

## **Political Science 349: The International Relations of the Asia-Pacific Region**

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Fall Semester 2009  
Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:45, Chambers 2198  
office hours: T/T 4-5:25, W 9-10:30

### Introduction

Throughout most of its history, the United States has faced eastward, looking toward the Atlantic Ocean and beyond it to Europe. Our most important economic, political and cultural relationships are with European nations. For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the US based its foreign policy on the idea of a communist threat centered in Moscow and the Warsaw Pact nations. While we worried that international communism's tentacles might reach into Asia, Africa and South America, our primary concern was Europe.

The US is a continental nation; it stretches from Atlantic to Pacific, and over the course of the twentieth century, it began to pay more attention to its Western flank. With the rise of Japan and China as economic powers and the fall of the Soviet empire, policy makers in the US refocused their attention on the Asia-Pacific region as both an opportunity and a potential threat.

This course will analyze the relationships among the major nations bordering the Pacific. In particular, we will focus on the US, China and Japan, the political and economic powerhouses of the region. We also will look at other players on the Asia-Pacific stage: North and South Korea, Taiwan and Russia.

As we study these relationships we will consider three major schools of thought about of international relations – Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism – to see what insights they offer for understanding international relations in the Asia Pacific region.

### Readings

There are four required books. Derek McDougall's *Asia Pacific in World Politics* provides background information on all of the topics we will cover in the course. The collection edited by Byung-Kook Kim and Anthony Jones, *Power and Security in North-East Asia: Shifting Strategies*, includes chapters by several of the world's leading scholars of Northeast Asia, each analyzing a different aspect of the region's changing geo-political landscape. Our study of China will rely heavily on Robert Sutter's book, *Chinese Foreign Relations: Power and Policy since the Cold War*. The fourth text is Ikenberry and Moon's *The United States and Northeast Asia*. In addition to these four books, there are many required supplementary readings on the syllabus. You should complete all reading assignments *before* the class for which they are assigned.

**“ER” means the reading is available on electronic reserve**

## Requirements

- *Participation:* The class will include discussion, and I expect everyone to contribute. Obviously, attendance is important (since you can't participate if you're not present). *You are required to attend one event outside of regular class hours, a simulation on October 28 from 6 to 9 PM.*
- *Exams:* There will be a take-home mid-term exam (due October 15). For your final assignment you may choose either an exam or a research paper.
- *Essay:* You will write a short essay on a date and topic of your choosing.

## Grading

Participation (inc. simulation):	10%	94-100 = A
Mid-term exam:	30%	90-93 = A-
Essay:	25%	87-89 = B+
Final Exam:	35%	84-86 = B, etc.

Anything you hand in is pledged work. But as a reminder of the honor code's importance, I would like you to write out the honor code on the cover sheet of any work you hand in. ("On my honor I pledge that I have neither given nor received help on this work, nor am I aware of any violation on the part of others.") If for some reason you do not write the honor code, that does not exempt the work from the honor code. Please make sure you understand the honor code, especially the definition of plagiarism. If you have any questions, doubts or concerns about any aspect of the honor code, please come and talk to me. If you are unsure of how you should cite material used in an essay, please see me.

**Lateness policy:** Work that is handed in *after class* on the day an assignment is due will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. But no matter how late a paper is, it is *always* to your advantage to hand it in.

I am happy to receive papers as email attachments (no viruses, please!). I WILL SEND YOU A REPLY CONFIRMING RECEIPT OF YOUR PAPER. SAVE A COPY OF YOUR PAPER UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THAT CONFIRMATION. Computer failure is *not* an acceptable excuse for lateness. *Back up your work.* Also, leaving a voice mail message or sending an email will not get you off the hook. Do not assume you have secured my permission for something unless you have spoken to me *in person* or received an e-mail or voice mail message *from me.*

## Extensions

Please do not ask for extensions because you have "too much work." Everyone does, and it's unfair to give extensions to those who ask, while those who don't ask end up with less time to do a good job. Also, no extensions will be granted for extracurricular commitments. Look at your athletic, musical, Union and theatrical schedules in advance, and plan your work accordingly.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1

#### 8/25: Introduction

#### 8/27: Realist Perspectives on Asia-Pacific Relations

- McDougall, 1-27
- Kim & Jones, 1-20
- Robert Jervis, "Was the Cold War a Security Dilemma?" *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 31:1 (Winter 2001): 36-60.

