Overview
This class will explore the rise of emerging powers in the context of changing global order. We will study the emergence of the current liberal (“Western”) global order and the various ways its normative assumptions are reflected in theories of International Relations (IR). We will then look at shifts in world power and the polarity of the international system over the past quarter century, with a particular focus on those countries generally termed “emerging powers” (e.g. China, India, Brazil, etc.) We will then look at each of the primary sub-field and issue domains of IR – governance & global institutions, international political economy, global development, security & conflict – to assess whether and how the rise of emerging powers will impact the nature and practice of global governance. In aggregate, our goal in this class is to try to answer the question contained in the title of the course: are we currently experiencing a shift to something that might reasonably be termed a ‘post-Western’ world order?

Class Format
The course will be taught in a combined lecture/discussion seminar format, incorporating occasional small group discussions, scenario exercises, and in-class short format research exercises.

Attendance and absences
As mentioned above, attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. If for some reason it is absolutely necessary for you to be absent (sickness, family emergency, etc.), or if you are experiencing difficulties that impact your class performance, please let me know as far ahead of time as possible. I will always try to work with you and, within reason, to be as accommodating as possible. In an absolute emergency where you do not have time to give notice, I would appreciate an e-mail at your earliest convenience after class.
Assessment
Your grade for the class will be determined via the following assessed elements:

1. Short response paper on “Debating American Decline”
Read the articles by Robert Kagan and Charles Kupchan referenced below and write a critical assessment of their respective arguments while advancing your own position in the debate about the declining role of the United States in world order.


Due date: **September 13**; length: 1000-1500 words; 15% of overall grade.

2. Advanced analysis exercise: data, infographics, social media, technology
The objective of this assignment is for you to use advanced analytic skills and techniques involving data analysis, assessment & visualization, social media aggregation and analysis, or technology-enhanced analytical writing (“web essay”) to explore some aspect or issue relating to emerging powers and world order. There is plenty of scope to be creative here but you should plan to discuss your approach to this assignment with me on an individual basis. Further details will be given in class.

Due date: **October 11**; length: varies by format/medium; 20% of overall grade.

3. Policy Strategy Memo

Imagine you are a policy planner working for one of the U.S. State Department, or the foreign ministry of Brazil, Russia, China, India, or France. Write a policy strategy memo identifying the key issues, questions, and challenges posed to your chosen country’s global interests by the rise of emerging powers. For guidance as to format, tone, and content, you may wish to consult the following declassified policy memo from 1990 regarding U.S. security interests in Europe and NATO in the context of the end of the Cold War:


Due date: **November 8**; length: 3-5 pages; 20% of overall grade.
4. Research Paper

Write a traditional academic research paper on a topic of your choice that falls within the remit of the course. You are required to discuss and clear your topic with me before starting work on this assignment.

Due date: December 13, 7:30pm; length: 3500-5000 words; 25% of overall grade.

5. Brief reading responses and classroom discussion stewardship

For each week of the class you will be expected to post a paragraph on Blackboard (via the ‘Discussion Board’ function) summarizing your overall reaction to the prescribed readings and identifying the key questions and issues you would like to discuss in class. This should be posted before each of our class meetings.

In addition, for each week 1-2 students will be asked to take the lead in steering the discussion portion of our class meeting. We will allocate those assignments during the first class meeting.

Due date: every Thursday by 7pm; length: one paragraph (ca. 250 words); 20% of overall grade.

Requirements for written assignments: citation apparatus & formatting

Unless otherwise specified, it is expected that your written work will make proper use of standard academic conventions as regards references and citations.

For this class, I require you to use the citation and referencing system prescribed by the American Political Science Association (which is based on the Chicago Manual of Style). This involves in-text parenthetical citations and an accompanying list of references at the end of your paper. Full details of this citation apparatus can be found on pp. 17-33 of the 2006 edition of the APSA Style Manual available at:


All assignments should be written in a standard size 12 font using single spacing. All written assignments for this class must be uploaded to Blackboard as Microsoft Word attachments. Please make sure that your name and assignment title are both clearly indicated on the first page of your paper. It is your responsibility to ensure that your files have uploaded properly.

Required and recommended texts

You do not need to purchase any particular books for this class since all required readings will be provided in the form of PDFs or online links. Most readings for the class can be accessed from an online filestore via the following URL:

https://bit.ly/2MuC8pa
This folder is organized into weekly sub-folders that map to the schedule of classes and topics detailed below in the syllabus. Unless otherwise indicated, all required readings can be found in the online filestore under the appropriate week’s sub-folder.

The following books are recommended as broad introductions to the course subject matter and as sources for additional resources:


You are also encouraged to consult the Oxford Bibliographies articles on “Emerging Powers & BRICs” (https://bit.ly/2w0FEgT) and “Rising Powers in World Politics” (https://bit.ly/2N6nmBh), where two leading experts on emerging powers offer annotated lists of key articles and books usefully divided into sub-topics.

**Schedule of Class Meetings & Topics**

**Week 1 (August 30) – Class introduction | The Western order and its discontents**

*Readings*


Week 2 (September 6) – American and European-centrism in the theory and study of IR: explanations & responses

Readings


Week 3 (September 13) – Global power & polarity shifts: a “rising rest”?

Readings


Week 4 (September 20) – Defining and debating “emerging powers”

Readings


5. BBC Magazine, “The MINT countries: Next economic giants?”


Week 5 (September 27) – Rising powers and global governance

Readings


**Week 6 (October 4) – The international political economy of emerging powers: towards parallel global institutions?**

*Readings*


**Week 7 (October 11) – New donors and the changing face of development aid**

*Readings*


**Week 8 (October 18) – Emerging powers in post-conflict settings**

Guest Professor: Dr. Agnieszka Paczynska, School for Conflict Analysis & Resolution, GMU.

*Readings*
Read policy briefs by Paczynska, Tower, Van Tuijl & Dorp, Mutisi, Mullen, and Leichtman from the Stimson Center’s project on “Emerging and Traditional Donors and Conflict-Affected States: The New Politics of Reconstruction” at: [https://www.stimson.org/content/emerging-and-traditional-donors-and-conflict-affected-states-new-politics-reconstruction](https://www.stimson.org/content/emerging-and-traditional-donors-and-conflict-affected-states-new-politics-reconstruction)

**Week 9 (October 25) – Rising powers, global democracy & rights**

*Readings*


See also the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace’s bibliography on ‘Democracy and Human Rights Support by Rising Powers’ at: [http://ceip.org/2vWnsoQ](http://ceip.org/2vWnsoQ)

**Week 10 (November 1) – Does the emerging world have “soft power”?**

*Readings*


**Week 11 (November 8) – Rising powers and global peace & security**

*Readings*


**Week 12 (November 15) – Regionalism and new multilateral forums (tbc)**

Guest professor: Dr. Amitav Acharya, School of International Service, American University

*Readings*

To be confirmed

**Week 13 (November 22) – NO CLASS – GMU Thanksgiving Recess**

**Week 14 (November 29) – Is there a “Beijing Consensus”?**

*Readings*


**Week 15 (December 6) – Debating the future of world order | Global order futures scenario exercise**

*Readings*


Other readings TBC.