



Department of International Relations and European Studies

Faculty of Social Studies

Masaryk University

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Syllabus

IRE203 Rise of Asia

Fall 2022

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Lecturer:

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Class time: Thursday 14:00–17:40 (Once per two weeks)

1. Course Description:

China, Japan, the two Koreas, and the ten ASEAN states make up what is conventionally referred to as East Asia. As a region, East Asia looms large in international politics. Four of the world's fifteen most populous countries (China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam) are part of this region, as do three of the world's fifteen richest countries by nominal GDP (China, Japan, and South Korea). At the same time, international politics in East Asia is complex and highly volatile. The diplomatic crisis over Taiwan remains a persistent flashpoint. Concern about China's growing economic and military power raises concerns over the region, but China is in the center of speculations about the opportunities for tapping "1.3 billion potential customers". Tensions on the Korean Peninsula over North Korea's nuclear program have the entire region on edge.

If the twenty-first century really will be "The Asian Century", as many have predicted, then it is more important than ever to understand the factors shaping regional politics. In this course, we will broadly survey contemporary East Asian politics, paying particular attention to regional security and economic development. We will also utilize some international relations theory to frame our analyses. We will begin with an examination of how bipolarity during the Cold War helped to lay the groundwork for present-day political dynamics. We will then study the origins of the "Asian miracle" of rapid development and the collapse in the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Other topics will include the emergence of the U.S. alliance system, the rise of China, the North Korea and Taiwan, the growing institutionalization of regional politics through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and non-traditional security problems such as terrorism and human rights violations.

2. Student Learning Outcomes

Students of this course will gain detailed insight into major issues forming Asian politics and societies. The students will analyze the topic from different perspectives, learning to apply various theoretical concepts. The seminars are integral and essential part of the course. The seminars will give the students the opportunity to improve the presentation and argumentation skills. In each seminar, one student will present a summary and a critical assessment of required reading (identification of strong/weak points of the text) and suggesting alternative points of views.

3. Reading Material

Required Materials (Available in the Library or to Download) (Complete list is in the section 5. Course Schedule)

4. Teaching methodology

Every lesson of the course will be divided into two parts. In the first part, the lecturer will provide a presentation using PowerPoint and handout material on a specific topic. In the second part (seminar) the class will be based on discussion. The students will present their assignment that will be accompanied by the discussion.

5. Course Schedule

The course is Once per two weeks. Therefore, every session will be composed of two lectures. Be sure to check the schedule in IS.

Session 01

Asia - A Bird's-Eye View

The intent of the initial class is to introduce students to the prerequisites of the course, to discuss the required texts and readings, and methodology, to cover the syllabus of the course, to discuss the exams and written assignments, and to respond to student questions concerning course objectives. The initial lecture will provide an overview of the Asian countries, culture, and society and attempts to place the state and people in a historical perspective of the nineteenth century.

Required Reading:

- David Shambaugh. "International Relations in Asia: The Two-Level Game", in Shambaugh and Yahuda, 3-31. (29 pages)

Suggested Reading:

- Samuel S. Kim. "The Evolving Asian System: Three Transformations", in Shambaugh and Yahuda, 35-56. (22 pages)

Bipolarity and the Alliance System in Cold War East Asia

With the end of World War II, East Asia lay smoldering in ruins, but the region had little reprieve as the Soviet Union and the United States laid the foundation for a new worldwide conflict. Today, we will also discuss Neorealism as a theoretical lens through which to analyze regional politics. How might Neorealists explain the strategic situation in East Asia? The beginning of the Cold War and especially the victory of the Communist Party in China turned East Asia into a major theater for the U.S.-Soviet rivalry. As a result, the United States established a series of bilateral alliances in the region, centered on Japan but also including South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Required Reading:

- Amitav Acharya. "Theoretical Perspectives on International Relations in Asia", in Shambaugh and Yahuda, 57-82. (26 pages)

Suggested Reading:

