

Political Science 478
Seminar: The Rise of China

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Preyer 201B

Office Hours: Tues 8:30-10:00; Thurs 2:30-5:00

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The Rise of China seminar is an advanced course in Chinese Politics for students with a background in contemporary Chinese politics or history. Under the rubric of the Rise of China we will consider these questions: Is China rising? If so, in what ways? What factors support its rise, and what factors constrain or limit it? What does China's rise mean for China? For the rest of the world? For the US? How can political science help us understand and anticipate the implications of a rising China?

Student interests will determine most of the topics we will cover, but we will begin by looking at four active scholarly debates about China's trajectory. After that, students working individually or in pairs will plan and lead seminars on topics of interest to them. We also will create a series of public events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Crisis that took place in June 1989.

Assignments:

1. Class attendance and participation
2. Four reading response essays (1-2 double-spaced pages)
3. A seminar presentation, which will be evaluated on:
 - a. Selection of readings
 - b. questions for discussion
 - c. Seminar notes (questions/observations/identification of debates that will prompt a useful discussion)
 - d. Conduct of the seminar
4. A research paper, including the following elements:
 - a. Proposal
 - b. Literature review
 - c. Findings
 - d. Final paper
5. A research presentation OR public presentation in the events series

Daily schedule:

1:30-2:30 First seminar topic

2:30-2:45 Break

2:45-3:45 Second seminar topic

3:45-4:15 Event planning/paper discussion/introduction of next week's topics

Grading:

Reading responses: 20%

90-100% = A

Seminar presentation: 30%

80-89% = B

Final research paper: 40%

70-79% = C

Research presentation: 10%

60-69% = D

You may work together on all of the assignments in the course. After you complete your reading, you are welcome to meet with other students to discuss the readings and the assignment. You are encouraged to discuss your paper topic and research with other students both in class and outside of class. When it comes time to write your reading responses and research paper, you should work alone. You may ask classmates to read drafts of your research paper and offer feedback.

Course Schedule
(readings are due on the date they are listed on the syllabus)

January 12: Introduction and planning

January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 26: Will China's Transition Succeed?

- Minxin Pei, *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy*, Harvard University Press, 2008.
- Dali Yang, *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan: Market Transition and the Politics of Governance in China*, Stanford University Press, 2004.
- Bruce Gilley, *China's Democratic Future: How it Will Happen and Where it Will Lead*, Columbia University Press, 2005.
- Gordon Chang, *The Coming Collapse of China*, Random House 2001.

Reading Response: Summarize the major arguments of your assigned author; which of the arguments do you find most and least convincing?

February 2: Is China a Communist Country?

- David Shambaugh, *China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation*, Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2008.
- Kellee Tsai, *Capitalism Without Democracy: The Private Sector in Contemporary China*, Cornell University Press, 2007.
- Bruce Dickson, *Wealth Into Power: The Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector*, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Reading Response: What does Communism mean in China today?

February 9: Is there a "Beijing Model"?

- David C. Kang, *China Rising: Peace, Power and Order in East Asia*, Columbia University Press, 2007.
- Randall Peerenboom, *China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?* Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Huang Yanzhong and Ding Sheng, "[The Dragon's Underbelly: An Analysis of China's Soft Power](#)," *East Asia: An International Quarterly* (Winter 2006) 23:4, 22-44.

Reading Response: Describe the "Beijing Model" – China's blueprint for economic success. Do you believe that model is transferable to other nations?

February 16: Does the Rise of China threaten the US?

- G. John Ikenberry, "[The Rise of China and the Future of the West](#)," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2008) 87:1, 23-37.
- Richard Rosecrance, "[Power and International Relations: The Rise of China and its Effects](#)," *International Studies Perspectives* (Feb 2006) 7:1, 31-35.
- David M. Lampton, "[The Faces of Chinese Power](#)," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2007) 86:1.
- Jae Ho Chung, "[China and Northeast Asia: A Complex Equation for 'Peaceful Rise'](#)," *Politics* (Oct 2007) 27:3, 156-164.
- Zheng Bijian, "[China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great Power Status](#)," *Foreign Affairs* (September 2005).
- Wang Yiwei, "[China's Rise](#)," *Harvard International Review* (Spring 2007) 29:1, 56-61.
- Yuan Peng, "[Sino-American Relations: New Changes and New Challenges](#)," *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, (March 2007) 61:1, 98-113.
- Wang Shouren and Zhao Wenshu, "[China's Peaceful Rise: A Cultural Alternative](#)," *boundary 2* (summer 2006) 33:2, 117-127.
- Aaron L. Friedberg, "[The Future of US-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?](#)" *International Security* (Fall 2005) pp. 7-45.
- Wu Guoguang, "[The Peaceful Emergence of a Great Power?](#)" *Social Research* (Spring 2006) 73:1, 317-344.

Reading Response: What are the best arguments you find in these readings either for or against the claim that China is an emerging threat to the US?

February 23: Field Trip, symposium planning
Research paper proposal due

March 9: Student-led seminars

March 16: Student-led seminars
Literature Review due

March 23: Student-led seminars

March 30: Writing Workshop

April 6 Student-led seminars

April 20: Student-led seminars
Research Findings due

April 27: Student-led seminars

May 4: Research presentations
Final paper due Friday, May 8, 5 PM

Suggested Topics for Seminars and Research Papers

- Land ownership: history and current status; could include rural, urban or both
- Current scholarship on major historical events (GLF, CR, etc.)
- Development of the legal system and its current status
- Changing role and status of the National People's Congress or Local People's Congresses
- The attempt to upgrade the State Environmental Protection Administration
- The Charter 2008 Movement
- Household registration (*hukou*) law and internal migration
- Village Committee Elections and/or Local People's Congress elections (and other direct, grassroots-level elections)
- China's policies toward Africa
- Real estate law, policy and business practices
- Banking
- Economic reform and the current economic crisis