

City University of Hong Kong

Information on a Course offered by Department of Asian and International Studies with effect from Semester A in 2012-13

Part I

Course Title:	<u>Contemporary International Politics of the Asia Pacific</u>
Course Code:	<u>AIS 4129</u>
Course Duration:	<u>One semester</u>
No. of Credit Units:	<u>3</u>
Level:	<u>B4</u>
Medium of Instruction:	<u>English</u>
Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title)	<u>Nil</u>
Precursors: (Course Code and Title)	<u>Nil</u>
Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title)	<u>AIS4072 Contemporary International Politics of the Asia Pacific</u>
Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title)	<u>Nil</u>

Part II

1. Abstract

THIS IS NOT A CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE. Current events will be addressed only when relevant to learning about and evaluating the theories and empirical investigations at hand. The first part of the course will provide a historical and theoretical overview of regionalism and of the Asia-Pacific region's international relations, with the Cold War as a starting point. The second part assesses competing theoretical explanations for the international behaviour and interactions of the region's major powers. The final section examines some key multilateral/transnational issues as sources of potential conflict and/or cooperation. The countries considered in detail will be China, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

2. Course Aims:

The Asia-Pacific region, seen by many as the emerging centre of global power and influence, is characterised by rapid economic growth, diverse political systems, vibrant societies, modernising militaries, cutting-edge technologies and strategic competition among the major powers. The aim of this course is to introduce the major theoretical perspectives in IR and apply these to gain a deeper understanding of the international politics of the region. In

addition, the similarities and differences between contended approaches will be explored, and frameworks will be provided within which solutions to conflicts might be generated, and their merits evaluated.

3. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Identify and describe key actors and issues in the international politics of the Asia-Pacific	20%
2.	Explain the causes of a specific conflict in the international politics of the Asia-Pacific using relevant disciplinary insights	20%
3.	Apply a recognised approach to the international politics of the Asia Pacific (e.g. realism, liberalism, constructivism etc.) to a specific issue.	30%
4.	Compare and contrast approaches to international politics in relation to a specific issue	20%
5	Evaluate or propose solutions to conflicts under study	10%

4. Teaching and learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs)

ILO No	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1	Lectures: the instructor will present concepts, theories and case studies on international politics in the Asia-Pacific region	
CILO 2, 3	Oral presentations: students will work in groups to lead class discussions and structured question and answer sessions on relevant topics	
CILO 3	Research: students will use relevant materials to write papers as set by the instructor	
CILO 4	Quiz: Students will explain keys concepts and issues in an advanced format	
CILO 5	Tutorial presentation	

NOTE:

CILO 3: The Professional Writing Workshop will engage students with appropriate forms of writing for Briefing Reports. Samples will be explored and students will be invited to share, for comment and improvement, examples of their writing.

5. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs)

Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting	ILOs to be addressed	Remarks
Seminar participation	10%	1, 2, 4, 5	
Brief presentation based on document analysis of newspaper article that focuses on its relationship to IR theory	10%	1, 3	
Briefing report or essay	40%	2, 3, 4, 5	
Quiz	40%	1, 2, 3, 4	

6. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations (Attachment) and to the Explanatory Notes. Standard (A+, A, A- ...F)

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definitions	
A+	4.3	Excellent	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.0		
A-	3.7		
B+	3.3	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.
B	3.0		
B-	2.7		
C+	2.3	Adequate	Student who is profiting from the university experience; understanding of the subject; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
C	2.0		
C-	1.7		
D	1.0	Marginal	Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.
F	0.0	Failure	Little evidence of familiarity with the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

Power, strategic culture, foreign policy, hegemony, grand strategy, constructivism, liberalism, realism, security, international politics, Asia Pacific, terrorism, territorial disputes, history issues, alliances, regionalism, divided states.

Proposed Weekly Structure

1. Defining and Conceptualising the Region
2. Cold War in the Asia-Pacific
3. Interpreting China's Rise
4. The United States: The Extraterritorial Superpower
5. Japan: From Reactive to "Normal" State?
6. South Korea: Options for a Middle Power
7. Crisis on the Korean Peninsula
8. Tensions in the Taiwan Strait
9. Territorial Disputes
10. The History Problem
11. Asia-Pacific and the 'War on Terror'
12. Regionalism
13. Review and Exam preparation.

Recommended Reading.

Alagappa, M., ed., 1998. *Asian Security Practice: Material and Ideational Influences*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

———, 2003. *Asian Security Order: Norms, Power and Prospects for Peaceful Change*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Berger, T. U., Mochizuki, M. M. & Tsuchiyama, J., eds., 2007. *Japan in International Politics: The Foreign Policies of an Adaptive State*. Boulder & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Cha, V. D. & Kang, D. C., eds., 2003. *Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Ikenberry, G. J. & Mastanduno, M., eds., 2003. *International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Kim, S. S., ed., 2004. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Krauss, E. S. & Pempel, T. J., eds., 2003. *Beyond Bilateralism: U.S.-Japan Relations in the New Asia-Pacific*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press; London: Eurospan.

Lam, P.E., ed., 2006. *Japan's Relations with China: Facing a Rising Power*. London and New York: Routledge.

Ross, R. S. & Zhu, F., eds., 2008. *China's Ascent: Power, Security, and the Future of International Politics*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

Shambaugh, D. & Yahuda, M., eds., 2008. *International Relations of Asia*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Vicziany, M., Wright-Neville, D. & Lentini, P., eds., 2004. *Regional Security in the Asia Pacific: 9/11 and After*. Cheltenham: UK, Edward Elgar.

Yahuda, M., 2004. *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific*. 2 ed. London and New York: Routledge.

Online Resources:

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)).

Available at: <http://www.aseansec.org/>

Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.

Available at: http://www.apcss.org/text/text_research.htm

Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library.

Available at: <http://www.coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>

Center for Strategic & International Studies.

Available at: <http://www.csis.org/pacfor/>

China Daily.

Available at: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>

China Leadership Monitor.

Available at: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm>.

The China Post.

Available at: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/>

East-West Center.

Available at: <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/>

Japan Focus.

Available at: <http://www.japanfocus.org/>

The Japan Times.

Available at: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>

The Korea Herald.

Available at: <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea.

Available at: <http://www.mofat.go.kr/index.jsp>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Available at: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan).

Available at: <http://www.mofa.gov.tw/webapp/mp?mp=6>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Available at: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>

National Bureau of Asian Research.

Available at: <http://www.nbr.org/>

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS, Singapore).

Available at: <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/>

Teaching Terror.

Available at: <http://www.teachingterror.net/websites.htm>

U.S. Department of State.

Available at: <http://www.state.gov/>