

IR 360

International Relations of the Pacific Rim (Online)

MW 8:30 am-9:50 am (Pacific Time)

Online

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Zoom Office Hours: M 1 pm -3 pm, Th 7 pm-8 pm and by appointment

Course Objectives

The primary objective of this course is to introduce students to the political and economic issues of the countries in the Pacific Rim. This course puts heavier emphasis on business and economics issues, particularly from international political economy (IPE) perspectives, than other Asia-related courses taught in the IR major. The course covers concepts and theories from international relations and political economy, and we also go over basic economics concepts and terms so that students will be proficient in applying these concepts to research. The regional focus of this class is on East and Southeast Asia, and occasional comparisons are made between Asia and Latin America. In addition, the role of industrialized countries in the region and beyond, such as the United States, Japan, Europe, and Australia, is discussed. Because the course does not cover in detail the political and economic factors of every country in the region, students are encouraged to follow the news and developments of the countries in the region on their own.

Students are expected to do all the assigned readings **before class** in order to have the foundation necessary to understand the lectures, and participate in class discussions. They are also expected to take quizzes and exams, prepare a report, and/or complete a group presentation.

Pre-requisites (recommended)

- Basic knowledge of the Asia Pacific countries. Students are encouraged to read relevant sections of The Los Angeles Times or other major newspapers, as well as weekly magazines such as Time, Newsweek, the Economist, and other websites covering Asian news such as Diplomat and East Asia Forum, or podcast such as Asia Geopolitics. I can also give recommendation to other policy and academic sources of information upon request.
- IR 210 (Introduction to International Relations) and IR 213 (The Global Economy) or its equivalent knowledge of international relations, world affairs and global economy.

Online class and office hour arrangement

Due to Covid-19 and under the university directive, all the sessions of this course will be taught online. I expect everyone to attend the synchronous sessions (i.e. real time), while I will provide some accommodation to those who are taking this class from different time zones. Office hours will also be held mostly online via zoom office hour, while I plan to schedule “in person” office hours and informal meetings on campus (university rules permitting) at least once a month.

Assignments and Course Grades

Grading scale: All the assignments are graded by numeric points and the scale is set; A+ (at or above 100), A (95 to 99), A- (90 to 94), B+ (85 to 89) etc. There is no A+ for the final course grade.

Class participation

10%

Attendance and timely submission of assignments are very important. Zoom reports attendance in each session. Please make sure to communicate with me if you have to miss consecutive classes. It is also important to engage in class discussion actively especially when we have small group discussions.

I also request that students abide by web etiquette. Please have your full name appear on zoom screen, turn the video on when we are in class, but mute oneself when not speaking to avoid echo. Zoom chat function is reserved for public discussion only during class. Please arrive at zoom classroom on time (you will be marked tardy after five minutes) so that you do not disturb the session. You will have access to taped class lectures upon request, but sharing the tape with anyone else is prohibited.

Quizzes

20%

There are quizzes throughout the course; Five quizzes are pop quizzes on the assigned reading of that day. I will take the four best scores from the five quizzes, add them up, and assign one letter grade for this category. Therefore, you can miss one quiz, but you cannot make up any if you miss them for whatever reason. I also conduct extra credit quizzes on map, leaders' names as well as acronyms throughout the course.

Mid-term exam

20%

An open-book mid-term exam is scheduled during class on **September 30 (W)**. There is **no make-up exam**. The university rules require that those who have to miss an exam due to illness or other emergencies turn in the proof in writing (doctor's note, police report etc.)

Group Project

Group Presentation

15%

A group of four to five students gives a 20-minute in-class presentation on important issues concerning the Asia Pacific during the semester. You can find a list of topics and process of the group project under **Attachment 1**.

Group Presentation: The students are expected to (a) do research in preparation for the presentation, (b) prepare and implement a 20-minute presentation, and (c) turn in as a group the presentation materials including sources.

Individual Report

15%

Individual Report: Each student is to write a 2,000-word report on an aspect of the group presentation that he/she was in charge of. The report should be written in the form of a research paper with a research question (or questions), background, analyses, and the findings. This report is due within a week after one's group presentation.

Final Exam**20%**

A take-home final exam is scheduled. The question will be distributed on the last day of class and the exam is due on **November 18 (W) noon.**

Extra Credit Option: You may choose to do one of the following these extra credit options to earn one additional notch (from B to B+) on your participation grade at the end of the course.

(a) participate in TIRP; TIRP has to send in the verification

(b) participate in a JEP Service Learning Program; JEP has to send in the verification

Main Books for the Course (in the bookstore and on-line reserve)

Michael Yahuda. *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific, 4th Edition* (Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, 2019). (Yahuda).

Ming Wan. *The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth and Power.* (Washington DC: CQ Press, 2008) (Wan).

Articles on Blackboard (LL)

Readings marked (LL) are on electronic reserve through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>). See **Attachment 2** for their complete titles.