### Week 2

#### 9/1: China's Foreign Policy: Ideas and Ambition

- Sutter, pp. 397-408, 1-15, 19-46 (read the end of the book first)
- McDougall, 51-73
- Zheng Bijian, "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great Power Status," *Foreign Affairs* (September 2005).
- John Mearsheimer, "The rise of China will not be peaceful at all." *The Australian*, November 18, 2005.

#### 9/3: China's Foreign Policy: Process and Result

- Sutter, pp. 53-90, 129-158
  - Avery Goldstein, "The Diplomatic Face of China's Grand Strategy: A Rising Power's Emerging Choice," *China Quarterly* 168. (Dec. 2001): pp. 835-864.
- \*\* Hand in your preferred due date for the essay \*\***

### Week 3

#### 9/8: The US and China in the Asia-Pacific

- McDougall, 115-143
- Aaron L. Friedberg, "The Future of US-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* (Fall 2005) pp. 7-45.

#### 9/10: Responsible Stakeholder/Peaceful Rise

- Robert B. Zoellick, Deputy Secretary of State, "Whither China: From Membership to Responsibility?" Remarks to the National Committee on US-China Relations, September 21, 2005, with commentary, *NBR Analysis* (December 2005) (Read Zoellick's speech, pages 5-14)
- Ikenberry and Moon, chapter 2
- Kim & Jones, 99-126
- Wang Jisi, "Reflecting on China," *The American Interest*, (Summer 2006).

#### *Week 4*

##### **9/15: The US and China: Competing for Influence?**

- Robert Sutter, "China's Rise: Implications for U.S. Leadership in Asia," East-West Center, Policy Studies 21 (2006) (pages 1-59)
- David C. Kang, *China Rising: Peace power and Order in East Asia* (Columbia University Press, 2007), pages 1-12 and 50-75 (ER)
- Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, "Comparing Global Influence: China's and US Diplomacy, Foreign Aid, Trade and Investment in the Developing World,"(pages 1-21)

##### **9/17: "Young and Restless in China"**

#### *Week 5*

##### **9/22: China in IR Theory: Status Quo or Revisionist Power?**

- Alastair Iain Johnston, "Is China a Status Quo Power?" *International Security*, 27:4 (Spring 2003) pp. 5-56.
- Thomas Christensen, "Posing Problems without Catching Up," *International Security*, 25:4 (Spring 2001).

##### **9/24: Domestic Politics and and Asia-Pacific Relations**

- Robert Putman, "Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games." *International Organization*, 42:3 (Summer 1988) pp. 427-442, 459-460.
- Kim & Jones, 23-55
- Ikenberry and Moon, Chapter 1
- McDougall, 31-50 (optional: if you are familiar with US foreign policy since World War II, you may choose not to read this chapter)

#### *Week 6*

##### **9/29: Japan: US Protectorate ...**

- McDougall, 75-114
- Kim & Jones, 127-165

##### **10/1: ... Or "Normal Country"?**

- Ikenberry and Moon, Chapter 3
- Paul Midford, "Japanese Public Opinion and the War on Terrorism," East-West Center, pp. 1-40

*Week 7*

**10/6: Constructivism and Asia Pacific Relations**

- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, 46:2 (Spring 1992) pp. 391-425.
- Ikenberry and Moon, chapter 8
- Peter Hays Gries, "The Koguryo Controversy: National Identity, and Sino-Korean Relations Today," *East Asia: An International Quarterly* 22:4 (2005): 3-17.

