

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

**offered Department of Asian and International Studies  
with effect from Semester A 2017-18**

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**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Contemporary International Politics of the Asia Pacific

**Course Code:** AIS 4072

**Course Duration:** One semester

**Credit Units:** 3

**Level:** B4

**Proposed Area:**  Arts and Humanities  
(for GE courses only)  Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations  
 Science and Technology

**Medium of Instruction:** English

**Medium of Assessment:** English

**Prerequisites:** Nil  
(Course Code and Title)

**Precursors:** Nil  
(Course Code and Title)

**Equivalent Courses:** AIS4129 Contemporary International Politics of the Asia Pacific  
(Course Code and Title)

**Exclusive Courses:** Nil  
(Course Code and Title)

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

**THIS IS NOT A CURRENT AFFAIRS MODULE.** Current events will be addressed only when relevant to learning about and evaluating the theories and empirical investigations at hand. The first part of the course will provide a historical and theoretical overview of regionalism and of the Asia-Pacific region's international relations, with the Cold War as a starting point. The second part assesses competing theoretical explanations for the international behaviour and interactions of the region's major powers. The final section examines some key multilateral/transnational issues as sources of potential conflict and/or cooperation. The countries considered in detail will be China, Japan, South Korea, North Korea and the United States.

### 2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs <sup>#</sup>	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Identify and describe key actors and issues in the international politics of the Asia-Pacific	20%	✓		
2.	Explain the causes of a specific conflict in the international politics of the Asia-Pacific using relevant disciplinary insights	20%		✓	
3.	Apply a recognised approach to the international politics of the Asia Pacific (e.g. realism, liberalism, constructivism etc.) to a specific issue.	30%			✓
4.	Compare and contrast approaches to international politics in relation to a specific issue	20%		✓	
5	Evaluate or propose solutions to conflicts under study	10%			✓
		100%			

\* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

# Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

**A1: Attitude**

*Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.*

**A2: Ability**

*Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to self-life problems.*

**A3: Accomplishments**

*Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.*

### 3. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	5		
Lectures	Lectures: the instructor will present concepts, theories and case studies on international politics in the Asia-Pacific region	√						
Oral presentations	students will work in groups to lead class discussions and structured question and answer sessions on relevant topics		√	√				
Research	students will use relevant materials to write papers as set by the instructor			√				
Quiz	Students will explain keys concepts and issues in an advanced format				√			
Tutorial presentation						√		

NOTE:

CILO 3: The Professional Writing Workshop will engage students with appropriate forms of writing for Briefing Reports. Samples will be explored and students will be invited to share, for comment and improvement, examples of their writing.

### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4	5			
Continuous Assessment: ____%								
1. Class participation	√	√		√	√		10%	
2. Class debates on topics with theoretical and empirical significance for the international relations of the region	√		√				15%	
3. Policy paper		√	√	√	√		25%	
4. Quiz (mid-term and final)	√	√	√	√			50%	
Examination: ____% (duration: _____, if applicable)								
* The weightings should add up to 100%.							100%	

## 5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Attendance and Participation	Active and informed participation in class/class etiquette	Excellent demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Good demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Adequate demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Marginal demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette	Poor demonstration of active and informed participation in class/excellent class etiquette
2. Debate	#Presence and communication (50%)  #Organisation and quality of material presented (50%)	Excellent presence and communication  Excellent organisation and quality of material	Good presence and communication  Good organisation and quality of material	Adequate presence and communication  Adequate organisation and quality of material	Marginal presence and communication  Marginal organisation and quality of material	Poor presence and communication  Poor organisation and quality of material
3. Policy paper	#Quality of writing (grammar, structure and coherence) (25%)  #Application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course (15%)  #Demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials in relation to argument (25%)  #Quality and originality of	Excellent quality of writing  Excellent application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course  Excellent demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials  Excellent and	Good quality of writing  Good application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course  Good demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials	Adequate quality of writing  Adequate application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course  Adequate demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials  Adequate	Marginal quality of writing  Marginal application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course  Marginal demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials	Poor quality of writing  Poor application and demonstrated comprehension of theories and approaches covered in the course  Poor demonstration of research and prudent use of research materials

	argument (35%)	original argument	Good and original argument	articulation of argument	Marginal demonstration of argument	Poor deployment of or non-existent argument
4. Quiz (mid-term and final)	Quality and demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.	Excellent demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.	Good demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.	Adequate demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.	Marginal demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.	Poor demonstration of knowledge gained from readings and lecture notes.