Course Schedule**History**

August 17 (M): Getting started and setting up

Reading: No reading

August 19 (W): Concept of East Asia and the Asia-Pacific

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 1), Wan (Ch. 1)

August 24 (M): China in the Center

Reading: Wan (Ch. 3), Kang (LL)

August 26 (W): Western and Japanese Imperialism

Reading: Wan (Ch. 4), Pyle (LL)

August 31 (M): Impact of the Cold War in Asia Pacific

Reading: Yahuda (Ch.2)

Major Powers and Asia

September 2 (W): Post Cold War Asia Pacific

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 3), Ikenberry (LL),

September 7 (M): No class; Labor Day Monday

Reading: No reading assignment

September 9 (W): The US Pivot to Asia

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 4), Clinton (LL)

September 14(M): China as a great power

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 5), Breslin (LL), Zhang (LL)

September 16 (W): Japan, a major power or a middle power?

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 6), Envall (LL)

September 21 (M): India and FOIP

Reading: Tan (LL), Rajagopalan (LL), Basu (LL)

September 23 (W): Korean Peninsula

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 7), Moon (LL)

September 28 (M): Southeast Asia and ASEAN

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 9), Chang (LL)

MIDTERM

September 30 (W) in class (one hour and 20 minutes)

Development and Political Transformation in East Asia

October 5 (M): Colonial and Authoritarian past

Reading: Wan (Ch. 2), Kohli (LL)

October 7 (W): Democracy, Corruption, and Inequality

Reading: Haggard (LL), Pye (LL), Gilley (LL)

Political Economy of East Asia

October 12 (M): East Asian Miracle and Developmental State

Reading: Wan (Ch. 5), Knight (LL)

October 14 (W): Asian Financial Crisis

Reading: Wan (Ch. 6), Higgott (LL),

October 19 (M): Production and Trade

Reading: Wan (Ch. 7 and 8), Krugman (LL)

October 21 (W): Trade Wars

Reading: Farrel and Newman (LL), Liu and Woo (LL)

October 26 (M): Supply Chain and Regional Production Network

Reading: Peng (LL), Banomyong (LL).

October 28 (W): TPP, RCEP and Regional Trade Agreements

Reading: Wilson (LL), Ravenhill (LL)

November 2 (M): Investment; Finance and Infrastructure Competition

Reading: Wan (Ch. 9), Tekdal (LL)

November 4 (W): Currency

Reading: Wan (Ch. 10), Chey (LL)

November 9 (M): Economic integration and Regional governance

Reading: Wan (Ch. 11), Chen and Zhang (2020)

Conclusion and Review

November 11 (W): Conclusion: Future of the Asia Pacific

Reading: Yahuda (Ch. 10), Pempel (LL), Biden (LL)

FINAL Exam due November 18 (W) noon

Official Notes on Academic Conduct and Support systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Attachment 1: Group Project***List of Topics and Presentation Schedule***

No.	Date	Topics
1	September 28 (M)	The South China Sea disputes
2	October 7 (W)	Democratic challenges in Hong Kong
3	October 12 (M)	Asia's economic development and the changes in gender roles
4	October 14 (W)	The Asian Financial Crisis; Malaysia and Indonesia compared
5	October 19 (M)	Information technology and East Asia's production
6	October 26 (M)	Economic impact of overseas Chinese network in Southeast Asia
7	October 28 (W)	The roles and usefulness of APEC
8	November 2 (M)	High-speed rail construction in Asia
9	November 4 (W)	Digital currency with Chinese characteristics?
10	November 9 (M)	Asia's leadership in G20

Activities and process.

This group project involves the following exercises.

- (1) **Research** on the topic using published articles, journal and news magazines, newspapers and internet sources.
- (2) **Discussion** on the focus, structure, content and method of the group presentation.
- (3) **20-minute Presentation.**
- (4) **Compile** and turn in materials, slides, and bibliography from the presentation.

Steps for the Group Presentation:

- Each student will fill in the google form to choose three topics, and I will create groups by August 31.
- Each group will engage in discussion on the focus, coverage of the presentation.
- Each group is required to meet with me as a group at least once and at least two week prior to group presentation.
- Based on the group's preliminary presentation summary, each group (or at least two of the group members) has to come and see me two to three days before the scheduled presentation date. If a group member is "free riding," he/she can be excluded from the group at this time.
- Some members of the group make a 20-minute presentation in class. After the presentation, The group is also expected to hand in presentation slides, outline of its oral presentation, and list of sources.
- There will be only one grade for the entire group presentation (15 percent of your course grade).

The process for the Individual Report:

- Each student decides on a specific aspect related to his/her group project to write an individual report.
- The report should be around 2,000 words. Charts, tables and visuals will not be included in the word-count.
- Please also attach a bibliography, which is not a part of the word-count.

- Each student should use a part of the work from the group project for the report but do his/her own additional research.
- A good report has a concrete focus and your analysis of the issue with concrete information and data. I will post the evaluation rubric on blackboard.
- The report is due seven days after his/her group presentation, and will constitute 15 percent of your course grade.
- No late report is accepted.

Attachment 2: Reserve Readings**Kang**

David C. Kang, "Hierarchy and Legitimacy in International Systems: The Tribute System in Early Modern East Asia." *Security Studies*; Vol. 19, 2010: 591-622.