- Christopher Hemmer and Peter J. Katzenstein. "Why Is There No NATO in Asia? Collective Identity, Regionalism, and the Origins of Multilateralism", *International Organization* 56:3 (Summer 2002), 575-607. (33 pages)

Session 02

38th Parallel Politics – Korean Peninsula

The Korean War was significant for several reasons. It marked the first and only time that United Nations troops (under American command) entered into direct combat against a sovereign state (as opposed to a peacekeeping mission). It also marked the beginning of one of the longest unfinished wars in modern history—today, North and South Korea are technically still under a ceasefire rather than a peace treaty. The Korean War also marked China's military ascendancy and ratcheted up the United States' commitment to Taiwan.

North Korea represents one of the biggest headaches for diplomats with an East Asia portfolio. Its long isolation, driven by a doctrine of national self-sufficiency known as *juche*, combined with its provocative weapons tests, nuclear arsenal, and fears that it could sell nuclear materials to terrorists, all make North Korea arguably the most visible threat to regional security today.

Required Readings:

- Daniel Byman and Jennifer Lind. "Pyongyang's Survival Strategy", *International Security* 35:1 (Summer 2010), 44-74 (31 pages).
- Siegfried S. Hecker. "What I Found in North Korea", *Foreign Affairs* (Dec. 9, 2010). (4 pages).

Suggested Readings:

- Scott Snyder. "The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian Stability", in Shambaugh and Yahuda, 258-273. (16 pages)

Asia between Russia and United States

Sidelined for a decade following the political and economic turmoil of the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia is once again a major player in East Asian politics. Its vast oil reserves, access to sophisticated technology, membership in a growing number of international organizations, and increasingly close relations with China and North Korea have engaged Russia in Asia to a degree not seen since the Cold War. But what kind of impact will Russian influence have on East Asian politics, particularly in security?

Throughout the Cold War, the United States was a vital strategic player in East Asia and the primary guarantor of security for states in the region. With the increasing power of other states in the region, especially China, and the establishment of new mechanisms to mitigate conflict and other cross-border transactions, what is the United States' role? How will that role be affected given the effects of the 2008 economic crisis?

Required Readings:

- Kang, David. "u.s. Alliances and the Security Dilemma in the Asia-Pacific". in Acharya, Armitav. *Reassessing Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Competition, Congruence, and Transformation*. The MIT Press: Cambridge, 2007.
- Ha, Yongchool and Shin Beomshik. "Non-Proliferation and Political Interests: Russia's Policy Dilemmas in the Six Party Talks."

Suggested Readings:

- Cha, Victor D. "The Ideational Dimension of America's Alliances in Asia" in Acharya, Armitav. *Reassessing Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Competition, Congruence, and Transformation*. The MIT Press: Cambridge, 2007.

Session 03

China's Relationship Status – “It's Complicated”

The economic and political reforms of the 1980s and 1990s catapulted China from a perennial basket-case society into the ranks of the Great Powers in less than a generation. As China's economy grew by leaps and bounds, it began to seek a greater role in shaping regional and international politics. International security analysts grew concerned about the potential for a new Cold War between China and the United States while simultaneously acknowledging China's critical role as an engine of the world economy, a role that might lead it to have a more “status quo” rather than “revisionist” outlook. The question remains today: what are China's strategic interests and how will they seek to achieve them?

Required Reading:

- Phillip C. Saunders. “China's Role in Asia”, in Shambaugh and Yahuda, 127-149. (23 pages)

Suggested Readings:

- David Shambaugh. “China Engages Asia: Reshaping the Regional Order”, *International Security* 29:3 (Winter 2005), 64-99. (36 pages)

From Defiance to Détente – Taiwan's Diplomatic Puzzle

Taiwan represents another thorny problem for East Asian security. When the defeated Nationalist forces fled to the island in 1949 after being routed by Mao's Communist forces, they initially intended to regroup and retake the mainland. Over time, this became less and less of a priority and Taiwan developed an economy, a system of government and a society all separate from the mainland and premised on close relations with the United States. Yet the question of whether Taiwan was a “renegade province” of China, an independent state, or something else has never been resolved. Efforts to clear up the ambiguity inevitably have major and possibly deadly consequences. This week, we will examine some of the dimensions of this problem and study how Taiwan's security situation has developed in recent years.

