

Politics and Security Challenges in East Asia

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Course Outline / Description

This course is designed for students who are interested in international politics and security in East Asia. The course begins by examining the history and politics of the states in the region and how they shape and influence security issues. It attempts to understand the source of states behaviour and prospects for regional stability and instability. Particular attention will be given to the US alliance system in the region, China's military rise, Japanese militarization, politics and security capabilities of North and South Korea as well as Myanmar, Vietnam and the Philippines in Southeast Asia. The course also includes other topics such as insurgency and transnational terrorism, territorial disputes, the Taiwan issue, arms races, maritime security, energy security, transnational crime and multilateral security cooperation. In addition, this course also considers some implications for Australian policy towards the region.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have knowledge on a range of security issues in East Asia
- Be able to analyse key security and policy changes as well as opportunities in the East Asian region
- Understand and evaluate major theoretical traditions and debates in the international security field
- Build oral presentation skills by participating in class discussions.
- Develop concise writing skills.

Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials

Day	Topics	Readings
1.	Course Introduction	No assigned readings
2.	Introducing Politics and Security in East Asia: Content and Context	CIGI Papers 2016: Responding to Security Challenges in East Asia by Ravenhill. Critical Security in the Asia Pacific: An Introduction, Matt McDonald.
3.	The key players: China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan, Australia and U.S.	China, the U.S-Japan Alliance & Security Dilemma in East Asia by Christensen in International Relations Theory and the Asia Pacific
4.	Australia and Asia Pacific: security environment and engagement East Asia Security Cooperation: Regional alliances, Organizations and Forums	CIGI Papers 2013: Australia-Canada Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Socialization in International Institutions: The ASEAN Way &

		International Relations Theory by Iain Johnston
5.	In class activities and discussions	No assigned readings
6.	The politics of economic interdependence in East Asia	East Asia Economic Interdependence and Regional Security by Cossa & Khana
7.	The politics of economic interdependence in East Asia	Economic Interdependence and the Future of U.S-Chinese relations by Copeland
8.	The Philippines: The Catholic Church, Poverty and the Moro Islamic Movement.	The revitalized U.S-the Philippines Security Relations by Castro
9.	Vietnam: The Golden Triangle and Drugs Trade	Vietnam security challenges by Thuy and Ngoc
10.	Discussions	No assigned readings
11.	United States Primacy and the Rise of China China: domestic and regional security issues	China in International Society: Is Peaceful Rise Possible? by Barry Buzan Beijing Security Behavior in the Asia Pacific: Is China A dissatisfied power? by Iain Johnston
12.	Japanese expansion and Asia-Pacific War	The U.S-Japan Alliance by Allen and Sugg
13.	U.S - Japan Alliance	The U.S-Japan Alliance by Allen and Sugg
14.	Japan: Domestic and Regional Issues	Ambiguous Japan: Japanese National Identity at Century's end by Tamamoto
15.	Japan and Asia Pacific Security: Reinterpretation of the Article 9 in Japan's Constitution and its Implications	Japan and Asian-Pacific Security by Katzenstein & Okawara in Rethinking Security in East Asia, Identity, Power and Efficiency
16.	Discussions	No assigned readings
17.	Mid term examination	In class examination
18.	Alliance Politics: U.S and Republic of Korea	The Future of Korea: An Asia Pacific Perspective by Seldon
19.	Constructivist perspectives on U.S - ROK Alliance	Bound to Last? The U.S Korea Alliance & Analytical Eclecticism by Suh
20.	Contested Memories, Reconciliation and Comfort women	Comfort Women: Gabrielle Jonsson
21.	Discussions	No assigned readings

22.	Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy: North Korea	When is Coercion Successful? by Bratton
23.	The Taiwan Issue	The U.S.-China-Taiwan Triangle Relationship by Hong
24.	U.S-Taiwan Relations	The U.S.-China-Taiwan Triangle Relationship by Hong
25.	Discussions	No assigned readings
26.	Energy Security: Cooperation or Conflict Energy Security: China and Central Asia	Energy Security: China & The United States & the Divergence in Renewable Energy by Steeves and Ouriques Re-Centering Central Asia: China New Great Game in the Old Eurasian Heartland by Xiangmin Chen
27.	China-India Relations. India's Interests in East Asia	India and East Asia: The Look East Policy by G.V.C Naidu
28.	Myanmar Security Issues – Democracy and the role of Aung San Suu Kyi	Myanmar in Transition by IPCS
29.	Communal conflict in Myanmar	The War on the Rohingyas by Marshall for Reuters
30.	Final Exam review	No assigned readings

This syllabus is subject to change with proper notifications prior to revisions.

Readings:

Students for this course are NOT required to purchase any textbooks. Weekly readings from the main textbooks and articles from academic journals will be posted on blackboard.

Main textbooks

- Rethinking Security in East Asia, Identity, Power and Efficiency. Edited by J.J. Suh, Peter J. Katzenstein & Allen Carlson
- International Relations Theory and the Asia Pacific. Edited by G. John Ikenberry & Michael Mastanduno

Course structure

Classes will consist of lectures and discussions

****Important**:** It is crucial that students do the readings before coming to class in order to be able to participate actively during discussions. The readings are also intended to provide students with ideas for written assignments.

Exams: There will be one mid-term and one final exam

Evaluation criteria

Short papers 40%

Midterm 20%

Final exam 20%

Participation 20%