

International Politics of Asia Pacific Region-SS-828 (Elective Course)

Course Description: This course introduces students to the dynamics of international relations and the fascinating Asia-Pacific region. It will also help them think critically about the challenges facing actors in this region, including the United States. Also, it looks at how states in the Asia-Pacific region develop policies and strategies to manage international crises and build stability through regionalization. The first term develops knowledge of the policies and strategies of the states in Northeast Asia and uses scenario building to explore the management of the challenges posed by the rise of China and the role of the US, disputes over territory in the East China Sea between China and Japan, the status and security of Taiwan, and the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula.

Course Objectives: The course aims to develop knowledge and understanding of the nature of international politics in the Asia-Pacific and the conceptual and theoretical issues relating to those politics. It equips students with essential skills to analyze the foreign policy of major powers, explain the role of regional institutions and small states, and enhance communication skills.

- Understanding various geo-political and geo-strategic approaches informed by the theoretical framework of strategic studies.
- China's economic rise and military modernization, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region
- India and the Indian Ocean vis-à-vis the China rise.
- Japan's confrontation with China in the East China Sea over various combinations of smaller Islands
- The US interest and presence in the Asian region (i.e., the Indo-Pacific region)
- The role of significant power in the inter-state rivalry between North Korea and South Korea
- Russian geo-political and geo-strategic interest in the Asian region
- Australian geostrategic interplay with significant powers such as the US and emerging players such as India in the Indian Ocean region.

Learning Outcome: By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Discuss central concepts relevant to international politics in the region.
- Apply international relations theories to analyze Asia Pacific politics' dynamics.

- Analyze the foreign policy of major powers in the Asia-Pacific.
- Explain the roles of ASEAN and small states in shaping regional architecture.
- Discuss and debate effectively as an individual and as a team.

Course Content

Week 1:	Introduction Asia-Pacific: Constructing a Region
Week 2:	Theory in the Asian Context Contesting Regional Order
Week 3:	America: Black ships to military bases America: Trump and Beyond
Week 4:	China: Empire, war, and revolution China: Grand strategy of a new hegemon
Week 5:	Japan: Falling out of the great power club? India: Moving into the Great Power Club?
Week 6:	ASEAN & Southeast Asian centrality Indonesia: Independence to great power?
Week 7:	Australia & the Pacific: Geography and history South Korea: A “Global” Korea?
Week 8:	Beyond the State I: Environmental & Human Security in Asia Flashpoint—The Korean Peninsula
Week 9:	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
Week 10:	Beyond the State II: Feminist IR in the Asia-Pacific Flashpoint II—The East China Sea
Week 11:	Asia’s economic miracle & the economic-security nexus Flashpoint III —The South China Sea
Week 12:	Flashpoint IV: The Taiwan Strait Asia-Pacific rivalry: Anarchy, insecurity, and power
Week 13:	Beyond the State III: Crime & terrorism in Asia Future gazing—from Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific?
Week 14:	Russian geo-political and geo-strategic interest in the Asian region
Week 15:	Alliances for the Containment of China in Asia Pacific, I2U2, Indo-Pacific Policy of the US, AUKUS
Week 16:	<i>Final Exam</i>

Reading Material

- Mark S. Williams (ed) The Politics of the Asia-Pacific: Triumphs, Challenges and Threats, 2022.
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- Michael Yahuda, The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific, 1945-1995 (Routledge Curzon, 4th ed, 2019).
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- Christopher Dent, East Asian Regionalism (Routledge, 2nd ed., 2016).
- Evelyn Goh The Struggle for Order: Hegemony, Hierarchy, and Transition in Post-Cold War East Asia (Oxford, 2015)
- Leszek Burzynski, Geopolitics and the Western Pacific: China, Japan and the US (Routledge, 2021).
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- "The Geographical Pivot of History" *The Geographical Journal*, xxiii (1904), pp. 421-437.
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- "*The Interest of America in Sea Power, Present, and Future*," (Boston: Little, Brown Company, 1897; reprint, Freeport: Books for Libraries Press, 1970).

- *“Naval Strategy, Compared and Contrasted with the Principles and Practices of Military Operations on Land”* (Boston: Little, Brown Company, 1911).
- Sean Mirski, “Stranglehold: The Context, Conduct and Consequences of an American Naval Blockade of China,” *Strategic Studies*, Vol. 36 (3), 2013, pp. 385-421.
- Colin Gray, “In Defense of the Heartland: Sir Halford Mackinder and his Critics a Hundred Years on,” *Comparative Strategy*, Vol. 23 (1), 2004.
- Christopher Fettweis, “Revisiting Mackinder and Angell: The Obsolescence of Great Power Geopolitics,” *Comparative Strategy*, Vol. 22 (2), 2003.
- James R. Holmes & Toshi Yoshihara, “The Influence of Mahan upon China’s Maritime Strategy,” *Comparative Strategy*, Vol. 24(1), 2005.
- David Scott, “US Strategy in the Pacific: Geopolitical Positioning for the Twenty-First Century,” *Geopolitics*, Vol. 17 (3), 2012, pp. 607-628.
- Emrelseri, “The US Grand Strategy and the Eurasian Heartland in the Twenty-First Century,” *Geopolitics*, Vol. 14 (1), 2009, pp. 26-46.
- Harsh V. Pant, “India in the Asia-Pacific: Rising Ambitions with an Eye on China,” *Asia Pacific Review*, Vol. 14 (1), 2007.
- Jonathan Holslag, “Towards a New Asian Security Order,” *Adelphi Series*, Vol. 50 (416), pp. 109-126.