Required Reading:

- Fell, Dafydd J. “Taiwan's Democracy: Towards a Liberal Democracy of Authoritarianism?” *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs* 39, no. 2 (2010): 187–201.

Suggested Readings:

- Cebestan, Jean-Pierre. *The New Detante in the Taiwan Strait and Its Impact on Taiwan's Security and Futures*. China Perspectives. 2010.

Session 04

Will the Sun Also Rise? Japan's Quest for “Normal Status”

With the rise of China and North Korea combined with a United States bogged down in Afghanistan and Iraq, there was more serious talk in Japan about becoming a “normal state” that was not constrained by a pacifist military doctrine and that could play a much larger role in shaping regional security dynamics. While Japan has not abolished Article 9 of its constitution, such talk has raised hackles across the Sea of Japan. This week, we will discuss Japan's role in the post-Cold War security system in East Asia.

Required Reading:

- Wang, Zheng. “Causes and Prospects for Sino-Japanese Tensions: A Political Analysis.” In *Clash of National Identities: China, Japan and East China Territorial Dispute*, edited by Tatsushi Arai, Shihoko Goto, and Zheng Wang, 29–36. Washington D.C., USA: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2012. http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/asia_china_seas_web.pdf.

Suggested Readings:

- Yang, Daqing. “History: From Dispute to Dialogue.” In *Clash of National Identities: China, Japan and East China Territorial Dispute*, edited by Tatsushi Arai, Shihoko Goto, and Zheng Wang, 19–28. Washington D.C., USA: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 2012. http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/asia_china_seas_web.pdf.

Competing Visions of East Asian Order in the Post-Cold War Era

When the Cold War ended, analysts scrambled to predict how regional politics in East Asia would proceed. The three major theoretical paradigms—realism, neoliberal institutionalism, and constructivism—all suggested different ways in which regional politics could develop, from geopolitical competition to economic integration to the development of a regional identity.

Required Reading:

- Sheldon W. Simon. ASEAN and the New Regional Multilateralism: The Long and Bumpy Road to Community. in Shambaugh and Yahuda 195-214.

Suggested Readings:

- Thomas U. Berger. “Power and Purpose in Pacific East Asia: A Constructivist Interpretation”, in G. John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno (eds.) *International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), 387-419. (33 pages)

Session 05

Non-Traditional Security Issues in Southeast Asia

While our studies have focused primarily on threats originating from states, much attention from political analysts has been devoted to “non-traditional” security issues. Today, we will discuss two of them: terrorism and pandemic disease. We will examine the forces shaping these threats and consider the problems involved in trying to address them.

Required Reading:

- Liow, Joseph Chinyong. “The Arab Spring and Islamist activism in Southeast Asia: Much ado about nothing?”. Brookings Institution. 2015.

Suggested Readings:

- Ralf Emmers. “Comprehensive Security and Resilience in Southeast Asia: ASEAN’s Approach to Terrorism”, *Pacific Review* 22:2 (2009), 159-77. (19 pages)

ASEAN and the Limits of Non-Interference

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations offers a unique regional model for managing conflict in East Asia. Unlike traditional alliances, ASEAN works to prevent conflict by socializing its members into a common regional identity and organizational norms, collectively known as the “ASEAN Way”. This model has been extended to other countries with interests in the region through the ASEAN Regional Forum, as well as to an expanding ambit of regional issues such as trade and environmental problems.

