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PSCI 330.01: Strategic Environment of East Asia

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PSCI 330/430: The East Asian Strategic Environment

Fall 2014

Tues/Thurs, 12:40-2:00
Gallagher Business Bldg (GBB) Room 225

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Office hours: Mondays 11-2, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course will employ an intensive reading and 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 focus on critical hotspots like Taiwan, the Korea peninsula, and the South China Sea in the context of the US “pivot” back to Asia
- The broader repercussions of China’s rise, including 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)

Ashley Tellis, et al (ed). *Asia Responds to its Rising Powers, China and India* (National Bureau of Asian Research, 2011).

Shambaugh and Yahuda, *International Relations of Asia* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), paperback

PLUS a number of readings/videos that are assigned as appropriate –largely to provide the most recent information on evolving events. These and all other assignments are noted on an updated Moodle page created for this course. **The latter page will be the defining source for final topics and assignments**

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**

****This class, it has been developed with 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 to be 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 for each class.**

Note About Taking Course for Graduate Credit:

Those taking the class for **graduate** credit must: 1) Give a 15-20 minute presentation to the class based on research done that relates to the class, but is not otherwise covered, and 2) submit a mid-term exam and final project that are more complex and sophisticated than those expected from PSCI 330; 3) provide discussion questions an extra time.

Schedule of Class Topics:

Note: Once again, detailed assignments are noted on the class Moodle Page. This is the case because this class includes contemporary material, and some assignments will be made based on changing events.

August 26: Goals and Expectations; general introduction

August 28: Origins of the Cold War in E. Asia:

Sept. 2: The Chinese Civil War and the “Loss” of China; Japan: Occupation and Recovery

Sept. 4: The Impact of the Korean War

Sept. 9: The Cold War and Geopolitics in Asia: Decolonization, Nationalism and Revolution In India and Southeast Asia

Sept. 11: The Cold War and Geopolitics in Asia
The US Alliance System
The Chinese-Soviet Alliance System

Sept. 16: Vietnam, the Strategic Triangle, and the end of the Cold War between the U.S. and China

Sept. 18: Vietnam II:

Sept. 23: Strategic Realignment in East/SE Asia: The Sino-Soviet Split and US-China Rapprochement

Sept. 25: **NO CLASS** (Day-long Political Science Academic Planning Retreat)

Sept. 30: China's Economic Emergence
Note: This class will be lecture format on China's economic reform

Oct. 2: China's Strategic Emergence in the Asia-Pacific

Oct. 7: China's Strategic Emergence in the Asia-Pacific, part 2

Oct. 9: China's Economic Influence in Central Asia and Africa

Oct. 14: **MID-TERM ESSAY EXAMINATION (on material through Sept. 30)**

Part II of Class: Regional Issues/Regional Responses

Oct. 16: Taiwan and the "Two China" Question

Oct. 21: The Rise of India, China-India

Oct. 23: The Rise of India, China-India, part 2

Oct. 28: Central Asia

Oct. 30: The DPRK and the nuclear issue

Nov. 4: **NO CLASS (ELECTION DAY)**

Nov. 6: The Current Japan-China Crisis

Nov. 11: NO CLASS (VETERANS DAY)

Nov. 13: Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea

Nov. 18: Issues in China-U.S. Bilateral Relations; China as a potential Military threat

Nov. 20: Power Shift in the Pacific? China's Challenge to America's long-standing strategic dominance in the Asia Pacific

Nov. 25: Power Shift, part II: Continued Assessment of the evolving strategic relationships in Asia, and their impact on the U.S.

Nov. 27: NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

Dec. 2: Final Review

Dec. 4: Individual Appointments to discuss strategies for final project

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th: FINAL PROJECT DUE (Must be uploaded on Moodle)

Accessibility:

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction by supporting collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, contact me at the beginning of the semester so that proper accommodations can be provided. Please contact Disability Services for Students <<http://life.umt.edu/dss/>> if you have questions, or call Disability Services for Students (DSS) for voice/text at 406.243.2243. You may also fax the Lommasson Center 154 for more information at 406.243.5330.