**Part III Other Information** (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

**1. Keyword Syllabus**

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Power, strategic culture, foreign policy, hegemony, grand strategy, constructivism, liberalism, realism, security, international politics, Asia Pacific, terrorism, territorial disputes, history issues, alliances, regionalism, divided states.

**2. Reading List**

**2.1 Compulsory Readings**

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Shambaugh, D. & Yahuda, M., eds., 2008. <i>International Relations of Asia</i> . Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
2.	Kim, S. S., ed., 2004. <i>The International Relations of Northeast Asia</i> . Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
3.	Saadia M. Pekkanen, John Ravenhill and Rosemary Foot eds., 2014. <i>The International Relations of Asia</i> , Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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**2.2 Additional Readings**

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Alagappa, M., ed., 1998. <i>Asian Security Practice: Material and Ideational Influences</i> . Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.
2.	_____, 2003. <i>Asian Security Order: Norms, Power and Prospects for Peaceful Change</i> . Stanford: Stanford University Press.
3.	Berger, T. U., Mochizuki, M. M. & Tsuchiyama, J., eds., 2007. <i>Japan in International Politics: The Foreign Policies of an Adaptive State</i> . Boulder & London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
4.	Berger, Thomas U., 2012. <i>War, Guilt, and World Politics after World War II</i> , Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5.	Cha, V. D. & Kang, D. C., eds., 2003. <i>Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies</i> . New York: Columbia University Press.
6.	Goldstein, A. & Mansfield, E.D., eds., 2012. <i>The Nexus of Economics, Security and International Relations in East Asia</i> , Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.
7.	Ikenberry, G. J. & Mastanduno, M., eds., 2003. <i>International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific</i> . New York: Columbia University Press.
8.	Krauss, E. S. & Pempel, T. J., eds., 2003. <i>Beyond Bilateralism: U.S.-Japan Relations in the New Asia-Pacific</i> . Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press; London: Eurospan.
9.	Lam, P.E., ed., 2006. <i>Japan's Relations with China: Facing a Rising Power</i> . London and New York: Routledge.
10.	Ross, R. S. & Zhu, F., eds., 2008. <i>China's Ascent: Power, Security, and the Future of International Politics</i> . Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

11.	Vicziany, M., Wright-Neville, D. & Lentini, P., eds., 2004. <i>Regional Security in the Asia Pacific: 9/11 and After</i> . Cheltenham: UK, Edward Elgar.
12.	Yahuda, M., 2004. <i>The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific</i> . 2 ed. London and New York: Routledge.

**Online Resources:**

*Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) ).*

Available at: <http://www.aseansec.org/>

*Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies.*

Available at: [http://www.apcss.org/text/text\\_research.htm](http://www.apcss.org/text/text_research.htm)

*Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library.*

Available at: <http://www.coombs.anu.edu.au/WWWVL-AsianStudies.html>

*Center for Strategic & International Studies.*

Available at: <http://www.csis.org/pacfor/>

*China Daily.*

Available at: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/>

*China Leadership Monitor.*

Available at: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/clm>.

*The China Post.*

Available at: <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/>

*East-West Center.*

Available at: <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/>

*Japan Focus.*

Available at: <http://www.japanfocus.org/>

*The Japan Times.*

Available at: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>

*The Korea Herald.*

Available at: <http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/>

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Republic of Korea.*

Available at: <http://www.mofat.go.kr/index.jsp>

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China.*

Available at: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan).*

Available at: <http://www.mofa.gov.tw/webapp/mp?mp=6>

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.*

Available at: <http://www.mofa.go.jp/index.html>

*National Bureau of Asian Research.*

Available at: <http://www.nbr.org/>

*S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS, Singapore).*

Available at: <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/>

*Teaching Terror.*

Available at: <http://www.teachingterror.net/websites.htm>

*U.S. Department of State.*

Available at: <http://www.state.gov/>