**10/8: China and Japan: Ideas, Identities and Interests**

- Sutter, 217-238
- Mike M. Mochizuki, "Japan's Shifting Strategy toward the Rise of China," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 30:4-5 (Aug/Oct 2007):739-776.
- Peter Hays Gries, "Nationalism, Indignation and China's Japan Policy," *SAIS Review*, 25:2 (Summer-Fall 2005): 105-114
- Takashi Terada, "The rise of China: the impetus behind Japanese regionalism" *East Asian Forum*, July 26, 2009
- "Japan and China: The Unforgotten War" Frontline brief
- McDougall, 145-159 (optional)

*Week 8*

**10/13: FALL BREAK**

**10/15: Regional Integration**

- Ikenberry and Moon, chapters 1, 11 and 12

*Week 9*

**10/20: Take-home midterm is due**

**10/22: Politics on the Korean Peninsula**

- McDougall, 179-194
- Ikenberry and Moon, chapters 5 and 6

*Week 10*

**10/27: Korea's Neighbors and Allies**

- Sutter, 238-253
- Kevin Cooney and Alex Scarbrough, "Japan and South Korea: Can These Two Nations Work Together?" *Asian Affairs: An American Review* 35:3 (Fall 2008): 173-192.
- Kim & Jones 197-223

**10/28: Six-Party Talks Simulation, 6 to 9 PM, 900 Room**

**10/29: Regional Cooperation and the North Korea Crisis**

- Ikenberry and Moon, chapters 7 and 9
- Zhiqun Zhu, "Small Power, Big Ambition: South Korea's Role in Northeast Asian Security under President Roh Moo-hyun," *Asian Affairs: An American Review* 34:2 (Summer 2007): 67-86.

**10/29: Dean Rusk Program Talk: "Understanding the Nuclear and Human Security Issues Surrounding North Korea," 7 PM**

*Week 11*

**11/3: The Taiwan Issue**

- Sutter, 189-216
- Guoguang Wu, "Passions, Politics and Politicians: Beijing Between Taipei and Washington," *Pacific Review* 17:2 (2004):179-198.
- McDougall, 163-178 (strongly recommended)

**11/5: Interdependence Theory**

- John Oneal, Bruce *Russett*, and Michael Berbaum, "Causes of Peace: Democracy, Interdependence and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *International Studies Quarterly*, 47:3 (Sep 2003):371-393.
- Paul Clarke, "Interdependence Theory, China and American Security Interests," conference paper, 2006. (ER)

*Week 12*

**11/10: Identity ...**

- Kim & Jones, 225-252
- Robert Ross, "Explaining Taiwan's Revisionist Diplomacy," *Journal of Contemporary China* 15:48 (August 2006): 443-458.
- Wu Yu-shan, "Taiwan's Domestic Politics and Cross-Strait Relations," *The China Journal* (January 2005) pp. 35-60.

**11/12: ... and Interdependence in the Taiwan Issue**

- T. J. Cheng, "China-Taiwan Economic Linkage: Between Insulation and Superconductivity," in Nancy B. Tucker, Ed. *Dangerous Strait* (Columbia University Press, 2005):93-130 (ER)
- Randall Schriver and Mark Stokes, "Taiwan's Liberation of China," *Current History*, 107:710 (Sep 2008): 276-281.

*Week 13*

**11/17: Realist Perspectives on the Taiwan Issue**

- Alan Wachman, *Why Taiwan? Geostrategic Rationales for China's Territorial Integrity* (Stanford University Press: 2007), 100-117 (ER)
- Thomas J. Christensen, "The Contemporary Security Dilemma: Deterring a Taiwan Conflict," *The Washington Quarterly* (Autumn 2002):7-21.
- Scott Kastner, "Ambiguity, Interdependence and the US Strategic Dilemma in the Taiwan Strait," *Journal of Contemporary China* 15:49 (2006):651-669.

**11/19: Southeast Asia, India and the Asia-Pacific**

- McDougall, 201-230, 297-318
- Sutter 261-294
- Rajiv Sikri, "India's 'Look East' Policy," *Asia-Pacific Review* 16:1 (May 2009): 131-145. (ER)

*Week 14*

**11/24: Putting Realism into Practice**

**11/26: THANKSGIVING**

*Week 15*

**12/1: Russia's Role in the Asia-Pacific**

- Kim & Jones, 167-194
- Sutter, 325-354
- Ikenberry and Moon, chapter 4

**12/3: Assessing US Responses to a Changing World**

- Thomas Christensen, "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China and US Policy toward East Asia," *International Security* 31:1 (Summer 2006): 81-126.
- McDougall, 321-327
- Kim & Jones, 255-282

December 8 is an optional class day. I will give you at least two weeks' notice if it becomes necessary to meet on December 8.

