PSCI 330.02: East Asian Strategic Environment

Terry M. Weidner

University of Montana - Missoula, terry.weidner@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/833

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
PSCI 330/430: The East Asian Strategic Environment
Spring 2013

Tues/Thurs, 2:10-3:40
Social Science Room 254

Professor: Terry M. Weidner
Office: 414 Arts and Sciences
phone: x2281; e-mail: terry.weidner@umontana.edu
Office hours: Wednesday 10-12 and Friday 12:30-2:00, or by appointment

Course Description:
This course will employ a discussion format to provide students with a sophisticated understanding of the rapidly changing strategic environment in the Asia-Pacific region. After an overview of key historical trends shaping the evolving strategic structure in Asia, including the forces leading to the Post-World War II strategic dominance by the United States, the course will use a largely geographic approach to hone in on an overriding theme: The recent emergence of China (and to a somewhat lesser extent, India) as a vital regional/global powers and the response by the U.S. and a range of other key actors to this phenomenon. We will conclude with an assessment of whether a “power shift” is in fact occurring in the Asia Pacific, and to what extent China may pose a threat to the U.S. in the near or middle term.

What this course will help you understand:
- The background of America’s Cold War Containment Policy in Asia, particularly the impact of the Korean War in shaping that policy
- The causes and impact of the end of the Cold War in Asia
- Domestic and strategic forces that shaped China’s switch to a policy of “peaceful rise”
- India’s increased role as a strategic and economic “hedge” against China
- Updated information on Chinese/Indian/US relations in Asia
- Updated focus on potential hotspots like the Korea peninsula, South China Sea and Taiwan
- The potential strategic shift resulting from China’s challenge to US dominance in Asia

Required Readings:

Alice Lyman Miller and Rich Wich, Becoming Asia: Change and Continuity in Asian International Relations Since World War II (Stanford University Press, 2011)


Plus a number of readings/videos that are assigned as appropriate, as noted on an updated Moodle page created for this course

**GRADING:** Grades will be calculated as follows:

- Attendance and active participation in class: one-third**
- A mid-term analysis essay: one-third
- Final take-home project (position paper): one-third

**Despite a snafu that led to a massive over-enrollment in this class, it has been developed as having a very heavy “reading and discussion” format. This puts a heavy burden on all students not only do the reading but to come to class having thought about it and prepared to discuss it. In class participation thus represents a significant part of the class grade. PLEASE NOTE: As part of that grade, two students will be assigned responsibility to prepare discussion questions and help guide the class discussion for each class.

NOTE: Those taking the class for **graduate credit** must take two turns at the latter task, do a brief (20 minute) oral presentation on an agreed-upon topic in class, and must respond to a “higher standard” in class and on the written assignments.

**Schedule of Class Topics:**

January 29: Goals and Expectations; general introduction

January 31: Origins of the Cold War in E. Asia:  
The Chinese Civil War and the “Loss” of China  
**Assignment:** Miller & Wich (M&W), chaps 2&3

February 5: Japan: Occupation and Recovery  
**Assignment:** Miller and Wich, chap. 4

February 7: The Impact of the Korean War  
**Assignment:** read Miller & Wich, chap 5

February 12: The Cold War and Geopolitics in Asia: Decolonization, Nationalism and Revolution In India and Southeast Asia  
**Assignment:** read Miller & Wich, chap 6; ADD

February 14: The Cold War and Geopolitics in Asia  
The US Alliance System  
The Chinese-Soviet Alliance System  
**Assignment:** M&W, chaps 7 & 8

February 19: Vietnam, the Strategic Triangle, and the end of the Cold War between the U.S. and China  
**Assignment:** Miller and Wich, chapter 9;
February 21: Vietnam II: view video *The Fog of War*

Assignment:

February 26/28: The Sino-Soviet Split, the rise and fall of Maoist domestic and foreign policy radicalism, and China emergence into the world community

Assignment: Miller and Wich, read chapter 12; skim p. 161-177

March 5/7: China’s Strategic Emergence

Assignment: Tellis, skim p. 35-62; Shambaugh, skim chap. 1, read chap 2 and 12

March 12: China’s Economic Influence in Asia and Africa

Assignment: Shambaugh, skim Chapters 3 & 4; Moodie: Article on China in Africa

March 19: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Part II of Class: Regional Issues/Regional Responses

March 21: Taiwan

Assignment: Miller and Wich, p. 254-259; Shambaugh, chapter 7;

March 26/28: China-India


April 2/4: SPRING BREAK --NO CLASS

April 9: Central Asia

Assignment: Shambaugh, chapter 9; Tellis, p. 259-282

April 11: Southeast Asia

Assignment: Shambaugh, chapter 8; Tellis, p. 313-343;

April 16: The DPRK and the nuclear issue

Assignment: Moodle: Scott Snyder’s article in Shambaugh and Yahuda, Miller and Wich, p. 236-241 and 260-267;

April 18: South Korea maneuvers in a new strategic environment

Assignment: Shambaugh, chapter 6; Tellis, p. 161-192

April 23: Japan’s evolving China policy

Assignment: Moodle: Michel Green, “Japan in Asia,” in Shambaugh and Yahuda; Miller and Wich, p. 234-5 and 266-7; Shambaugh, chapter 5;

April 25: Japan and China, II

Assignment: Tellis, p. 129-159, current media TBA

April 30: Issues in China-U.S. Bilateral Relations, China as a potential Military threat

Assignment: skim Shambaugh, Chapter 12 (bit outdated), Current media, TBA
May 2: Power Shift in the Pacific? China’s Challenge to America’s long-standing strategic dominance in the Asia Pacific  
Assignment: Shambaugh, chapters 13 & 14

May 7/9: Power Shift, part II: Continued Assessment of the evolving strategic relationships in Asia, and their impact on the U.S.  
Assignment: Shambaugh, chapters 15 and 16

Wednesday, May 15 (5:00 pm): Final Project Due (to be uploaded on Moodle)