**Asia’s Global Future**

Meeting Time: M and W 2:00-3:15

Place: Library 406

Instructor: Dr. Todd Myers

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Office Hours: After class as needed.

**Texts:**

*Foreign Affairs* <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>

Kishore Mahbubani *The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East*, PublicAffairs.

Ye Zicheng *Inside China’s Grand Strategy*, the University Press of Kentucky.

Robert Kaplan *Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power*, Random House.

Chandran Nair *Consumptionomics: Asia’s Role in Reshaping Capitalism and Saving the Planet*, Wiley.

**Introduction:**

Gradual, inexorable, and fundamental changes… are …. Occurring in the balances of power among civilizations, and the power of the West relative to that of other civilizations will continue to decline.

Samuel P. Huntington

The rise of the West transformed the world. The rise of Asia will bring about an equally significant transformation.

Kishore Mahbubani

Any kind of international Grand Strategy for China must be linked to a solution of and studied in tandem with its domestic problems.

Ye Zicheng

In this rimland of Eurasia- the maritime oikumene of the medieval Muslim world that was never far from China’s gaze – we can locate the tense dialogue between Western and Islamic civilizations, the ganglia of global energy routes, and the quiet seemingly inexorable rise of India and China overland and sea. For the sum-total effect of U.S. preoccupation with Iraq and Afghanistan has been to fast-forward the arrival of the Asian Century, not only in the economic terms that we know about, but in military terms as well.

Robert Kaplan

The financial crisis prompted many in the West to suggest that it was time to question many of the core ideas that had guided countries through the last few decades. Asians must do the same.

Chandrain Nair

Forecasting the future is believed by many to be akin to astrology, but the human desire and need to know what will happen in the future to guide present affairs remains a feature of all human societies. History is used as a guide to the future, but changing conditions, technological change, and innovation make finding an exact analogy in the past for present conditions unlikely though potentially stimulating for thinking about the course of future events. Statistical models and psycho-sociological modeling of human behavior, though adding clarity about the future, are often derailed by black swan events that were not accounted for when the models were devised. Despite the limitations of human tools for forecasting the future, some deploy historical and scientific knowledge blended with judgment to foresee the future and benefit by their knowledge of what is to come.

Studying Asia’s global future is a study of inherent human interest. The region is home to over half the world’s population, its 2nd and 3rd largest economies, and the most rapidly growing economies in the world. The region has the greatest potential for both meaningful cooperation and major conflict. ASEAN, APEC, and the East Asian Summit create international forums to enhance mutual understanding and continue the progress and prosperity that have been part of the region’s recent history. Yet, old fashion questions about geopolitics are of substantial importance as states seek to enhance their status, access to resources, and security by playing balance of power politics. The possibility of war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, between China and the United States over Taiwan, war on the Korean peninsula with the potential of escalation to include Japan, China, and the United States, between China and its neighbors and the United States over territorial disputes in the East and South China Seas and existing conflicts within Burma Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as conflict between Thailand and Cambodia raise questions about whether the region can overcome these threats to peace and continue on the path of prosperity. Similarly, greater demands put on global resources and increased pressure on the environment’s ability to support growth and absorb the by products of economic activity of the region’s success potentially challenge the economic models that promise to lift people out of squalor and misery.

Our studies over the next few weeks will attempt to develop conceptual frameworks for understanding the future of the region as well as to develop the intellectual honesty to understand the limits of any such frameworks to give us certain insight into the course of human affairs. We will do this by becoming professional thinkers and building a think tank.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

* Discuss, identify, and analyze the arguments of significant global strategic thinkers.
* Develop a forecasting product according to their personal abilities.
* Be able to better work in a collaborative environment where ideas are the product.
* Be better informed about trends in Asia and their possible significance for the future.

**Week 1**

January 18 Course Introduction

**Week 2**

January 23 Former Australian Prime Minister’s Kevin Rudd’s “The Prospects for Peace in the Pacific: The Future of the Expanded East Asia Summit”

<https://mail.gcccd.edu/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://asiasociety.org/policy/strategic-challenges/intra-asia/complete-text-australian-foreign-minister-kevin-rudds-speech->

January 25 President of the National Center for Policy Analysis “What Is a Think Tank?” <http://atlasnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2010/11/chapter-3-what-is-athink-tank-goodman.pdf>

Richard Betts “Conflict or Cooperation: Three Visions Revisited” <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/66802/richard-k-betts/conflict-or-cooperation?page=show> **Beginning Discussion of Think Tank Mission and Organizational Model**

**Week 3**

Kishore Mahbubani *The New Asian Hemisphere* Introduction and Chapter 1

January 30 Introduction **Establish Think Tank Mission and Organizational Model**

February 1 The Three Scenarios **Beginning Discussion of Program Focus**

**Week 4**

Kishore Mahbubani *The New Asian Hemisphere* Chapters 2-3

February 6 Why Asia Is Rising Now

February 8 Why Is the West Not Celebrating?

**Week 5**

Kishore Mahbubani *The New Asian Hemisphere* Chapters 4-5

February 13 DeWesternization: The Return of History

February 15 Western Incompetence, Asian Competence?

