IR 358: The Asia-Pacific in World Affairs

Fall 2010
VKC 156
School of International Relations
University of Southern California
Monday and Wednesday, 3:30PM-4:50

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Office Hours: Wednesday 5-6PM, Thursday 11AM-1PM, and by appointment

Course Description, Objectives and Requirements:

“The Asia-Pacific in World Affairs” is a course designed to introduce students to the international relations of the dynamic and fascinating Asia-Pacific (A-P) region, and help them to think critically about the challenges facing actors in this region, including the United States. We will ground our study in a working knowledge of the region’s history, the latest developments in IR theory, and a healthy respect for the complexity of the region. We will first identify important historical developments and learn to trace the impact of key legacies on the present situation. Can we learn lessons from the past? How do regional actors use the past? We will consider the impact of the region’s history on contemporary politics, asking how imperialism, World War II, decolonization, the Cold War, and more recently the war on terror have influenced developments in the Asia-Pacific. Along the way, students will master theoretical tools—concepts and traditions—that will allow them to produce their own explanations and interpretations of Asia-Pacific IR. For instance, are domestic, regional or international levels most helpful for organizing our thoughts about the A-P? Is realism or liberalism or some other tradition our surest guide to interpreting A-P politics? We will try to understand the role of the major and minor actors in the Asia-Pacific, how these actors interact, and how these roles might be changing in the future. For example, how has the so-called rise of China affected regional foreign policies? Of course, we will consider the great powers and other important states, but we will also examine the region’s institutional architecture, assessing for example the impact of regional economic integration on patterns of conflict and cooperation in the past and future. Finally, we will strive to develop our understanding of the many different facets of international security: how do the military, economic, social, and human security realms interact and which should take precedence? What is at stake in discussions of national identity, nuclear proliferation, popular culture, human trafficking or international terrorism? The ultimate goal of the course is help students evaluate and interpret the flood of news and information available and hone their ability to make competent, even enlightened policy recommendations as future policymakers, scholars or informed citizens.
By the end of this course, students should:
* Be familiar with the A-P region’s history, be able to identify important historical developments and trace the impact of key legacies on the present situation.
* Feel comfortable evaluating the region in military, economic, institutional, and cultural terms.
* Understand the key debates in the field and how to apply (and critique) relevant IR theories to explain and understand the international relations of the Asia-Pacific.
* Be able to evaluate policy recommendations for the U.S. vis-à-vis the Asia-Pacific region.

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to participate in a robust discussion of the materials. Because exams will test knowledge of both lecture materials and texts, it will be impossible to succeed in IR 358 without regular attendance. A midterm (20%) and final (30%) will be the only exams. A critical book review of 5-7 pages—one that ties the chosen work into the themes we study in IR 348—is to be turned in on November 17th. Books for review can be selected from a list I will provide. Students will also prepare a journal comprised of 10 entries and totaling approximately 20 pages, and counting for 25% of the grade. The journal, which should be an ongoing project throughout the semester, must be completed and submitted by the last class meeting on Dec.1. I will distribute further instructions on journal writing early in the semester.

**Grading**
- 10% Attendance and quality, active participation
- 20% Midterm exam on Oct. 11
- 15% Critical book review (1250-1750 words, approx. 5-7 pages) due Nov.17
- 25% Journal (10 entries and totaling approximately 20 pages) due Dec.1
- 30% Final exam on Dec. 13

**Readings** (texts on order at the USC Bookstore and on reserve at Leavey library):


Book review books can be purchased or found on Leavey reserve. All other readings are available on USC’s Blackboard system (https://blackboard.usc.edu/).

**Classroom policies:**

*In the classroom:*
Please be sure to help the instructor maintain a collegial atmosphere necessary for learning by keeping comments civil and respectful. The lectures and discussions in this class will demand the full use of your undivided cognitive abilities; therefore, the use of laptops is
discouraged and even frowned upon. Before you enter the classroom, please discontinue the use of and stow all portable electronic communication devices and be sure your device is in an off-position or silent (not vibrating) mode. Messaging, tweeting, texting, chatting, celebrity stalking, social networking, composing pop hits, portfolio managing or using electronic devices in any manner that distracts your fellow classmates from classroom activities will not be tolerated, and WILL result in a lowered participation grade for each occurrence (for example, students seen texting will not receive credit for any class they choose to disrupt in this manner). Audio or video recording of class sessions is not allowed without explicit permission from the instructor. I will only consider excusing absences upon the presentation of appropriate medical or other documentation. With proper notification, I will consider giving 1% credit for successful participation in and completion of a service-learning program such as TIRP.

