

RSS: Asia Pacific Course AY22

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RSS Course Description: This course introduces the international relations of the Asia Pacific. Political, economic, and security relations among countries in this region are examined. In addition, the impact of domestic politics (including domestic political economy) on foreign policy behavior and interactions is analyzed. The course focuses on China (PRC), Taiwan, Russia-China relations, Japan, North Korea (DPRK), and South Korea (ROK). Although the course emphasizes contemporary international relations in the Asia Pacific, historical interactions and legacies are also explored. The course concludes with a field visit to Taiwan and Australia.

RSS Course Objective: facilitate comprehension of regional political, military, economic, and cultural (PMEC) contexts enabling students to analyze the interplay between these factors, and evaluate the complex international issues that challenge regional and US security.

RSS Desired Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe the role that political, military, economic, and cultural (PMEC) factors play in shaping national policies in a region.
2. Assess US national security policies in a region.
3. Analyze great power competition with China and/or Russia in a region.

RSS Learning Areas

SAE: 1, 3, 5, 6

Nuclear Enterprise Objectives: 1A, 1B, 3

Space: 4

Deliverables and Evaluation:

Paper I (30%); handed out 06 Jan at IP1; due 09 Feb; 3-4 pages

Contribution: (30%) (In-class and field study contribution)

Paper II: (40%) handed out 22 Feb; due 05 Apr; 4-6 pages

Texts

Economy, Elizabeth. *The Third Revolution : Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Fifield, Anna. *The Great Successor: The Divinely Perfect Destiny of Brilliant Comrade Kim Jong Un*. New York, NY: Public Affairs, 2019.

Haggard, Stephan and Marcus Noland. *Hard Target: Sanctions, Inducements, and the Case of North Korea*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2017.

Shambaugh, David and Michael Yahuda, eds., *International Relations of Asia*, Second Edition. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2014.

Shambaugh, David, ed. *China and the World*. London: Oxford University Press. 2020.

Smith, Sheila A.. *Japan Rearmed : the Politics of Military Power*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2019.

Snyder, Scott A. *South Korea at the Crossroads: Autonomy and Alliance in an Era of Rival Powers*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018.

William A. Joseph, ed. *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Third Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019)

Course Schedule

IP1: International Relations of the Asia-Pacific: Theoretical and Historical Perspectives

1. David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda, eds., *International Relations of Asia, Second Edition*
 - Chapter 1: “*International Relations in Asia: A Multidimensional Analysis*” by David Shambaugh p. 3-26
 - Chapter 2: “*The Evolving Asian System: Three Transformations*” by Samuel S. Kim p. 33-54
 - Chapter 3: “*Thinking Theoretically about Asian IR*” by Amitav Acharya p. 59-83
2. David Kang, “*Hierarchy and Legitimacy in International Systems: The Tribute System in Early Modern East Asia*,” *Security Studies* 19 (2010): 591-622.

IP2: China (PRC): Domestic Politics

1. William A. Joseph, ed. *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Third Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019)
 - Chapter 1: “*Studying Chinese Politics.*” by William A. Joseph p. 3-18 only
 - Chapter 2: “*From Empire to People’s Republic*” by R. Keith Schoppa. P. 41-71
 - Chapter 6: “*China’s Communist Party-State: The Structure and Dynamics of Power*” by Cheng Li p. 192-223
 - Pick 1 of the following chapters on Tibet, Xinjiang or Hong Kong
 - Chapter 16: “*Tibet*” (Robert Barnett) p. 401-427
 - Chapter 17: “*Xinjiang*” (Gardner Bovington) p. 428-451
 - Chapter 18: “*Hong Kong*” (Sonny Shiu-Hing Lo) p. 452-467
2. Jessica Chen Weiss and Jeremy Wallace, “Domestic Politics, China’s Rise, and the Future of the Liberal International Order,” *International Organization*, [S002081832000048Xjra 635.664](https://doi.org/10.1017/S002081832000048Xjra.635.664) ([cambridge.org](https://doi.org/10.1017/S002081832000048Xjra.635.664)).

