

Politics of Asia-Pacific

- a. Credit Hours 3-0
- b. Course Code:SS-823
- c. Course Title

Politics of Asia-Pacific

- d. **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.

- e. **Courses Outcomes**

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.
- Analyse the foreign policy of major powers in the Asia-Pacific
- Explain the roles of ASEAN and small states in shaping regional architecture 5. Discuss and debate effectively as an individual and as a team

- f. **Course Objectives**

The course aims to develop knowledge and understanding of the nature of international politics in the Asia-Pacific, the conceptual and theoretical issues relating to those politics, equip students with essential skills to analyze the foreign policy of major powers, and 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 entire 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

g. **Course Contents**

- 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 I: The Korean peninsula
- Week 9:** ***Midterm Exam***
- 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:** *Final Exam*

h. **Recommended Readings**

- Josukutty C A, Joyce Sabina Lobo, The New World Politics of the Indo-Pacific: Perception, Policies and Interests (London: Routledge, 2024).
- Verma, K. (2023). The Indo-Pacific region: a shared global commons or new arena of geopolitics? The Round Table, 112(2), 197–198.
- Prof Swaran Singh & Prof Reena (ed) 'Marwah China in the Indo-Pacific: Maneuvers and Manifestations (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023).
- Hussain, Nazir. 2023. "The US Indo-Pacific Strategy: Implications for Pakistan." *Strategic Thought* 2023 (5): 21-30.
- Mark S. Williams (ed) The Politics of the Asia-Pacific: Triumphs, Challenges and Threats, 2022.
- Michael Yahuda, The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific, 1945-1995 (Routledge Curzon, 4th edn, 2019);
- live&db=edsebk&AN=278313 Bilgin, P., & Ling, L. H. M. (2017). Asia in International Relations: Unlearning Imperial Power Relations. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=1456287>
- 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);
- Elson, R. A. (2013). *Globalization and Development: Why East Asia Surged Ahead and Latin America Fell Behind*. [Basingstoke]: Palgrave Macmillan. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=759453>
- Amitav Acharya, *The Making of Southeast Asia* (Cornell University Press, 2013);
- Sean Mirski, "Stranglehold: The Context, Conduct and Consequences of an American Naval Blockade of China," *Strategic Studies*, Vol. 36 (3), 2013, pp. 385-421.
- David Scott, "US Strategy in the Pacific: Geopolitical Positioning for the Twenty-First Century," *Geopolitics*, Vol. 17 (3), 2012, pp. 607-628.
- Maung Aung Myoe, *In the Name of Pauk-Phaw: Myanmar's China Policy Since 1948* (ISEAS, 2011)
- Emrelseri, "The US Grand Strategy and the Eurasian Heartland in the Twenty-First Century," *Geopolitics*, Vol. 14 (1), 2009, pp. 26-46.
- Behera, N. C. (2008). *International Relations in South Asia: Search for an Alternative Paradigm*. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications Pvt. Ltd. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&site=eds-live&db=edsebk&AN=759453>
- Harsh V. Pant, "India in the Asia-Pacific: Rising Ambitions with an Eye on China," *Asia Pacific Review*, Vol. 14 (1), 2007.
- James R. Holmes & Toshi Yoshihara, "The Influence of Mahan upon China's Maritime Strategy," *Comparative Strategy*, Vol. 24(1), 2005.
- 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.
- Alagappa (Ed), *Asian Security Order* (Stanford University Press 2003);
- "The Problem of Asia" (New York: Harper's New Monthly Magazine, 1900; reprint, Port Washington, N.Y: Kennikat Press, 1990).

- Alfred Thayer Mahan, "Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783," (Boston Little, Brown and Company, 1890; reprint, New York: Dover Publications, 1987).
- "the Interest of America in Sea Power, Present, and Future," (Boston: Little, Brown Company, 1897: reprint, Freeport: Books for Libraries Press, 1970).
- "Democratic Ideals and Reality: A Study in the Politics of Reconstruction," (London, 1919)
- "Naval Strategy, Compared and Contrasted with the Principles and Practices of Military Operations on Land," (Boston: Little, Brown Company, 1911).
- "The Geographical Pivot of History" The Geographical Journal, xxiii (1904), pp. 421-437
- Jonathan Holslag, "Towards a New Asian Security Order," Adelphi Series, Vol. 50 (416), pp. 109-126.
- Leszek Buszynski, Geopolitics and the Western Pacific: China, Japan and the US (Routledge, 201)
- Halford Mackinder, "Scope and Methods of Geography," Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, III (London, 1887),