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 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

Six hours of Government are recommended. No prior knowledge of East Asia is required.

Requirements

1. Quizzes (minimum 6, to be held at the beginning of class) on assigned readings (lowest grade will be eliminated from final tally): 15%
2. First in-class midterm exam (Oct. 4): 20%
3. Second in-class midterm exam on material covered since first midterm: 25%. Instead of the exam, students may write a short (1,500-2,000 words) research paper on a topic of their choosing. Paper proposals must be submitted to instructor by Oct. 30. Final papers due Dec. 4.
4. Final exam (Thurs., Dec. 13, 9:00-12:00): 40%
**Required Texts**

The following texts are available for purchase at the University Co-op:


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 not only of the region’s complexities but also of the many constraints and opportunities that confront American policymakers as they interact with their counterparts in the region.

We will also strive to perfect our critical reading skills and understanding of social science concepts and theories. You will soon discover that many of the assigned readings are intellectually challenging or politically controversial; we will discuss these readings regularly in class, giving you lots of opportunities to ask questions and develop your own opinions.

**Grading Scale**

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**Class Guidelines**

1. **Laptops are not permitted for use in this classroom.**
   2. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and the instructor for further information.
   3. 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 refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php).
   4. All lectures and discussions, readings, and films will be subject to examination.
   5. All quizzes will be administered at 8:00. **Make-up quizzes cannot be accommodated.** At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will dropped from your total quiz score.
   6. 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.
   7. All assignments must be completed on schedule. Only students with officially documented illnesses or military excuses can be exempted from this rule. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.
   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. You must take the final exam during the time-slot designated by the university. Don’t make travel arrangements for the day of the final exam for this course.
   10. I respectfully ask you to arrive for class on time. Please let me know well in advance of unavoidable absences, late arrivals, and early departures from class.
Lecture Schedule

Part I: Introduction

Aug. 30: Introduction to the Course
No readings.

Sept 4: Defining the Region
Shambaugh and Yahuda, *International Relations of Asia*, chapters 1 (Shambaugh) and 2 (Kim).

Sept. 6 & 11: How Relevant is “The Clash of Civilizations” for the Asia-Pacific?

Sept. 13, 18 & 20: Concepts and Theories of International Relations


Sept. 25, 27 & Oct. 2: East Asia’s Reluctant Leader--Japan
Shambaugh and Yahuda, *International Relations of Asia*, chapter 8 (Green).


Newspaper articles to current events relating to Japan: t.b.a.
Oct. 4: FIRST IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Oct. 9, 11, 16, 18 & 23: The Rise of China
Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower*, all chapters.

Newspaper articles on current events relating to China: t.b.a.


Oct. 25, 30, Nov. 1 & 6: East Asia and the Challenge of Economic Globalization


Current newspaper articles on Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP): t.b.a.

Nov. 8: SECOND IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Nov. 13, 15, 20, 27 & 29: Conflict on the Korean Peninsula

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving –no class

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


Newspaper articles on current events relating to N. and S. Korea: t.b.a.
Dec. 4 & 6: The U.S.’s Evolving Role in East Asia

*Dec. 4: Optional research paper due.


OPTIONAL: Shambaugh and Yahuda, International Relations of Asia, chapter 4.

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


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)


The Straits Times: [http://www.straitstimes.com/](http://www.straitstimes.com/): Singapore English-language newspaper; good coverage of East and Southeast Asia

38North: blog on North Korea