3. Economy, Elizabeth. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2018.
 - Chapter 1: Introduction p. 1-20.
4. “How President Xi Jinping is transforming China at home and abroad,” PBS, September 27, 2019, Video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0f4o7n5UdQ>
5. Jessica Chen Weiss, “A World Safe for Autocracy?” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2019. [China's Rise and the Future of Global Politics | Foreign Affairs](#).

IP3: China (PRC): Political Economy and International Relations Pt 1

1. William A. Joseph, ed. *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Third Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019)
 - Chapter 8. China's Political Economy (David Zweig) p. 274-316
2. Shambaugh, David, ed. *China and the World*. London: Oxford University Press. 2020.
 - Chapter 6. China's Global Economic Interactions -Barry Naughton (113-136)
 - Chapter 3. China's National Experiences and the Evolution of PRC Grand Strategy -Chas W. Freeman Jr. (37-60)
 - Chapter 4: Nationalism, Social Influences, and Chinese Foreign Policy -Peter Gries (63-84)
 - Chapter 9. China's Global Military-Security Interactions -Phillip Saunders (181-208)
3. Kevin Pollpeter, “China’s Space Program: Making China Strong, Rich, and Respected,” *Asia Policy*, Vol 15, Issue 2, (April 2020) pg. 12-18.
4. Adam Segal, “China’s Pursuit of Cyberpower,” *Asia Policy*, Vol 15, Issue 2, April 2020, pg. 60-66.
5. “China’s National Defense in the New Era.” White Paper, Beijing: Information Office of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, 2019.
6. Jessica Chen Weiss, “China’s Self-Defeating Nationalism,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 16, 2020. [Beijing’s Self-Defeating Nationalism \(foreignaffairs.com\)](#)

IP4: China (PRC): International Relations Pt 2

1. Shambaugh, David, ed. *China and the World*. London: Oxford University Press. 2020.
 - China's Relations with the United States -Robert Sutter 211-232
 - China's Relations with Russia -Alexei D. Voskressenski
 - China's Relations with Europe -Francois Godement
 - China's Relations with Asia: Continuity Amid Change -Michael Yahuda
 - China's Relations with the Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East -Joshua Eisenman and Eric Heginbotham

IP5: Taiwan: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

1. Susan V. Lawrence and Wayne M. Morrison. “*Taiwan: Issues for Congress*.” Congressional Research Service. October 30, 2017. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44996.pdf> p. 1-67.
2. Susan Lawrence, “Taiwan: Select Political and Security Issues,” Congressional Research Service, September 25, 2020, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10275>

3. Scott L. Kastner. 2016. *"Is the Taiwan Strait Still a Flash Point?"* International Security 40, no. 3: 54-92.
4. Charles L. Glaser, "Washington is Avoiding the Tough Questions on Taiwan and China: The Case for Reconsidering U.S. Commitments in East Asia," *Foreign Affairs*, April 28, 2021: [Washington Is Avoiding the Tough Questions on Taiwan and China | Foreign Affairs](#)
5. Blake Herzinger, "Abandoning Taiwan Makes Zero Moral or Strategic Sense," *Foreign Policy*, May 3, 2021.
6. Oriana Skylar Mastro, "The Taiwan Temptation," July/August 2021. [China's Taiwan Temptation | Foreign Affairs](#)
7. Rachel Esplin Odell and Eric Heginbotham; Bonny Lin and David Sacks; Kharis Templeman; Oriana Skylar Mastro, "Strait of Emergency? Debating Beijing's Threat to Taiwan," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2021. [Strait of Emergency? | Foreign Affairs](#)

IP6: Japan: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

1. Smith, Sheila A. *Japan Rearmed: the Politics of Military Power*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2019
 - Introduction chapter (1-20)
 - Chapter 4: The Constitution Revisited (128-172)
 - Conclusion chapter (220-242)
2. "Japan-U.S. Relations: Issues for Congress." Congressional Research Service. October 19, 2019. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/RL/RL33436> Read: Summary, p.1-19, 28-41
3. Emma Chanlett-Avery, Caitlin Campbell, and Mark E. Manyin, "Japanese Prime Minister Abe's Resignation and the U.S.-Japan Alliance," Congressional Research Service, September 24, 2020. https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/2020-09-24_IF11644_d289abbab4442af7164a93f54b21126c217713f4.pdf

