Emerging Powers
MLS 620

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course students should be able to

1. Recognize changes in the distribution of global power with emphasis on nations who have recently increased their roles in international affairs.

2. Identify the resources and strategies needed to become an emerging power, differentiating the sources and consequences of “hard” and “soft” types of power.

3. Examine the limits on potential actions of powerful states and how these limits have changed with the rise of new, important international actors. This should include understanding of both the strengths and weaknesses of international law and organizations in defining limits of acceptable activity.

4. Recognize major problems facing the international system and how the emerging nations contribute both increased complexity and possible solutions to these problems.

Academic Integrity Policy: Please review UNCG’s policies regarding plagiarism before you begin work on the course. http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/. All students are expected to abide by these policies for all work in this course. Violations of the policies could result in a failing grade for the entire course and expulsion from the graduate program. Consult the GLS Handbook, or the Chicago Manual of Style if you have questions about appropriate citations. You are expected to conduct graduate level research and follow acceptable academic protocol on all assignments.

Required Texts: (books available from Amazon.com or Powells.com used. Some are also available as E-books)


Supplemental readings and films: (see individual units below for additional materials, such as articles, documentaries, films, and web resources).

Course requirements: You are expected to be active and involved participants throughout the session. Since this course is concentrated in a 7-week semester, you need to plan ahead and stay on track. Because of the interactive feature of the course (blog and group project) you need to complete your work by specified times.
General Description of Course Activities:

Case Studies: All students will complete three case studies on the course website. These are based on the readings, other recommended resources, and podcasts. Students are asked to research an issue, take notes on pertinent resources, and submit a report that meets requirements specified by the professor in each case study.

Blog Discussions: The course will maintain ongoing blogs related to the major foreign policy issues discussed during the course. The course blogs provide students an opportunity to share opinions and information and form an important part of the collaborative learning experience. Being active in the blog counts as participation credit.

Final Group Project: Instead of a traditional term paper, students will be assigned to one of four research groups. These groups will be asked to respond to a prompt and present their project using Blackboard Collaborate (formerly Elluminate). Each group will also submit a report of their research to the professor.

Grading and Participation: Academic performance will be evaluated in the following breakdown of course components:

- Three Case Studies – 60 points - 20 points each (60%)
- Group research presentation on Collaborate and group paper – 30 points (30%)
- Participation (blog and group research collaboration) – 10 points (10%)

Participation credits will be determined from blog entries as well as from group engagement with the assigned research tasks. Blogs and group research projects take place within the course website.

Calendar

Week 1

*Readings: Zakaria, Khanna
*Blog (Weekly participation)
*Meet with groups in Blackboard Collaborate and begin working on Final Project.

Weeks 2-3

*Readings: Meredith, Nye
*Research groups assigned by professor
*Blog
*Blackboard Collaborate research group work
*Case Study 1 due

Week 4
*Readings: Bacevich, Nye
*Blog
*Blackboard Collaborate research group work
*Case Study 2 due

Week 5
*Blog
*Blackboard Collaborate research group work
*Readings: See unit 4 for articles

Week 6
*Readings – Herspring and Clunan
*Blog
*Blackboard Collaborate Research group work
*Case Study 3 due

Week 7
Blackboard Collaborate final presentations

Note: Final group presentations