Politics 374: Asia and the International System  
Fall 2011  
TTh 2:30-4:00 p.m. - FORD 204

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Office Hours: Mon. 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.; Thurs. 10-11:00 a.m.; or by appointment

Course Description: This course explores international relations in Asia. Studying this topic is important for several reasons. After four centuries of relative eclipse, Asia has begun, according to many observers, to re-assume its position as a (or the) center of power, wealth, and influence in world politics. As Asia rises in power, however, it becomes crucial to understand whether the region’s international politics are becoming more stable and cooperative, or more conflictual and dangerous. There is evidence for both perspectives. Regional economic and social ties are developing rapidly and integrating Asia in new and deeper ways. The wars and revolutions that characterized the region during much of the 19th and 20th centuries seem to have diminished, and new regional cooperation organizations have proliferated in recent years. At the same time, periods of rapid change can also lead to instability in both the domestic politics of key regional powers and in the realm of international relations. More fundamentally, Asia is a world region with a vast diversity of political systems, social dynamics, and cultures, not to mention great economic disparities. Nationalist sentiment and disputes about Asia’s historical conflicts continue to be a key factor in regional relations. Skeptical observers question whether the regional “architecture” of economic and security regimes is robust enough to manage conflicts and secure stability in the face of multiple challenges.

The course will adopt a broadly historical approach to the region’s international and global politics. The first section will provide a broad historical overview of Asia’s international politics, touching both on intra-regional relations and Asia’s role in the global system. The course’s second section will examine the international politics and regional foreign policies of key states and groups of states in, or influential in, Asia. What are each country’s core national interests? What systemic and national factors shape each country’s foreign policy historically and currently? The third section will examine security in Asia: paradigms of (or theoretical approaches to) the problematique of security in the region, and then some key security challenges or problems, including both ‘traditional’ and non-traditional threats. The fourth course section will examine the politics of regionalism or regional organization and cooperation in Asia. Fifth and finally, we will examine broad debates about the prospects for peace and stability, or instability and conflict, in Asia.

Student Learning Objectives: The goals of the course include enabling students to:

- gain understanding of the history and major trends of international politics in Asia;
- identify and analyze the factors shaping contemporary patterns international politics in the region;
- master and apply critically different theoretical approaches to analyzing the patterns and dynamics of international politics in Asia.

Books: there are two textbooks available for purchase. Other readings will be made available on the course’s WISE website, under the Schedule tab (the calendar).

- David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda, eds. International Relations of Asia (Rowman & Littlefield 2008)
- Ellen Frost Asia’s New Regionalism (Lynne Rienner 2008)
Course Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation 20%
Two take-home essays 35% (17.5% each)
Presentation 10%
Research paper 35%

Participation: A seminar is a wonderful opportunity for learning, yet it depends crucially on student attendance and participation. Attendance is necessary but not sufficient for a good participation grade; I reserve the right to deduct points for multiple absences. You are expected to read the materials in advance of each class and be prepared to engage in a detailed discussion of the readings. You must also submit discussion questions based on the readings every other session, and be prepared to give your own answer to the questions. Your grade here will be based on your attendance and attentiveness; the quality of your contributions in the class; your willingness to give serious consideration to your peers’ ideas and opinions; and occasional in-class writing.

Take-home essay exams: These will be two 6-10 page (1,800-2,700 word) essays that summarize and critique the readings for the previous course period. Due: XX and XX, 5 p.m. on WISE Assignments tool.

Presentation: You will make a brief (10-15 minute) presentation on your term research paper topic and answer questions from peers and the instructor. You will sign up for presentation slots on WISE’s sign-up tool, and upload your presentation outline to the WISE Assignment tool.

Research paper: 3000-3700 words. Students can choose the topic on which they would like to write, and I will also provide a list of possible topics. The research paper can explore a particular country or countries, or dispute / issue in Asia’s international politics. I will consult with you on your proposal and give feedback on your draft. You are required to use 8-10 scholarly articles, books, or monographs, of which at least two must be books. Due December 13, 5 p.m. on WISE Assignments tool. Late papers will be deducted by three points (100 point scale) per day.

