Politics 374: Asia and the International System  
Spring 2015  
TTh 12:50-2:20 p.m. – Walton 134

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 a.m., Thursdays 2:30-3:30 p.m. or (recommended) 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 regional institutions 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 territorial and 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:
- To read carefully, research effectively, speak competently, think critically, and write persuasively about the course content
- To develop an understanding of the history and major trends in Asia’s international politics;  
- To identify and analyze the factors shaping contemporary patterns of international politics in the region, including conflict and cooperation, integration and regionalism, and regional institutions;  
- To master and apply critically different theoretical approaches to analyzing the patterns and dynamics of international politics in Asia.

Book: There is one textbook 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 2nd ed.* (Rowman & Littlefield 2014)
Course Assignments and Evaluation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two take-home essays</td>
<td>35% (17.5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Participation:** A seminar is a wonderful opportunity for learning, yet it depends crucially on student attendance and participation. 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 be prepared to give your own answer to posted discussion questions. Finally, I may assign pairs of students to give brief “expert reports” on particular issues or organizations in Asia’s international relations. Your participation credit is not automatic, but earned through 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. Attendance is necessary but not sufficient for a good participation grade; I reserve the right to deduct points for multiple absences. You may be absent without explanation (no need to e-mail me) twice without any impact on your potential to earn full participation. Think of those two absences as “sick days” and use them only if absolutely necessary. A third absence and any additional ones would lower your potential participation grade proportionally, no matter if the reasons are justified, because if you are absent you cannot contribute to a productive seminar. If you face serious illness or personal crisis that will cause you to miss more than two seminar sessions, please seek help from Bishop Wellness Center and also let me know.

**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: February 16 and April 1, 5 p.m. on the 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. Given the number of enrolled students, we will devote most of the last two weeks of the course to presentations, and have only light course readings and brief discussions. All students are expected to attend class to listen to and give feedback on their peers’ presentations.

**Research paper:** 3200-3700 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 organization / actor, 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 book chapters. Due May 8, 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 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:**
http://www.willamette.edu/cla/dean/ethic/index.html

“We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of moral, academic excellence. We will proudly submit only our original work. We will never attempt to give ourselves or others an unfair advantage. We will commit to upholding our honor and the value of our work. Through this commitment we will serve as an example of our peers.” If you’re unsure of what plagiarism means or entails, please familiarize yourself with Willamette’s plagiarism policy, which you can find at http://www.willamette.edu/cla/catalog/resources/policies/categories/plagiarism_cheating.php

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**

*January 20 – Course Introduction*
- Friedberg, Aaron “Will Europe’s Past be Asia’s Future?” *Survival* 42:3 (Autumn 2000), pp. 147-159.

*January 22*
January 27 – Overview of Asia’s International Relations
- David Shambaugh “International Relations in Asia: a Multidimensional Analysis” Ch. 1 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, eds. International Relations of Asia (henceforth, S&Y)
- Amitav Acharya “Thinking Theoretically about Asian IR” Ch. 3 in S&Y

January 29 – Historical Background
- Samuel S. Kim “The Evolving Asian System: Three Transformations” Ch. 2 in S&Y

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 Roles in Asia’s International System

February 3 – The United States; Europe
- Robert Sutter “The United States in Asia: Durable Leadership” in S&Y
- Sebastian Bersick “Europe’s Role in Asia: Distant But Involved” Ch. 5 in S&Y

February 5 - Japan
- Michael Green “Japan’s Role in Asia: Searching for Certainty” Ch. 8 in S&Y

February 10 - India; Australia
- Philip Saunders “China’s Role in Asia: Attractive or Assertive?” Ch. 6 in S&Y
- T.V. Paul “India’s Role in Asia: A Rising Regional Power” Ch. 7 in S&Y

February 12 - China
- Hugh White “Australia’s Choices in the Asian Century” Ch. 10 in S&Y
- Sheldon W. Simon “ASEAN and Southeast Asia: Remaining Relevant” Ch. 9 in S&Y

First Take-Home Essay Due on February 16

III. Security in Asia – Perspectives, Challenges, Non-Traditional Dimensions

February 17
- Ralph A. Cossa “Security Dynamics in Asia” Ch. 15 in S&Y

February 19 – Overview
Mastanduno, Michael “Realism and Asia” Ch. 2 in Pekkanen et al, eds. Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia, Oxford: OUP 2014, pp. 25-44.

February 24 – Theoretical Paradigms
- Stephan Haggard “The Liberal View of International Relations of Asia” Ch. 3 in Pekkanen et al, eds., pp. 45-63.

February 26 – Security Challenges
March 3
- Scott Snyder “The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian Stability” Ch. 12 in S&Y

March 5

March 10

March 12

March 17

March 19 –

Spring Break

IV. Regional Governance: Integration and Regionalism
March 31

Second Take-Home Essay Due April 1

April 2

April 7
- Edward J. Lincoln “The Asian Regional Economy” Ch. 13 in S&Y
- Nayan Chanda “Globalization and International Relations in Asia” Ch. 14 in S&Y
April 9

IV. Prospects: Debating Asia and the International System
April 14
- Michael Yahuda “Looking Ahead: A New Asian Order?” Ch. 16 in S&Y

April 16
- Acharya, Amitav “Can Asia lead? Power ambitions and global governance in the twenty-first century” International Affairs 87(4) 2011: 851-869

April 21 – Student presentations

April 23 – Student presentations

April 28 – Student presentations

April 30 – Student presentations

May 5 – Complete students presentations, and discuss:
- Sung Won Kim, David P. Fidler, and Sumit Ganguly “Eastphalia Rising? Asian Influence and the Fate of Human Security”

May 8 – Final Paper due

Newspaper and policy report resources that you are strongly encouraged to read:
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://www.japantimes.co.jp/
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
Rajaratnam School of International Studies http://www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/rsis-publications/