International Relations of East and Southeast Asia
GOV 365L (38795)/ ANS 361 (31490)

Fall 2011
University of Texas at Austin
TTH 8:00-9:30 a.m., PAR 203

Instructor: Dr. Patricia L. Maclachlan
Department of Government
BAT 3.150
Tel: 232-1724
E-mail: pmaclachlan@mail.utexas.edu
Office Hours: Tues., 1:00-2:00; Wed., 9:00-11:00; or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Leann Youn
Department of Government
BAT 1.118
E-mail: lyoun@mail.utexas.edu
Office Hours: Thurs., 9:30-12:30; or by appointment

Course Description

A decade ago, pundits looked to the spectacular economic growth of East and Southeast Asia and predicted that the 21st century would be the “Pacific Century.” Although analysts have been far less optimistic about the economic future of the region following the 1997 financial crisis, most nevertheless agree that East/Southeast Asia has the most growth potential of any other region in the world. But the region is also home to some of the planet’s most worrisome political challenges and “hot spots”: the military and economic rise of China and the ongoing North Korean nuclear crisis being the two most salient examples. In short, East Asia has the potential for both “crisis” and “opportunity.”

This upper division undergraduate course introduces students to some of the major themes of the post-Cold War international relations of East and Southeast Asia. After exploring basic theoretical approaches to international relations, we focus on “Great Power” (Japanese, American, and particularly Chinese) contributions and challenges to the military and economic security of the region; the objectives and processes of adapting to economic globalization in the Asia-Pacific; and the nature of and potential solutions to the North Korean nuclear crisis. We will also keep track of current events in the region.

Prerequisites

A background in Asian Studies or Government is recommended but not required.
Requirements

1. Quizzes (approx. 6, to be held at the beginning of class) on assigned readings (lowest grade will be eliminated from final tally): 10%
2. First in-class midterm exam (Sept. 29): 20%
3. Second in-class midterm exam on material covered between Oct. 4 & Nov. 17 (Nov. 22): 30%. Instead of the exam, students may write a short (3,000 words) research paper on a topic of their choosing. Topics must be cleared by the instructor by Oct. 18. Final papers due Nov. 22.
4. Final exam (Saturday, December 10, 2:00-5:00 pm): 40%

Required Texts

The following texts are available for purchase at the University Co-op:
   2. Susan Shirk, China: Fragile Superpower (Oxford University Press, 2008)

All additional readings can be accessed through Documents on the Blackboard site for this class. Newspaper articles on current events will also be posted on Blackboard as the course progresses.

Academic Objectives

My aim in this course is to encourage each student to think critically and comparatively about the patterns and repercussions of international relations in one of the most politically, economically, and culturally important regions of the world. In so doing, I hope you will acquire a heightened appreciation for the many constraints and opportunities that confront American policymakers as they interact with their counterparts in the region.

We will also work on perfecting advanced critical reading skills and deepening our understanding of key IR theories. You will soon discover that many of the assigned readings are intellectually challenging and/or controversial; we will address these readings regularly in class, giving you plenty of opportunities to ask questions and develop your own opinions.
**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Percentage Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>94-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>64-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>.67</td>
<td>60-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>59 &amp; below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Guidelines**

1. Texting and Internet browsing in class are distractions to you, to me, and to the students around you. Don’t do it while class is in session!
2. Quizzes will be held promptly at 8:00. Make-ups will not be permitted.
3. Please arrive for class on time. Let me know beforehand of any unavoidable absences, late arrivals, and early departures from class.
4. You are responsible for keeping up with e-mail correspondence with the instructor, as well as notices and other postings on the Blackboard site for this course.
5. All lectures, readings, and films are subject to examination.
6. All assignments must be completed on schedule. Only students with documented medical or military excuses can be exempted from this rule. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.
7. You must take the final exam during the timeslot designated by the university. Don’t buy a plane ticket for the day before the exam!
8. PowerPoint presentations are designed to provide you with rough outlines of basic concepts and themes. To do well in this course, you must take detailed notes during lectures and class discussions. Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will not be posted on the web.
9. Students guilty of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper) will receive a “0” for the assignment in question. No exceptions. Students are strongly urged to consult the following site for information about UT’s honor code and examples of what constitutes plagiarism: [http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html](http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html)
10. Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/)
Lecture Schedule

Part I: Introduction

Aug. 25: Introduction to the Course

No readings.

Sept 30: Defining the Region

Shambaugh and Yahuda, *International Relations of Asia*, chapter 2 (Kim).

Sept. 1 & 6: How Relevant is “The Clash of Civilizations” for the Asia-Pacific?


Sept. 8, 13 & 15: Concepts and Theories of International Relations


Sept. 20, 22 & 27: East Asia’s Reluctant Leader—Japan

Shambaugh and Yahuda, *International Relations of Asia*, chapter 8 (Green).


Sept. 29: FIRST IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Oct. 4, 6, 11, 13 & 18: The Rise of China

Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower*, all chapters.


Oct. 20, 25, 27, & Nov. 1: East Asia and the Challenge of Economic Globalization


Nov. 3, 8, 10, 15 & 17: Conflict on the Korean Peninsula

Shambaugh and Yahuda, *International Relations of Asia*, chapter 12.


Nov. 22: SECOND IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Nov. 24: Thanksgiving –no class

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1: The U.S.’s Evolving Role in East Asia


Some useful resources for keeping up with current events in the region:

**Asahi Newspaper**: [http://www.asahi.com/english/](http://www.asahi.com/english/) from Japan, somewhat leftist in orientation

**Council on Foreign Relations**: [http://www.cfr.org/](http://www.cfr.org/) organization that publishes *Foreign Affairs* – website includes useful commentary about E. Asia

**Japan Times**: [http://english.sina.com/index.html](http://english.sina.com/index.html) English language newspaper about Japan


**NAPSNET e-mail alerts**: sign up for daily reports on Asian security issues [http://www.nautilus.org/mailing-lists/sign-up-for-mailing-lists](http://www.nautilus.org/mailing-lists/sign-up-for-mailing-lists)


**SINA**: [http://english.sina.com/index.html](http://english.sina.com/index.html) blog on PRC


**38North**: blog on North Korea