

**SMITH COLLEGE**  
**GOV. 250 ~ CASE STUDIES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**Spring 2007 Focus: Asian Security Dilemmas**

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**Introduction:**

For decades, the study of foreign policy and international security affairs in the United States has tended to look across the Atlantic, to developments in Europe, the former Soviet Union (FSU), and the Middle East. Most of the important arms control treaties of the past 50 years have involved the United States and the FSU or NATO and the former Warsaw Pact; most of the concern over nuclear proliferation and the spread of high-tech weaponry has focused on the rising powers of the Middle East. This “trans-Atlantic” emphasis is understandable, given the earlier importance of the U.S.-Soviet arms race and the significant role of the European powers in all things military. But this emphasis no longer serves the field well. Over the past few decades, security issues in East, South, Central, and Southeast Asia have grown in importance and now occupy center stage. It is appropriate, therefore, that the field of world security affairs transform itself to better reflect this historic shift.

As its theme for Spring 2007, Government 250 will examine Asian Security Dilemmas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The course will seek to expose students to some of the main issues in contemporary trans-Pacific security affairs and to the debates that have arisen in Washington and elsewhere over how to deal with these challenges. Particular emphasis will be placed on U.S.-China relations and on the ways in which the evolving U.S.-China relationship colors other U.S. security interests in the region, such as terrorism and the proliferation of nuclear and missile technology to the so-called “rogue states.” This is a particularly apt time to examine these

issues, as concern over developments in North Korea, Iran, Iraq, China/Taiwan, India/Pakistan, other Asian hotspots has reached extraordinarily high levels. Indeed, it is conceivable that a major crisis in one or more of these areas – or the resolution of an enduring conflict – could occur during the course of the semester.

In addition to gaining a general sense of current security dilemmas in this region, students will be expected to investigate and acquire expertise on a *particular* problem in Asian security affairs. (A list of sample term-paper topics is provided below.) Each student (or team of students) will produce a research paper on a current policy issue of her/his choice. In addition, students will be encouraged to develop an awareness of the various policy debates that have developed in the United States around Asian Security affairs and to express their own views on the relative advantages and disadvantages of proposed policy prescriptions in class discussions and in an oral presentation on their research project.

### **Course Requirements:**

Students in Gov 250 will be expected to successfully complete all of the following course assignments:

1. Attend all classes having read the assigned texts and being prepared to discuss both the readings and recent developments in Asian security affairs. This requires that students **read a daily newspaper** or otherwise follow current international developments.
2. By the 4<sup>th</sup> week of the semester, select a particular problem in Asian security affairs (covers East, South, Central, and Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific region, including Russia's eastern regions) for your term paper and submit a one-page research proposal plus a rough outline of the paper and a preliminary bibliography. Your topic should represent a major problem in the field, but not be so broad that you cannot acquire some expertise on the topic by the end of the semester. Because many of these topics are rich and complex, students are encouraged to consider a team project.
3. At mid-semester, submit a 10-page (double-spaced) paper on the origins and current status of the particular problem you have selected for intensive study. This essay should constitute the first half or of your final essay, and so will be

resubmitted at the end of the semester. You will be expected to demonstrate command of the literature in the field. This first half of the paper will be graded, but you will have an opportunity to respond to any criticisms when submitting the final text, so you will be able to raise your grade.

4. Toward the end of the semester, deliver a ten-minute oral presentation on the results of your research and answer questions from students and the instructor. This will *not* be graded, but you will be expected to demonstrate a certain minimum level of expertise on your topic. (In the interest of fairness, students who go earlier in the sequence will be assumed to be less far along in their research than students who go later.)

5. At the end of the semester, submit a 20-page research paper on the topic you have chosen for intensive study. Students who team up to produce a paper will be expected to add approximately five pages of text for each additional student. The paper should incorporate the earlier essay on the origins and current status of the problem plus an additional section on (a) any negotiations or other efforts taken to resolve the problem; (b) solutions that have been proposed for solving the problem; and (c) *your* favored solution and why you think it's the superior choice.

