Conflict and Cooperation in Asia (IR 501/PO 554)  
Spring 2017  
(Draft: subject to minor revisions)

Prof. Manjari Chatterjee Miller                                         Time: Wed 2:30-5:15pm

Office Hours: W 10:30am-12pm; Th 11am-12:30pm
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Course Description
Asia is home to a very diverse array of powers facing major and minor issues. These issues range from water, population control, health and environment to territory, armed conflict and nuclear threats. The goal of this course is to study some of the problems that can lead to instability in the region with enormous potential to affect the rest of the world, as well as ways developed by these states to cooperate with each other. In addition to India and its neighbors, we will focus on China, Japan and other East and South-East Asian countries.

NB: This course is only open to juniors, seniors and graduate students. Sophomores can take this course ONLY with the permission of the instructor.

Requirements
Students will be graded on in-class team presentations, 2 op-eds (one team, and one individual), a 5-page policy brief, and peer review, and contribution to class discussion. The grade distribution is as follows:

Presentations: 20%  
Policy Brief: 10%  
Policy Peer Review: 20%  
Team Op-ed: 15%  
Individual Op-ed: 20%  
Discussion: 15%
**Class Format**
Every class we will have a lecture followed by class presentations (teams of 2-3 students will present each week for 15-20 minutes) and discussion. Depending on enrollment, the first presentations will start either Feb 1st or Feb 8th.

**In Class Presentations**
Teams will coordinate to present on the theme for each week. The goal is to narrow the issue theme down to a specific problem or two. In addition to using the readings, the teams will identify news articles that discuss the issue and possible solution(s). Also by Tuesday 5pm, the team will have come up with two poll questions with multiple choice answers (that could be as simple as yes/no, do you agree/or not). These questions will be posted online and **every student is required** to answer the poll before class on Wednesday afternoon.

**Team Op-Ed/ Individual Op-Ed**
You will be paired up into teams of two to write an op-ed on an assigned issue that will be posted online. You will also be writing an individual op-ed on any issue related to the course. Op-ed guidelines can be found on Blackboard.

**Policy Brief**
The policy brief (5 pages, 12 size font, double-spaced, 1 inch margins) should identify the specific problem as well as possible solutions. Policy brief guidelines can be found on Blackboard.

**Policy Peer Review**
Students will be assigned a classmate’s policy brief to comment on and give feedback.

**Class Policies**
- All class members are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. 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 more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see...

• Punctual attendance is **required**. Reasons for late arrival or non-attendance should be notified to the instructor. More than two absences or two late arrivals will affect your final grade which will be docked half a grade for each subsequent absence or late arrival (A to A-, A- to B+ etc).

• Cell phones should be turned off in class. Anyone texting or receiving calls in class will be asked to leave.

• Laptops are permitted in class during lecture. Surfing the net, however, is not. Anyone caught browsing the net will be asked to leave. Laptops are **not** permitted during student discussion or presentations.

• Extensions will NOT be granted for the op-eds, policy briefs or peer review. Late papers will be docked half a grade for each day it is late. Failure to show up for an in-class presentation will result in an automatic F for that presentation.

NB: This class meets on Wednesdays 2:30-5:15pm, with the exception of BU Calendar holidays.

**Readings**

Readings are all either available from Mugar ereserves, the course website or have URLs in the syllabus for you to link to.

1. **Background**

**Conflict (01/25)**


**Human Development (02/01)**


William Easterly, *The white man’s burden: Why the West’s efforts to aid the rest have done so much ill and so little good* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2006), Chapter 11, “The future of Western assistance.”


2. Resources

**Water (02/08)**


Land (02/15)

Red Resurgence: A symposium on the Naxal/Maoist challenge to the state. Seminar. March 2010


Population (02/22)


Gender (03/01)


Policy Brief due 03/03 via email by 5pm.

3. Institutions

Health (03/15)


**Policy Brief Peer Review due 03/17 via email by 5pm.**

**Team Op-Ed Postings Begin.**

**Environment (03/22)**

Katharina Michaelowa and Axel Michaelowa, “India as an emerging power in international climate change negotiations,” *Climate Policy* 12, 2012.


Guizhen He *et al*, “Why small and medium chemical companies continue to pose severe environmental risks in rural China,” *Environmental Pollution* 185, 2014.

Phillip J. Clapham, “Japan’s whaling following the ICJ ruling: Brave New World or business as usual?,” *Marine Policy* 51, 2015.


COP21: How to judge if the Paris talks are a success, *Financial Times*, 12 December 2015, [http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/062386cc-a01f-11e5-8613-08e211ea5317.html#axzz3wyIGOwXj](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/062386cc-a01f-11e5-8613-08e211ea5317.html#axzz3wyIGOwXj)
**Education (03/29)**


Jacob Bregman and Nadeem Mohammad, “Primary and Secondary Education-Structural Issues,” Education and the State: Fifty Years of Pakistan, ed. Pervez Hoodbhoy, (pp. 68-101).

Video: “Education in Rural Bangladesh - A Visionary Journey” (10 min) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIWqQ32HAnc

Greg Mortenson and the Central Asia Institute


4. Security

**Taiwan (04/05)**


Andrew Scobell, *China's Use of Military Force* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 171-191

Taiwan Affairs Office and the Information Office of the State Council, The One-China Principle and the Taiwan Issue, 2000, 2005 Anti-Secession Law

Denny Roy, “Tensions in the Taiwan Strait,” *Survival* 42(1), Spring 2000, pp. 76-96


04/06: Team Op-Eds Discussions.

**Interstate Relations (04/12)**


**Terrorism (04/26)**


**Individual Op-Eds due Friday, 05/05 via email by 5pm.**