Notes on written work:
*All written work should be neat, free of spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, typed in 12 point font, page numbered, and should utilize appropriate citation practices. Unstapled work is unacceptable.
*It is strongly suggested that assignments accord with the citation practices and reference standardization found at www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html, or a similar style guide. Author-date style is preferred. Students are advised to consult a helpful guide to research papers, such as The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, et al. (University Of Chicago Press), or Stephen Van Evera’s Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science (Ithaca. NY: Cornell University Press).
*To receive credit, work must be submitted by the relevant deadline, both as a hard copy to my box in VKC 330, and as a clearly labeled (your name, name of assignment) electronic attachment to uscir358@gmail.com. Late work will be penalized one half grade for each day late (A to A-, etc.). Yes, including weekends.

Statement for Students with Disabilities
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. (http://www.usc.edu/disability)

Statement on Academic Integrity
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further
review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

Schedule

PART I. History and Theory
Aug. 23: Introduction (no readings)

Aug. 25: Rims, Regions, Realism: Imagining the Asia-Pacific
2. David Shambaugh, “International Relations in Asia: The Two-Level Game”
   Ch. 1 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp.3-31. (28)
3. Amitav Acharya, “Theoretical Perspectives on International Relations in Asia,”
   Ch.3 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp.57-82. (25)

** Aug. 30: IR theory and History I
2. Warren I. Cohen, “War and Decolonization, 1932-1949,” in East Asia at the Center

Sept. 1: IR Theory and History II

** Sept. 6: (NO CLASS) The Cold War in Asia

Sept. 8: U.S. Relations with Asia-Pacific, US-China relations
1. Robert Sutter, “The United States in Asia: Challenged but Durable Leadership,”
   Ch.4 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp 85-103. (18)
2. Victor Cha, “The Ideational Dimension of America’s Alliances in Asia,” Ch. 2 in Goh and Acharya, pp.41-70. (29)

** PART II. Surveying the Contemporary Asia-Pacific

Sept. 13: Trouble Spots and Rising China
1. Ralph A. Cossa, “Security Dynamics in East Asia: Geopolitics vs. Regional Institutions,” Ch. 15 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp.317-338. (21 pages)
2. Phillip C. Saunders, “China’s Role in Asia,” Ch.6 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp. 127-149. (22 pgs)

Sept. 15 Focus: China/Taiwan issue

Sept. 20: Japan in Asia

Sept. 22: Japan/Korea

Sept. 27: Focus: Crises on the Korean Peninsula
2. Hyŏk Kang, This is Paradise! : My North Korean Childhood (London: Little Brown, 2005), pp.viii-17,95-105. (31)
Sept. 29:  *India and South Asia*

1. Sumit Ganguly, “The Rise of India in Asia,” Ch.7 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp.150-169 (19 pages)

Oct. 4:  *Indonesia and Southeast Asia*


Oct. 6:  *Australia and Russia*


Oct. 11** MIDTERM** DON'T FORGET YOUR BLUEBOOK

PART III: Asian Pacific Architecture: Institutions and Cooperation

Oct. 13:  *The Region in Global Perspective*

1. Sebastian Bersick, “Europe in Asia,” Ch. 5 in Shambaugh and Yahuda, pp.104-123. (19)

Oct. 18:  *Institutions and Economic Security I*


Oct. 20:  *Institutions and Economic Security II*


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Oct. 25: Institutions and Asian Security

Oct. 27: Institutions and Multilateralism

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Nov. 1: Focus: Arms Control and Nukes
2. Jing-dong Yuan, “Arms Control Regimes in the Asia-Pacific: Managing Armament and WMD Proliferation,” Ch. 8 in Goh and Acharya, pp.177-194. (17pages)

PART IV: Globalized Dilemmas in the Asia-Pacific

Nov. 3: Environment, Energy and Health Security

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Nov. 8: Religion and Ethnic Separatism


Nov. 10: *Asian Values, Cultural Flows and Soft Power*


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Nov. 15: *Democracy, Security and Identity*


Nov. 17: **CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE**

*Global Financial Crisis and Chinese Influence*


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Nov 22: *Transnational Crime and Terror*

1. John McFarlane, “Cooperation on Countering Transnational Criminal Networks in the Asia-Pacific: Cautious Optimism for the Future?” Ch.10 in Goh and Acharya, pp.219-236. (17)


Nov 24: Trafficking and Human Security

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Nov. 29: History, Memory and Nationalism

Dec. 1: **SUBMIT JOURNALS**
The Future of the Pacific Century: Expect the Unexpected?

**FINAL EXAM:** Monday, December 13, 2-4 PM