Pyle

Kenneth B. Pyle. 2007 "Stature among Nations." A chapter in *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose*, Century Foundation Book. 98-136.

Ikenberry

G. John Ikenberry, "Between the Eagle and the Dragon: America, China, and Middle State Strategies in East Asia." *Political Science Quarterly* 131.1 (2016): 9-43.

Clinton

Hillary Clinton, 2011. "America's Pacific Century," *Foreign Policy*, Vol. 47, No. 4.

Breslin

Shaun Breslin 2010. "China's Emerging Global Role: Dissatisfied Responsible Great Power." *Politics* Vol. 30, issue. 1 (2010): 52-62.

Zhang

Zhang Yunling, 2016 "China and its Neighbourhood: Transformation, Challenges and Grand Strategy," *International Affairs*, Volume 92, Issue 4, 835–848

Envall

H. D. P. Envall. 2020. "The 'Abe Doctrine': Japan's new regional realism." *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* Volume 20, Issue 1, 31-59.

Tan

See Seng Tan, 2020. "Consigned to Hedge: Southeast Asia and America's 'free and open Indo-Pacific' Strategy," *International Affairs*, Volume 96, Issue 1, 131–148.

Rajagopalan

Rajesh Rajagopalan, 2020. "Evasive Balancing: India's Unviable Indo-Pacific Strategy," *International Affairs*, Volume 96, Issue 1, 75–93.

Basu

Titli Basu, 2020. "US-Japan-India: Risks and Rewards In the Indo-Pacific." *Global Asia*, Vol. 15, No. 1, March 2020, p. 90-94.

Moon

Chung-in Moon, 2019. "President Moon Jae-in and the Korea Peace Initiative." *Global Asia*, Vol. 14, No. 2, June 2019, 10-17.

Chang

Chang, Jun Yan Chang. 2016. "Essence of Security Communities: Explaining ASEAN." *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 16.3 (2016): 335-369.

Kohli

Atul Kohli, 1994. "Where do High Growth Political Economies Come from? The Japanese Lineage of Korea's "Developmental State." *World Development*. Vol. 22, 9; 1269-1293.

Haggard

Stephan Haggard, 2016. "Reflections on Inequality in Asia." *Global Asia*, Vol. 11, No. 2, Summer 2016. p. 8-13.

Pye

Lucian Pye, 1997. "Money Politics and Transitions to Democracy in East Asia," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 37; 3: 213-228.

Gilley

Bruce Gilley. 2020. "Assaults on Capitalism and Democratic Backsliding: Evidence from Asia." *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics* (2020). First look.

Knight

John B. Knight. 2014. "China as a Developmental State." *The World Economy* 37.10 (2014): 1335-1347.

Higgott

Richard Higgott, 1998. "The Asian Economic Crisis: A Study in the Politics of Resentment," *New Political Economy*, Vol. 3, 3: 333-356.

Krugman

Paul Krugman, 1994. "The Myth of Asia's Miracle," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 73, 6: 62-78.

Farrell and Newman

Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman, 2019. "Weaponized Globalization: Huawei and the Emerging Battle over 5G Networks," *Global Asia*, Vol. 14, No. 3, p. 8-12.

Liu and Woo

Tao Liu, and Wing Thye Woo. 2018. "Understanding the US-China trade war." *China Economic Journal* 11.3 (2018): 319-340.

Peng

Dajin Peng, 2002. "Invisible Linkages: A Regional Perspective of East Asian Political Economy?" *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 46, 3: 423-447.

Banomyong

Baynmyong, R. 2010. "Supply Chain Dynamics in Asia." ADBI Working Paper 184. Tokyo: Asian Development Bank Institute. 2010.

Wilson

Jeffrey D. Wilson. 2015. "Mega-regional trade deals in the Asia-Pacific: Choosing between the TPP and RCEP?" *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 45.2 (2015): 345-353.

Ravenhill

John Ravenhill, 2016. "The Political Economy of an "Asian" Mega-FTA." *Asian Survey* 56.6 (2016): 1077-1100.

Tekdal

Veysel Tekdal. 2018. "China's Belt and Road Initiative: at the Crossroads of Challenges and Ambitions." *The Pacific Review* 31.3: 373-390

Chey

Hyoungh-Kyu Chey, 2013. "Can the Renminbi Rise as a Global Currency? The Political Economy of Currency Internationalization" *Asian Survey*, Vol. 53 (2), 2013: 348-368.

Chen and Zhang

Zhimin Chen & Xueying Zhang. 2020. "Chinese Conception of the World Order in a Turbulent Trump Era," *The Pacific Review*, 33:3-4, 438-468

Pempel

T. J. Pempel 2018. "Regional decoupling: the Asia-Pacific minus the USA?" *The Pacific Review*, DOI: [10.1080/09512748.2018.1470557](https://doi.org/10.1080/09512748.2018.1470557)

Biden

Biden Jr, Joseph R. 2020. "Why American Must Lead Again: Recusing US Foreign Policy after Trump." *Foreign Affairs* 99 (2020): 64.