Key Expectations and Commitments:

Enthusiastic and Respectful Participation: Your genuine effort to prepare and contribute to class discussion will be the key to the course’s success. Don’t be shy! Even if your thought is half-formed, try to jot it down and then speak up to explain it to your peers. Help each other identify key points of debate and clarify any points of confusion. Ask questions about anything that seems unclear or confusing in the readings or discussion. I will occasionally give mini-lectures to frame top topics, but do not wait for my “approval” to speak up and contribute your thoughts and reactions to the issues discussed in the readings. Please debate ideas in the readings and discussion – you are encouraged to debate vigorously but non-personally, with each other and with me. Please do not whisper or talk privately while in the classroom – it’s disrespectful to the speaker. Likewise, turn off electronic devices during class. Do not text, check e-mail, or surf the web.

Academic Honesty & Plagiarism: If you’re unsure of what it contains, please familiarize yourself with Willamette’s plagiarism policy: http://www.willamette.edu/cla/catalog/resources/policies/ Plagiarism is an extremely serious offense against academic integrity, and will not be tolerated, but referred to the College for sanction. Be sure to credit and cite properly all sources in all your writing and presentations. If you wish to have a refresher / review of the standards of academic originality, norms of citation, ways of avoiding plagiarism, please let me know. There are different sorts of plagiarism, including failing to use quotation marks when quoting another author’s text, or failing to cite (give credit to a source) for specific points of data or argument. Some students profess to be confused about the difference between legitimate
paraphrasing and plagiarism. Two pieces of simple advice, if followed, can eliminate any confusion: a) when in doubt, quote / cite; b) simply remember that when the instructor (or anyone else) reads your written work, it must be you who is “speaking” to him/her through the words on the page. Make sure your writing is always a statement of your voice / your thoughts, even when you are speaking about, or reflecting on, others’ ideas (since all writing builds on other information).

**Diversity:** In pursuit of the goal of academic excellence, I seek to develop and nurture diversity, believing that it strengthens classroom engagement, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. I do not condone discrimination against any member of the school’s community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability status, health status, or veteran status. As such I strive to make the classroom a space where all participants are treated with respect and equity. I welcome your ideas and suggestions about how to improve the creation of such an inclusive learning community.

**Accommodations:** If you have particular learning needs, medical conditions, or disabilities that require accommodation in order for you to perform up to your potential, please inform me at the beginning of the semester, and make an appointment with the Bishop Wellness Center’s Disability and Learning Services staff. Accommodation will gladly be made according to their instructions, but only if notice is given in advance. Likewise with necessary absences for religious observances: you must notify me in advance.

**Two-way feedback:** I will do my best to provide quality feedback on your work in the class. Sometimes, the quality of feedback is a trade-off with the speed of returning comments to you. My general standard is one-two weeks. Meanwhile, do not wait for my feedback to begin on your next assignments. If you are ever concerned or upset about anything in the class, please come see me during office hours or make an appointment. I will do my best to address your concerns or respond to your suggestions, but you must let me know that there is an issue of concern. I want this class to be the best learning experience it can possibly be; that can only happen if you and I invest our best efforts and give each other feedback.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

I. **Overview and History – Asia’s / and) International Relations**
   **August 30 – Course Introduction**

   **September 1**

   **September 6 – Overview of Asia’s International Relations**
   - David Shambaugh “International Relations in Asia: the Two Level Game” Ch. 1 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, eds. *International Relations of Asia* (henceforth, S&Y)
   - Amitav Acharya “Theoretical Perspectives on International Relations in Asia” Ch. 3 in S&Y

   **September 8 – Historical Background**
   - Samuel S. Kim “The Evolving Asian System: Three Transformations” Ch. 2 in S&Y

   **September 13**
- Ellen Frost *The New Asian Regionalism* Ch. 2 “Remapping Asia”
- Ellen Frost Ch. 3 “The Legacy of Maritime Asia”

**Recommended**
- David Kang “Power, Interests, and Identity in East Asian International Relations, 1300 to 1900”, Ch. 2 in *China Rising*

**II. Regional Powers and their Asian Foreign Policies**

**September 15 – The United States**
- Robert Sutter “The United States in Asia: Challenged but Durable Leadership” in S&Y