Required Reading:

- David Martin Jones and Michael L.R. Smith. “Making Process Not Progress: ASEAN and the Evolving East Asian Regional Order”, *International Security* 32:1 (Summer 2007), 148-84. (37 pages)

Suggested Readings:

- Khan, Shamsul, Lei Yu. *Evolving China-ASEAN relations and CAFTA: Chinese Perspectives on China’s Initiatives in Relations to ASEAN Plus I*. European Journal of East Asian Studies. 2013.

Session 06

India’s future in the Asia

Indian role in South East Asia. Will there be an Indian Century ? Where is the position of India and will we have clash between India and China as two most populous nations ? What about Pakistan as the rival of India ?

Required Reading:

- Efstathopoulos, Charalampos. 2011. "Reinterpreting India's Rise through the Middle Power Prism." *Asian Journal Of Political Science* 19, no. 1: 74-95. Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed August 28, 2017).

Suggested Readings:

- Narlikar, Amrita. 2007. "All that Glitters is not Gold: India's rise to power." *Third World Quarterly* 28, no. 5: 983-996. Business Source Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed August 28, 2017).

Indian security dilemma: Pakistan

Pakistani security and its rapprochement to China. What will India say about the new partnership?

Required Reading:

- Malik, Ahmed Ijaz. 2016. "Democratic Peace, Pakistan-India relations and the possibilities of economic cooperation in South Asia." *South Asian Studies (1026-678X)* 31, no. 1: 223-244. Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed August 28, 2017).

Suggested Readings:

- Naseem, Naheeda. 2014. "Geopolitical Value of Gwader for the Region (Mainly for Pakistan, China and the Region)." *South Asian Studies (1026-678X)* 29, no. 2: 519-530. Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost (accessed August 28, 2017).

Session 07

Final Discussion and Conclusion

6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Student Learning Outcomes
Research paper (Obligatory), students without the research paper will not be able to write the final test.	40	40 %	Ability to research and write a methodologically sound and theoretically grounded larger paper (or develop a project), using primary and secondary sources, based on a well formulated research question.
Final examination (Obligatory)	60	60 %	Demonstrate an understanding of the key events in the Far East Asia.
TOTAL	100	100 %	

7. Detailed description of the assignments

Final test	Weight in Final Grade (Total 60%)
<p>The FINAL test will be in form of essay question focused on the problems presented in the assigned readings and/or discussed in the lectures and seminars. Further information will be given during the lectures.</p> <p>During the exam period (January 2021 – February 2021) you can retake the final test according to the Study and Examination Rules of the Masaryk University (https://www.muni.cz/en/about-us/official-notice-board/mu-study-and-examination-regulations).</p>	

Research paper	Weight in Final Grade (Total of 40%)
<p>Research Paper Due on the first week of the examination period. The students may choose their own topic, after a consultation with the instructor. More detailed information about the research paper will be provided by the instructor during lectures. The essay must include research question, the length is minimum 2 500 words (not counting bibliography). The format of the paper should be standard academic article. The Submission of the essay is through IS.MUNI system. Number of sources = number of pages (at least 10). Sources: At least 1 book, At least 2 academic articles, 1 primary source and others</p>	

8. General Requirements and School Policies

- All coursework is governed by MUNI academic rules, and students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work. All students are expected to be familiar with the MUNI academic rules available in the Student Handbook.
- Communication: The university and lecturers will use only the student's university email address for communication. Students are responsible for checking their university email accounts regularly.
- Mobile phones must be turned off during classes.
- Computers/iPads: may be used only for course-related work.
- Cheating and plagiarism: MUNI strictly enforces its policy against cheating and plagiarism. Full policy is available in the Student Handbook.

Briefly: Cheating and plagiarism results in the failing grade from the assignment at minimum, it may lead to suspension from the university.

To prevent any misunderstanding, plagiarism is defined: PLAGIARISM – “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one’s own original work.” - Taken from the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are asked to contact their lecturer as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

9. Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A	100 – 95	
B	94 – 88	
C	87 – 77	
D	76 – 68	
E	67 – 60	
F	< 60	