American Hegemony and the Rise of China

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 explores the China’s rise as a global power, which is rapidly transforming world and regional politics. It examines whether the rise of China will usher in a period of instability and increasing conflicts with other countries. In particular, the course studies what the Chinese ascendance will mean for the global hegemony of the United States. The course therefore explores the important issue of whether China and the United States are heading toward long-term rivalry and whether this rivalry can be managed peacefully.

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.

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 18. American Hegemony: Causes and Origins

Sept. 25. The Future of American Hegemony
Oct 2. The Rise of China: Various Aspects


Oct 16. A Different View on China’s Rise

Oct 23. Why Should Others Worry about the Rise of China

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 6. China’s Regional Strategies

Nov 13. U.S.-China Relations: China’s Policy Toward the United States

Nov. 20. U.S.-China Relations: U.S. Policy Toward China
Nov. 27. Prospects for U.S.-China Military Conflicts

Dec. 4. Final Exam
Sept. 20

Sept. 27

Oct. 4

Oct. 11

Oct. 18

Oct. 25

Nov. 1

Nov. 8
Nov. 15

Nov. 22

Nov. 29
Presentation Dates

Oct. 5

Oct. 12

Oct. 26

Nov. 2

Nov. 9

Nov. 16

Nov. 23

Nov. 30

Dec. 7