IP7: North Korea (DPRK): Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

1. Fifield, Anna. *The Great Successor: The Divinely Perfect Destiny of Brilliant Comrade Kim Jong Un*. New York, NY: Public Affairs, 2019. Chapters 12-16. (p. 187-274)
2. Stephan Haggard and Marcus Noland. *Hard Target: Sanctions, Inducements, and the Case of North Korea* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2017) Chapter 2. P. 28-58
3. "North Korea's Nuclear Weapons and Missile Programs," Congressional Research Service, July 14, 2020. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10472>

IP8: South Korea (ROK): Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

1. "South Korea: Background and U.S. Relations," Congressional Research Service, April 22, 2020. <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10165> (2pgs)
2. Snyder, Scott A. *South Korea at the Crossroads: Autonomy and Alliance in an Era of Rival Powers*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2018.
 - Chapter 1: "South Korea's Strategic Choices," pg. 1-19.
 - Chapter 8: "The Paradox of South Korea's Middle-Power Status," pg. 192-211.
 - Chapter 10: "Unification and Korean Strategic Choices," pg. 237-261.

3. Troy Stangarone, "South Korea and Japan Continue to Struggle to Bridge Their Differences," *The Diplomat*, November 11, 2020, <https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/south-korea-and-japan-continue-to-struggle-to-bridge-their-differences/>
4. Jung H. Pak "Trying to loosen the linchpin: China's approach to South Korea," Brookings, July 2020, https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FP_20200606_china_south_korea_pak_v2.pdf

IP9: China, Russia, and the World

IP9 readings standardized for all AWC students. The IP will be a three-hour session in Jones for all students about China's and Russia's use of instruments of power (diplomatic, information, military, and economic) around the world. There will be no seminar discussion for this session. All students will have the same assigned readings. More details (including a scope sheet) to follow.

IP10: Role of the United States the Asia Pacific and Strategic Competition

1. Read *The 2017 National Security Strategy of the United States of America*. December 2017.
2. Read Executive Summary of National Defense Strategy of the United States of America
3. "Remarks by Vice President Pence on the Administration's Policy Toward China" The Hudson Institute. Washington, D.C. 04 October 2018. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-vice-president-pence-administrations-policy-toward-china/>
4. VP Pence Speech on U.S.-China Relations, Oct 24, 2019: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5CW6jmZedI>
5. Secretary Michael Pompeo, "Communist China and the Free World's Future," July 23, 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7azj-t0gtPM> Watch video or full text at <https://www.state.gov/communist-china-and-the-free-worlds-future/>
6. Department of Defense, "Indo-Pacific Strategy Report: Preparedness, Partnerships, and Promoting a Networked Region," June 1, 2019.
7. Chris Li and Eric Rosenbach, "Can the U.S. and Chinese Militaries Get Back on Speaking Terms," *Foreign Affairs*, October 15, 2021. [Can the U.S. and Chinese Militaries Get Back on Speaking Terms? | Foreign Affairs](#)
8. Alastair Iain Johnston, "The Failures of the 'Failure of Engagement' with China," *The Washington Quarterly*, June 28, 2019. [The Failures of the 'Failure of Engagement' with China: The Washington Quarterly: Vol 42, No 2 \(tandfonline.com\)](#)
9. Steven Lee Myers, "An Alliance of Autocracies? China Wants to Lead a New World Order," *The New York Times*, March 29, 2021.
10. Daniel B. Baer, "In Historic Shift, Biden Aligns Allies on China," *ForeignPolicy.com*, June 22, 2021.
11. "Pentagon Press Secretary and China Task Force Director Update Reporters on Department of Defense Operations," February 11, 2021. [Pentagon Press Secretary and China Task Force Director Update Reporters on Department of Defense Operations > U.S. Department of Defense > Transcript](#)

Field Study: Taiwan and Australia (TBD)

IP 11– Synthesis Review of Academic and Field Studies