**Assigned Texts:** (Available at the Grécourt Bookstore)

*Current History* magazine, April 2006 issue, "The Rise of Asia"

Michael Mandelbaum, *The Case for Goliath* (Public Affairs, 2006)

Andrew J. Nathan and Robert S. Ross, *The Great Wall and the Empty Fortress* (W.W. Norton, 1997)

David Shambaugh, editor, *Power Shift* (University of California, 2005)

~Plus assigned *Issue Briefs* prepared by the Congressional Research (CRS) of the Library of Congress (you will be provided the URLs for downloading)

## Class Schedule and Readings:

Mon., Jan. 29: Introduction to course

Wed., Jan. 31: Contending Perspectives on Asian Security  
**Read:** Mearsheimer and Shambaugh in *Current History*

Mon., Feb. 5: The View from Washington  
**Read:** Abramowitz & Bosworth in *Current History*; Mandelbaum, *Goliath*, introduction and chap. 1

Wed., Feb. 7: The View from Beijing  
**Read:** Shambaugh, *Power Shift*, chaps. 1, 2

Mon., Feb. 12: Asian Security Dilemmas  
**Read:** Mandelbaum, *Goliath*, chap. 2

Wed., Feb. 14: Economic Dilemmas  
**Read:** Mandelbaum, *Goliath*, chap. 3

Mon., Feb. 19: America's Legacies: The Cold War and 9/11  
**Read:** Mandelbaum, *Goliath*, chap. 4

Wed., Feb. 21: China's Legacies: Colonialism & the Cold War  
**Read:** Nathan & Ross, chaps. 1, 2  
**\*\*\*Term Project Research Proposal due**

Mon., Feb. 26: China's Legacies: Confronting America  
**Read:** Nathan & Ross, chaps. 3 (skim), 4

Wed., Feb. 28: To be announced

Mon., Mar. 5: The Taiwan Dilemma  
**Read:** Nathan & Ross, chaps. 10, 11

Wed., Mar. 7: The Taiwan Dilemma (discussion)  
**Read:** Shambaugh, *Power Shift*, chap. 7 CRS

Mon., Mar. 12: The North Korea Challenge

**Read:** Nathan & Ross, chap. 5; Shambaugh, *Power Shift*, chap. 6

Wed., Mar. 14: The North Korea Challenge (discussion)

**Read:** CRS; Kim & Hong in *Current History*

Mon., Mar. 19 & Wed., Mar. 21: ***Spring Break***

Mon., Mar. 26: China's Energy Dilemma

**Read:** Klare in *Current History*

Wed., Mar. 28: China-Japan Relations

**Read:** Shambaugh, *Power Shift*, chap. 5

Mon., Apr. 2: China's military ties with Iran

**Read:** CRS

**\*\*\*First Half of Term Paper Due**

Wed., Apr. 4: To be announced

Mon., Apr. 9: China's ties with Central Asia

**Read:** Shambaugh, *Power Shift*, chap. 9

Wed., Apr. 11: To be announced

Mon., Apr. 16: China-India relations

**Read:** Prestowitz and Sahni in *Current History*

Wed., Apr. 18: Student presentations

Mon., Apr. 23: Student presentations

Wed., Apr. 25: Student presentations

Mon., Apr. 30: Student presentations

Wed., May 2: Student presentations

**SAMPLE TERM-PAPER TOPICS**

China's nuclear weapons and U.S. security  
Implications of China's naval buildup (can focus on Taiwan, Japan, Southeast Asia, etc.)  
China's nuclear/missile sales to Iran  
China's nuclear/missile sales to Pakistan  
China-India relations  
China's occupation of Tibet  
The Uighur revolt in Xinjiang  
Implications of China's arms purchases from Russia  
Implications of China's arms sales to Burma  
U.S. arms sales to Taiwan  
Strategies for the nuclear disarmament of North Korea (assess various approaches)  
Strategies for resolving the Taiwan crisis (assess various approaches)  
Strategies for curbing North Korea's missile sales to the "rogue states"  
Japan's possible pursuit of nuclear weapons  
The debate over rearmament in Japan  
The future of the U.S.-Japan military alliance  
India's nuclear weapons policies  
Strategies for halting Iran's nuclear weapons program (assess various approaches)  
Pakistan's nuclear weapons policies  
Energy conflict in the South China Sea  
Energy conflict in the East China Sea  
The struggle over Sakhalin Island energy reserves  
The Tokdo Islands dispute between Japan and South Korea  
Geopolitical implications of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization  
China's ties with Kazakhstan and Central Asia  
Fighting terrorism in the Philippines (or Indonesia, etc.)  
The Tamil rebellion in Sri Lanka; the struggle in Kashmir, West Papua, etc.)  
Water conflict in the Mekong River basin (or other major river systems)  
Trafficking in women and girls (for prostitution) in Southeast Asia