I. Course Description

The story of Asia’s rise has been told through various narratives and it is arguably the most important transformational development in geopolitics and geoeconomics since the end of World War II. Nevertheless, Asia’s rise is often construed in linear vectors, e.g., that the major Asian economies will continue to grow at accelerated rates well into mid-century, that Asia’s rise is virtually synonymous with the inevitable decline of the West, and that China’s rise among any other single driver is likely to become the dominant feature of the 21st century international system. Some of these assumptions may well turn out to be true. However, Asia’s rise poses as many new problems and challenges as it promises new opportunities. Asia’s has certainly arisen, but it is far from reigning.

Thus, this course is designed to examine the historical roots of Asia’s rise, key tipping points that have come to dominate this particular narrative, and major stumbling blocks that could significant delay if not delay critical aspects of Asia’s rise. Although China’s spectacular economic transformation since the late 1970s (and more recently India’s since the early 1990s) have ushered in profound political and economic changes, China also confronts an extremely wide range of unprecedented socio-economic, political, and strategic challenges. Moreover, as the current state of Sino-Japanese and Korean-Japanese ties illustrates, the resurgence of nationalism, historical disputes, and political-military contestations are far stronger in East Asia today than at any other period since 1945.

The first half of the course will focus on three main clusters: the history of Asia’s rise and fall, the ebb and flow of the major powers, and the struggle for supremacy in the 20th and early 21st centuries. The second half of the course will examine core aspects of challenges across Asia such as contrasting political systems, democracy deficits, and failed states as well as major drivers such as divergent demographic trends (population surges in the less developed economies combined with accelerated aging and declining population growth in the developed and developing economies), energy and economic bottlenecks, and future linkages with the global system. Students are actively encouraged to familiarize themselves with key regional and global issues given the growing inseparability between Asia and the international system. In addition to the
assigned readings, students should maximize leading online resources that examine virtually every facet of developments within Asia and the region’s linkages with the outside world.

Weekly Topics:

**Week 1: June 30 – July 3**
- Understanding the Asian Paradox
- The Fall and Rise of Asia

**Week 2: July 6 - 10**
- *Pax Americana* and Postwar Asia
- The Consequences of Rapid Economic Development

**Week 3: July 13-17**
- China’s Revolutions and Transformation
- Titans and Middle Powers

**Week 4: July 20 - 24**
- The Role of Force
- Political Deficits and Transitions

**Week 5: July 27 - 31**
- Demographic Drivers and Social Changes
- The Thirst for Energy

**Week 6: August 3 - 7**
- Asia’s Cultural and Information Revolutions
- Running into but Not Yet Ruling the World

**FINAL EXAM**

**II. Course Requirements, Evaluation, Weekly Readings, and Office Hours**

There will be one mid-term and one final exam that will comprise some 90% of the final grade. The remaining 10% will be determined by class participation. Weekly 3 hour classes will be divided as follows: 1-90 minutes (lecture), 20 minutes (break), 60 minutes (intensive discussions). Students must be familiar with the readings and major current issues in order to engage in active debates. All lecture notes (power point slides) and weekly reading assignments (PDF) will be uploaded weekly.

Office hours will be held every Monday from 2-4 or by appointment.
Week 1: June 30 – July 3

Topic 1: Understanding the Asian Paradox


Topic 2: The Fall and Rise of Asia


Week 2: July 6 - 10

Topic 3: Pax Americana and Postwar Asia


Topic 4: The Consequences of Rapid Economic Development

1. Donghyun Park, Arief Ramayandi, and Kwanho Shin, “Why Did Asian Countries Fare Better during the Global Financial Crisis than during the Asian Financial Crisis?” in Changyong Rhee and Adam S. Posen, etc., Responding to Financial Crisis: Lessons from Asia
*Then, the United States and Europe Now*, (Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2013), pp. 103-118.

**Week 3: July 13 – 17 [JULY 16, MID-TERM EXAM]**

**Topic 5: China’s Revolutions and Transformation**


**Topic 6: Titans and Middle Powers**


**Week 4: July 20 -24**

**Topic 7: The Role of Force**


**Topic 8: Political Deficits and Transitions**


**Week 5: July 27 - 31**

**Topic 9: Demographic Drivers and Social Changes**


**Topic 10: The Thirst for Energy**


**Week 6: August 3 – 7 [AUGUST 6, FINAL EXAM]**

**Topic 10: Asia’s Cultural and Information Revolutions**

**Lecture 12: Running into but Not Yet Ruling the World**