**Recommended**

**September 20 - Europe**
- Sebastian Bersick “Europe in Asia” Ch. 5 in S&Y

**September 22 - China**
- Philip Saunders “China’s Role in Asia” Ch. 6 in S&Y

**Recommended**

**September 27 - India**
- Sumit Ganguly “The Rise of India in Asia” Ch. 7 in S&Y

**September 29 – Japan and Australia**
- Michael Green “Japan in Asia” Ch. 8 in S&Y
- Hugh White “Australia in Asia: Exploring the Conditions for Security in the Asian Century” Ch. 10 in S&Y

**October 4 – ASEAN**
- Sheldon W. Simon “ASEAN and the New Regional Multilateralism: the Long and Bumpy Road to Community” Ch. 9 in S&Y

**III. Security in Asia – Perspectives and Challenges**

**October 6 – Paradigms**
- Ralph A. Cossa “Security Dynamics in East Asia: Geopolitics vs. Regional Institutions” Ch. 13 in S&Y

**October 11 – Growing Interdependence**
- Ellen Frost Ch. 4 “The Great Revival” and Ch. 5 “Individuals as Spontaneous Integrators”

**October 13 - Liberal and Realist Perspectives**
• Ming Wan “Economic Interdependence and Economic Cooperation” Ch. 8 in *Asian Security Order*

Recommended
• Chung-In Moon and Chaesung Chung “Sovereignty: Dominance of the Westphalian Concept and Implications for Regional Security”, Ch. 3 in Muthiah, ed. *Asian Security Order*, pp. 106-137.

*October 18 – Constructivist Perspectives*
• Bruce Cumings “Why Memory Lingers in East Asia” in *Current History* Sept. 2007.

Recommended

*October 20 – Security Challenges: Acute Conflicts (Taiwan, Korea, Kashmir)*
• David Kang, “Acute Security Challenges After the Cold War” in *Asian Security Order*

*October 25 - the Korean Peninsula*
• Scott Snyder “The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian Stability” Ch. 12 in S&Y

*October 27 - Nuclear Rivalry in South Asia*
• “India’s Nuclear Tests: the Consequences for International Security” by Dinshaw Mistry

*November 1 – the “War on Terrorism” in Asia*
• Hoyt “The War on Terrorism: Implications for South Asia” Ch. 12 in *South Asia in World Politics*, pp. 281-300.
• Cheng, Joseph “Broadening the Concept of Security in East and Southeast Asia” *Journal of Contemporary China* 15(46): 89-111.

*November 3*
• Chadda, Maya “International Dimensions of Ethnic Conflicts” Ch. 8 in Hagerty, ed. *South Asia in World Politics*, pp. 187-212.

*November 8 – Human Security in Asia*

Recommended
• Dewi Fortuna Anwar “Human Security: an Intractable Problem in Asia” Ch. 15 in *Asian Security Order* pp. 536-567.AA

*IV. The Politics of Asian Regionalism*

*November 10 – Asian Regionalism*
• Frost Ch. 1 “Asia’s New Momentum”;

*November 15 – Asian Regionalism*
November 17 – Economic Regionalization

- Edward J. Lincoln “The Asian Regional Economy” Ch. 13 in S&Y
- Frost Ch. 8 “Trade, Finance, and the Politics of Regionalism

November 22

- Frost Ch. 9 “Foreign Policy and Security Cooperation”

V. Prospects: Debating Asia and the International System

November 29

- Ellen Frost Ch. 10; Ch. 11

December 1

- Ellen Frost Ch. 12;

December 6

- Michael Yahuda “Looking Ahead: A New Asian Order?” Ch. 16 in S&Y
- Shambaugh “Asia in Transition: The Evolving Regional Order” Current History November 2006

December 8

- Sung Won Kim, David P. Fidler, and Sumit Ganguly “Eastphalia Rising? Asian Influence and the Fate of Human Security”

Newspaper resources that you are strongly recommended to monitor:

Asahi Newspaper: http://www.asahi.com/english/
Asia Times Online: http://www.atimes.com
Council on Foreign Relations: http://www.cfr.org/
Japan Times: http://english.sina.com/index.html
The Korea Herald: http://www.koreaherald.com/
NAPSNET e-mail alerts: sign up for daily reports on Asian security issues http://www.nautilus.org/mailing-lists/sign-up-for-mailing-lists
SINA: http://english.sina.com/index.html
The Straits Times: http://www.straitstimes.com/
International Crisis Group: www.icg.org