CAS IR 788/PO 789: International Relations of the Asia-Pacific

Spring 2015
Wednesday, 1-4 p.m.
IRC 220 (152 Bay State Rd.)

Professor William Grimes

Office Hours: 152 Bay State Rd., Rm. 100
or by appt. Tel: 353-9420
http://www.bu.edu/wgrimes wgrimes@bu.edu

This course provides an overview of international relations in the Asian-Pacific region. The Asia-Pacific is a region of extraordinary importance across virtually all aspects of global politics and economics. It is also a region filled with apparent contradictions and unresolved questions. It is thus vitally important for students and practitioners of international relations to develop a reasonable grasp of what is going on there.

The countries of the Asia-Pacific include both the three great nuclear powers and its most brazen proliferator. As the world looks to the future of China, China itself looks to the past in dealing with Japan. Territorial issues remain unresolved more than half a century since the end of World War Two. The United States, China, and Japan comprise the world’s three largest economies by purchasing power, but China is also a developing economy with a non-convertible currency. East Asian states are involved in an ambitious attempt to create regional institutions to support their growing economic integration, and yet suspicions between the two natural leaders of East Asia – China and Japan – have been conspicuous in numerous ways. The US-Japan security alliance, which has been the lynchpin of the Asia-Pacific security environment for decades, is seen as both stabilizing and destabilizing—sometimes simultaneously and by the same observers. The list goes on and on. Even the conception of the “Asia-Pacific” as a region is problematic; the dispute over how to understand the boundaries of the region builds off of and in turn may affect existing political divisions.

The Asia-Pacific is being pushed together and pulled apart on an ongoing basis by military and economic trends arising both locally and globally. The key questions are whether the region is headed toward greater cooperation or conflict and how states and other actors may be able to affect the direction. Fundamentally, these are questions of how to manage the rise of China. But that simple question cannot be answered—or even addressed—in a simple manner. This course will take a multi-faceted approach to doing so. Among the topics it addresses are the current balance of power, sources of regional economic dynamism, states’ strategies, stability of alliance relationships, venues for discussion and cooperation, key territorial disputes, and Japan’s “history problem.” The analytical approach is eclectic, drawing from the traditions of realism, liberalism, and constructivism; students are expected to think through the applicability of different approaches to specific situations.
Requirements
This course will be conducted as a seminar. Students are expected to attend all classes, keep up with the weekly reading assignments (approximately 150-200 pp. per week), and participate actively in class discussions. Each student will make two presentations over the course of the semester, one focused on supplementary readings and one on current events. Written assignments include a 5-7 page paper on an assigned question and a research paper of approximately 20 pages on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor. In addition, students are also required to post at least three short brief “thought papers” on the Blackboard Learn bulletin board over the course of the semester, and to comment on at least three thought papers posted by other students. Finally, students are expected to attend three Asia-related events over the course of the semester. The weights for grades are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Related Events</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackboard Posts</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC HONESTY: You are expected to provide citations in papers for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own original thoughts. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity. Punishment for plagiarism is severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For details, see http://www.bu.edu/grs/academics/resources/adp.html.

NOTE: If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain any assignments or handouts. All assignments and handouts, as well as the syllabus, will be available through CourseInfo.

Required Texts:


The above books are on sale at the bookstore and on reserve in the library. Copies of all other chapters and articles in the syllabus are available through Blackboard Learn or
through the BU Library system – via E-Journals or on reserve in either Mugar or Pardee (SMG) library.
Course Outline

Week 1: Postwar Asia – Strategic and Economic Fundamentals
Shambaugh and Yahuda, Chaps. 1-3; G. John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno, eds., International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific (Columbia, 2003), chapt. 7.

Week 2: Current Strategic & Institutional Framework

Week 3: Challenges for the United States

Week 4: The Rise of China and China’s Grand Strategy

Week 5: Japan’s Grand Strategy

**Week 6: The “History Problem”**

Supplemental Readings:

**Week 7: South Korea and the Asia-Pacific**

**Week 8: Korean Peninsula**

Supplemental Readings:

**Week 9: Taiwan Strait**

Supplemental Readings:

**Week 10: Maritime Issues**

**Week 11: Creating a Regional Order**
Kent Calder and Min Ye, “Regionalism and Critical Junctures: Explaining the ‘Organization Gap’ in Northeast Asia,” *Journal of East Asian Studies*, vol. 4, no. 2 (May-

**Week 12: Economic Regionalism**

Supplemental Readings:
Tang Guoqiang and Peter A. Petri, eds. *New Directions in Asia-Pacific Economic Integration* (East-West Center, 2014).
<http://ewcbookstore.org/NewDirections/NewDirections.pdf>

**Week 13: Looking to the Future – Threats, Opportunities, Hopes, and Dreams**