

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

POL 196H/F
The China Challenge

Fall, 2020
Mr. Falkenheim

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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 15 **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.
2. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 11.
3. Graham Allison, “The Thucydides Trap: Are the US and China Headed for War?” Atlantic, September 24, 2015.
4. US VP, Mike Pence, “US Policy Towards China,” (October 4, 2018)

September 22

The Sinocentric World Order and its Collapse

1. Martin Jacques, When China Rules the World, Chapter 4 (“China’s Ignominy”).
2. Feiling Wang, The Chinese Order, Introduction, Chapter 1.
3. Peter Perdue, “The Tributary System,” Journal of Contemporary China, 2015
5. Video: “Two Coasts of China”

September 29

China as Revolutionary State: The Mao Era

1. Mao Zedong, “On People’s Democratic Dictatorship,” (1949)
2. John Gittings, The World and China: 1922-1972, Intro. & Chap. 1
3. John Garver, “The Opportunity Costs of Mao’s Foreign Policy Choices,” The China Journal, 49 (2003)
4. Video (The Mao Years)

October 6

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

1. Henry Kissinger, China (“The Indestructible Deng”)
2. William Overholt, The Rise of China, Chapter 6.
3. Fravel and Medeiros, “China’s New Diplomacy,”
4. Video “Born Under the Red Flag”

October 13

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

1. Xi Jinping, “Follow the Trends of the Times and Promote Global Peace and Development” (2013)
2. Ian Johnson, “Will China Be Supreme?” NYRB
3. Minxin Pei, “China Under Xi Jinping: A Play for Global Leadership,” Journal of Democracy, April, 2018.

October 20

Term Test

- October 27 **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 3 **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 10 **Reading Week: No Class**
- November 17 **China and the World: The Security Challenge**
1. David Shambaugh, China Goes Global, Chapter 7.
 2. Nathan and Scobell, China’s Search for Security, Chapter 11
 (“Military Modernization: From People’s War to Power Projection”)
 3. Aaron Friedberg, A Contest for Supremacy, Chapter 6.
- November 24 **China’s “Soft Power” Challenge**
1. Stanley Rosen, “China and US Soft Power Compared.”
 2. Nathan and Scobell, China’s Search for Security, Chapter 12.
 3. Daniel Lynch, China’s Futures, Chapter 6.
- December 1 **Domestic Challenges and the Future of China’s Rise**
1. Frank Pieke, Knowing China, Chapter 6, 7 (“Not Just a Chinese Century”)
 2. William Overholt, China’s Crisis of Success, Chapter 6.
- December 8 **Term Test**