**Week 6**

Kishore Mahbubani *The New Asian Hemisphere* Chapter 6

Ye Zicheng *Inside China’s Grand Strategy* Introduction

February 20 Prerequisites for Global Leadership: Principles, Partnerships, and Pragmatism **Research Products Identified and** **Beginning Blogs for Programs**

February 22 Further Thoughts on the Life Expectancy of U.S. Hegemony

Introduction: Understanding a View from Beijing

**Week 7**

Ye Zicheng *Inside China’s Grand Strategy* Chapters 1-2

February 27 China’s Development as a World Power: Objective Conditions, Strategic Opportunity, and Strategic Choices

February 29 China’s Rise: Key Strategic Choices

**Week 8**

Ye Zicheng *Inside China’s Grand Strategy* Chapters 3-4

March 5 Relations with the United States: China’s Strategic Choices

March 7 China’s Relations and Strategic Choices with Other Developing World Powers

**Week 9**

Ye Zicheng *Inside China’s Grand Strategy* Chapters 5-6 and Postscript

March 12 China and Its Neighbors: Geopolitical and Strategic Choices

March 14 China and Unification: Strategic Choices on the Taiwan Issue and Postscript

**Week 10**

Robert D. Kaplan *Monsoon* Chapters 1-4

March 19 China Expands Vertically, India Horizontally and Oman Is Everywhere

March 21 Curzon’s Frontiers and Lands of India

**Week 11**

Spring Break March 26 – March 30

**Week 12**

Robert D. Kaplan *Monsoon* Chapters 5-8

April 2 Baluchistan and Sindh and The Troubled Rise of Gujarat

April 4 The View from Delhi and Bangladesh: The Existential Challenge

**Week 13**

Robert D. Kaplan *Monsoon* Chapters 9-12

April 9 Kolkata: the Next Global City and Of Strategy and Beauty

April 11 Sri Lanka: The New Geopolitics and Burma: Where India and China Collide

**Week 14**

Robert D. Kaplan *Monsoon* Chapters 13-15

April 16 Indonesia’s Tropical Islam and The Heart of Maritime Asia

April 18 China’s Two-Ocean Strategy?

**Week 15**

Robert D. Kaplan *Monsoon* Chapters 16-17 and Afterward

April 23 Unity and Anarchy

April 25 Zanzibar: The Last Frontier

**Week 16**

Chandran Nair *Consumptionomics* Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3

April 30 Introduction and Asia Arrives – and Wants It All

May 2 Clutching at Straws and Rethinking the Future in Asia

**Week 17**

Chandran Nair *Consumptionomics* Chapters 4, 5, 6, Conclusion and Afterword – **Posting of Research Products**

May 7 The Asian State and Rewriting the Rules

May 9 Asia and the World, Conclusion and Afterword

**Week 18**

May 14 **Debriefing**

**Assessments and Grading Policies**

**20% Participation**

You will be expected to complete the readings before each class period and be able to contribute to a meaningful discussion of the topics explored for that day. You can best contribute by being a critical thinker who can apply the rules of logic and judgment as well as by being informed by the state of current affairs in the region. In general, be open to the author’s arguments as well as to shortcomings or potential weaknesses in the author’s argument. Reading or watching news resources about Asian affairs such as the BBC Asia <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia/> , Asia Times Online <http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Front_Page.html> , Hindustan Times <http://www.hindustantimes.com/> , Xinhua <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/> , Japan Times <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/> or others will also be helpful. Being consistently unprepared, absent, or inappropriate will negatively effect your evaluation in this category.

**20% Think Tank Development**

During this course we will be building a think tank dedicated to examining Asia’s future prospects. Think tanks are places where research is produced to solve problems. Think tanks have an identity that directs the focus of research and indicates what approaches to problems are viewed as acceptable. Below is a list of several think tanks representing a variety of missions that presently drive research programs:

The Asia Society <http://asiasociety.org/>

Hoover Institution <http://www.hoover.org/>

Carnegie Institute for Peace <http://carnegieendowment.org/>

American Enterprise Institute <http://www.aei.org/>

Cato Institute <http://www.cato.org/>

The Heritage Foundation <http://www.heritage.org/>

Brookings <http://www.brookings.edu/>

Stratfor <http://www.stratfor.com/>

Council of Foreign Relations <http://www.cfr.org/>

Rand Corporation <http://www.rand.org/>

Global Institute for Tomorrow <http://www.global-inst.com/>

The Think Tank will be judged by its loyalty to its mission, organization, aesthetic appearance and substance. One of our initial tasks will be to identify a host for our website, the software to manage it, and how to make the website available for all class members.

**20% Program Development**

Everyone will be a member of a program within the think tank. We are likely to have program areas for Southeast Asia, South Asia, and East Asia. Each program will be responsible for developing a research program that covers important issue areas such as security, economy, environment, religion, science and technology or other areas as deemed appropriate. You will also be responsible for making certain that each member of the program contributes at least one entry to a blog about an issue falling within that program member’s research agenda.

