U.S. policy toward a rising China. Some specific topics include economic and military foundations of China's ascendance, China's new foreign policy goals and strategies, the possibility of a so-called G-2 partnership with the United States, and potential areas of conflicts between the two countries. The course will also assess whether the rise of China will repeat the same legacy of instability that is often associated with balance of power shift in the global system.

Learning Outcomes:

Students should be able to comprehend different aspects of the rise of China and its implications. Students should also learn why the rise of great powers has traditionally generated instability in the international system. Moreover, students should become familiar with the emerging China-U.S. rivalry in key areas and alternative methods of conflict management between the two countries.

Teaching Method:

This course consists of lectures, classroom discussions, tutorials, presentations, and research and writing.

Assessment:

The final grade of students will be determined by the following: attendance and participation 10%, tutorial 10%, research paper 30%, final exam 50%. The paper needs to be at least 12 pages long but no more than 15. The paper is due one week after the final exam.

Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.

Required Readings:

There are no required textbooks. All reading materials will be put on reserve in the library. Some will be available on the internet.

Topics

Sept 7. Why Does the Rise of New Powers Generate International Conflicts?

Ronald L. Tammen and Douglas Lemke. 2000. *Power Transition: Strategies for the 21st Century*. Chapter 1.

Robert Gilpin. 1981. *War and Change in World Politics*. Chapters 4 and 5.

Sept 14. American Hegemony: Causes and Origins

Stephen M. Walt. 2005. *Taming American Power: The Global Response to U.S. Primacy*. Chapter 1.

Mortimer Zackerman. 1998. "A Second American Century." *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 77, No. 3.

Robert L. Paarlberg. 2004. "Knowledge as Power: Science, Military Dominance, and U.S. Security," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 1.

Sept. 21. The End of American Hegemony?

National Intelligence Council. 2008. *Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World*.

Christopher Layne. 2006. *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 To the Present*. Chapter 7: The End of the Unipolar Era.

- Christopher Layne. 2006. "Impotent Power? Re-examining the Nature of America's Hegemonic Power," *The National Interest*, September-October.
- Robert Kagan. 2008. "End of Dreams, Return of History," in Melvyn P. Leffler and Jeffrey W. Legro, eds., *To Lead the World: American Strategy after the Bush Doctrine*.
- T.V. Paul. 2005. "Soft Balancing in the Age of U.S. Primacy," *International Security*, Vol. 30, No. 1.
- William C. Wohlforth. 2002. "U.S. Strategy in a Unipolar World," in G. John Ikenberry, ed., *America Unrivaled: The Future of the Balance of Power*.

Sept. 28. The Rise of China: Various Aspects

- Fareed Zakaria. 2009. *The Post American World*. Chapters 4.
- Martin Jacques. 2009. *When China Rules of World*.
- Ted C. Fishman. 2005. *China Inc.: How The Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World*. Chapters 1 and 11.
- The U.S. Department of Defense. 2009. *Annual Report: The Military Power of the People's Republic of China*, at http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/China_Military_Power_Report_2009.pdf.
- Hudson Institute. 2005. *China's New Great Leap Forward: High Technology and Military Power in the Next Half-Century*.
http://www.hudson.org/files/publications/China_Great_Leap_Forward.pdf

Oct. 5. The Rise of China's Soft Power

- Joshua Kurlantzick. 2007. *Charm Offensive: How China's Soft Power Is Transforming The World*, Chapters 1, 4, 5 and 10.
- Lai Hongyi. 2006. "China's Cultural Diplomacy: Going for Soft Power," East Asia Institute Background Brief, No. 308. 2007.
- Bates Gill and Yanzhong Huang. 2006. "Sources and Limits of Chinese Soft Power," *Survival*, Vol. 46, No. 2.

Oct 13. A Different View on China's Rise

- Center For Strategic and International Studies. 2006. *China: What the World Needs to Know About the Emerging Superpower*, Chapters 2 and 3.
- Susan Shirk. 2007. *China: Fragile Super Power*, Chapters 1-3.
- David Lampton. 2007. "The Faces of Chinese Power," *Foreign Affairs*, January-February.

Oct. 20. To Be Determined

Nov. 2. Should Others Worry about the Rise of China?

Aaron L. Fridberg. 2005. "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?"
International Security, Vol. 30, No. 2.

Avery Goldstein. 2005. *Rising to the Challenge: China's Grand Strategy and International Security*. Chapter 4.

David C. Kang. 2007. *China Rising*. Chapter 3: Describing East Asia: Alignment Pattern Toward China.

David Lampton. 2007. "Alternative Security and Foreign Policy Futures for China: 2020," *Asia Policy*, No. 4 (July).

Nov. 9. China's Grand Strategy for Its Ascendance

Avery Goldstein. 2005. *Rising to the Challenge: China's Grand Strategy and International Security*. Chapter 2: China's Changing Strategic Landscape.

Zheng Bijian. 2005. "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5.

Bates Gill. 2007. *Rising Star: China's New Security Diplomacy*, Chapters 1-2.

Avery Goldstein. 2003. "An Emerging China's Emerging Grand Strategy: A Neo-Bismarckian Turn?" in G. John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno, eds., *International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific*.

Nov 16. U.S.-China Relations: China's Policy Toward the United States

Wang Jisi. 2005. "China's Search for Stability with the United States," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84, No. 5.

Andrew Erickson and Lyle Goldstein. 2006. "Hoping for the Best, Preparing for the Worst: China's Response to U.S. Hegemony," *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 6.

Rosemary Foot. 2005. "Chinese Strategies in a US-Hegemonic Global Order: Accommodating and Hedging," *International Affairs*, Vol. 82, No. 1.

Jia Qingguo. 2005. "Learning to Live with the Hegemon: Evolution of China's Policy Toward the United States since the End of the Cold War," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 14, No. 44.

Nov. 23. U.S.-China Relations: U.S. Policy Toward China

Kerry Dumbaugh. 2005. "China-U.S. Relations: Current Issues and Implications for U.S. Policy," Congressional Research Service, Report for Congress.

- Robert B. Zoellick. 2005. "Wither China: From Membership to Responsibility?"
Remarks to National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, September 21.
- C. Fred Bergsten. 2008. "A Partnership of Equals," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, No. 4, pp. 57-69.
- Dennis Wilder. 2009. "The U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue: Continuity and Change in Obama's China Policy," *China Brief*, Vol. 9, Issue 10.
- Hillary Clinton and Timothy Geithner. 2009. "A New Strategic and Economic Dialogue With China," *The Wall Street Journal*, July 27, 2009.
- Thomas J. Christensen. 2006. "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster?"
International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1.
- Nov. 30. U.S.-China Security Relationship
- Richard G. Bush and Michael E. O'Hanlon. 2007. *A War Like No Other: The Truth About China's Challenge to America*, Chapters 5-8.
- Rand Corporation. 2007. *Entering the Dragon's Lair: Chinese Antiaccess Strategies And Their Implications for the United States*.
- Ashley J. Tellis. 2007. "Punching the U.S. Military's Soft Ribs: China's Antisatellite Weapons Test in Strategic Perspective," Policy Brief No. 51, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.