The programs will be evaluated on the quality of their product and how well the respective research programs are woven together to create a reasonable initial investigation of important issues impacting the region given the mission of the think tank. Half your grade for the program will be determined by my evaluation, which will focus on the over all quality and breadth of the research generated by the program, and the responsiveness of your program to my guidance through memorandums that I will periodically send out. The other half of your grade will be determined by a rubric 13 dimensions taken from the United States Foreign Service that each one of you will use to evaluate the performance of your team colleagues.

• **Composure.** To stay calm, poised, and effective in stressful or difficult situations; to think on one's feet, adjusting quickly to changing situations; to maintain self-control.

• \_**Cultural Adaptability.** To work and communicate effectively and harmoniously with persons of other cultures, value systems, political beliefs, and economic circumstances; to recognize and respect differences in new and different cultural environments.

• \_**Experience and Motivation.** To demonstrate knowledge, skills or other attributes gained from previous experience of relevance to the Foreign Service; to articulate appropriate motivation for joining the Foreign Service.

• \_**Information Integration and Analysis.** To absorb and retain complex information drawn from a variety of sources; to draw reasoned conclusions from analysis and synthesis of available information; to evaluate the importance, reliability, and usefulness of information; to remember details of a meeting or event without the benefit of notes.

• \_**Initiative and Leadership.** To recognize and assume responsibility for work that needs to be done; to persist in the completion of a task; to influence significantly a group’s activity, direction, or opinion; to motivate others to participate in the activity one is leading.

• **Judgment.** To discern what is appropriate, practical, and realistic in a given situation; to weigh relative merits of competing demands.

• \_**Objectivity and Integrity.** To be fair and honest; to avoid deceit, favoritism, and discrimination; to present issues frankly and fully, without injecting subjective bias; to work without letting personal bias prejudice actions.

• \_**Oral Communication.** To speak fluently in a concise, grammatically correct, organized, precise, and persuasive manner; to convey nuances of meaning accurately; to use appropriate styles of communication to fit the audience and purpose.

• \_**Planning and Organizing.** To prioritize and order tasks effectively, to employ a systematic approach to achieving objectives, to make appropriate use of limited resources.

• \_**Quantitative Analysis.** To identify, compile, analyze, and draw correct conclusions from pertinent data; to recognize patterns or trends in numerical data; to perform simple mathematical operations.

• **Resourcefulness.** To formulate creative alternatives or solutions to resolve problems, to show flexibility in response to unanticipated circumstances.

• \_**Working With Others.** To interact in a constructive, cooperative, and harmonious manner; to work effectively as a team player; to establish positive relationships and gain the confidence of others; to use humor as appropriate.

• \_**Written Communication.** To write concise, well organized, grammatically correct, effective and persuasive English in a limited amount of time.

**40% Research Product**

The final research product will be a 12-25 page paper dealing with an appropriate issue concerning Asia’s future related to the mission of your program. You may choose to format your paper as an argumentative essay such as Karen Black’s “Is Indonesia Bound for the Brics?: How Stalling Reform Could Hold Jakarta Back” <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/136539/karen-brooks/is-indonesia-bound-for-the-brics>? or Arvind Subramanian’s “The Inevitable Superpower: Why China’s Dominance Is a Sure Thing” <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68205/arvind-subramanian/the-inevitable-superpower> . You may also choose to format your paper as a Backgrounder such as Financial Crisis May Worsen Poverty in China and India <http://www.cfr.org/india/financial-crisis-may-worsen-poverty-china-india/p17812> or China’s Motor Vehicle and Aerospace Industry <http://www.cfr.org/china/chinas-motor-vehicle-aerospace-industries/p14399> . Projects that display excellence will receive As and projects that show good faith efforts falling below excellence will receive Bs.

I will evaluate you using the following criteria:

1. Is your writing clear, concise, comprehensive, engaging, and grammatically correct?
2. Does your research rely on a sufficient depth and breadth of quality resources?
3. Is your thesis falsifiable and do you muster sufficient evidence and logic to justify your conclusions or in the case of the backgrounders, do you identify the significant perspectives and authorities engaging the issue presented?

You will also be asked a series of questions about your paper as part of the final exam to help me evaluate the quality of your work.

Plagiarism will result in no credit for the plagiarized assignment.   
  
The following table contains the grading scale on which you will be evaluated:   
  
Grading Scale:   
A =  3.5+, B = 3.0+, C = 2.0+, D = 1+, F = Below 1  
  
Grade consequences for less than completed performance of course requirements:   
  
1. Written assignments will be lowered a letter grade if turned in late.   
2. In-class presentations, tests, and individual presentations cannot be made up if missed.   
  
The instructor reserves the right to use his discretion in individual circumstances that may not be covered by this syllabus or if the application of the rules of the syllabus would result in a miscarriage of justice. . If you have any problems with the class or the instructor please come to talk to me about these issues during office hours so that we can work the issues out.  I am a reasonable person and will try to address your concerns in a manner that will be mutually satisfactory.