

POL202 ASIA PACIFIC TODAY

2009-2010 First Term

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Recommended Study Year: 2 and 3

No. of Credits per Term: 3

Mode of Teaching: Lecture (2 hours per week) and tutorials (1 hour per week)

Class Contact Hours: 3

Category in Major Programme: Required course for CAPA stream

Discipline: Politics

Prerequisite(s)/ Co-requisite(s)/ Exclusion(s)/Exemption Requirements: None

Brief Course Description:

This course focuses on the study of the Asia-Pacific region, principally Northeast and Southeast Asian countries, paying particular attention to the development of their political systems, strategies of economic growth, the impact of changes in the role of population structure, women, ethnicity and education on these societies, and their ability to deal with issues of foreign powers, regional cooperation, and crises.

Course Aims:

This introductory course is intended to provide students with a general understanding of the Asia Pacific - that is the region broadly situated between Japan and Burma – and the roles of foreign powers in the region, particularly that of the United States. This course will look at the wide range of political, social and economic issues and arrangements arising from the varied cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds of the Asia Pacific region. The instructor will not be able to cover each and every country in the region in great detail in an introductory course such as this one, so students are strongly encouraged to do the readings and approach the instructor if they have any questions on the subject material.

Learning Outcomes:

After taking this course, students should be able to recognize and identify some of the key common features in the societies, politics, economics and international relations of regional countries. They should also be able to appreciate and explain the diversity, opportunities and challenges that exist within the region's confines.

Course Assessment and Measurements of Learning Outcomes:

Students' progress in the course will be evaluated through Continuous Assessment and an Examination at the end of the course. Continuous Assessment: 10% for degree of active

participation in tutorial discussions, 10% for presentation of an organizational outline and short proposal for a term paper (1-2 pages), and 30% for the term paper in which the topic introduced in the tutorial is further analyzed in a clear, logical, detailed and well-organized manner using internet and library sources. Examination: 50% for appraising students' overall knowledge of and ability to discuss key concepts, core facts and principal dilemmas relating to the development of Asian politics, economics and society.

Course Outline:

I. Background and overview to the study of the Asia-Pacific region since 1945

II. Political development

- a. Varieties of political systems
- b. Modernization and democratization

III. Economic profile of the region

- a. Strategies of economic development: Japan and the 'Newly Industrializing Economies'
- b. 'Emerging Newly Industrializing Economies' and the Southeast Asian path to development
- c. Reform in socialist economies

IV. Societal transformation

- a. The role of women and demographic change
- b. Education and internet impact on ethnicity

V. The region in a global context

- a. Superpowers, major powers and the end of the Cold War
- b. From financial crisis to 'Pacific Century'
- c. Regionalism and regional cooperation

Required Readings:

Borthwick, Mark. 1998. *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia* (Boulder: Westview Press: 2nd.ed) [RES] [DS518.1 .B64 1998](#)

Simone, Vera. 2001. *The Asian Pacific: Political and Economic Development in a Global Context* (New York: Longman: 2nd.ed) [RES] [HC412 .S583 2001](#)

Maidment, Richard, David Goldblatt and Jeremy Mitchell (eds). 1998. *Governance in the Asia-Pacific* (London: Routledge) [RES] [JQ750.A58 G673 1998](#)

Thompson, Grahame. 1998. *Economic Dynamism in the Asia-Pacific* (London: Routledge) [RES] [HC412 .E2165 1998](#)

Maidment, Richard and Colin Mackerras (eds). 1998. *Culture and Society in the Asia-Pacific* (London: Routledge) [RES] [DS12 .C87 1998](#)

McGrew, Anthony and Christopher Brook (eds). 1998. *Asia-Pacific in the New World Order* (London: Routledge) [RES] [DS35.2 .M25 1998](#)

Tan, Gerald. 2003. *Asian Development: An Introduction to Economic, Social and Political Change in Asia* (Singapore: Eastern Universities Press: 2nd.ed) [RES] [HC412 .H3183 2000](#)

Yahuda, Michael. 2004. *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific* (London and New York: RoutledgeCurzon: 2nd.ed) [RES] [DS518.1 .Y35 2004](#)

Severino, Rudolfo C. 2006. *Southeast Asia In search of an ASEAN Community* (Singapore: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies) [RES] [JZ5333.5.A9 S49 2006](#)

McDougall, Derek. 2007. *Asia Pacific in World Politics* (Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner) [RES] [JZ1980 .M33 2007](#)

Assigned articles

Recommended Readings:

Morley, James (ed). 1998. *Driven by Growth: Political Change in the Asia-Pacific Region* (Columbia: M.E. Sharpe, rev ed) [JQ750.A91 D75 1998](#)

Andersson, Martin and Christer Gunnarsson (eds). 2003. *Development and Structural Change in Asia-Pacific: Globalisation Miracles or the End of a Model?* (London: Routledge) [HC460.5.D46 2003](#)

Course Content:

1. Introduction to the course

2. Overview of the Region

McDougall chap. 1, pp. 6-24

Simone chap. 1, pp. 2-13

Maidment & Mackerras chap.1

Yahuda Introduction

3. Political Development – Southeast Asia

Simone chap. 4, pp. 117-118 (Brunei), pp. 132-135 (Vietnam), pp. 147-150 (Thailand), pp. 151-155 (Malaysia), pp. 155-19 (Myanmar/ Burma), pp. 159-160 (Laos), pp. 173-174 (Singapore), pp. 174-178 (Philippines), pp. 179-182 (Cambodia)

McDougall chap. 11, pp. 231-254

Borthwick chap. 8, pp. 325-336

Maidment, Goldblatt & Mitchell chap. 6, pp. 137-139, 145-147

4. Political Development – Northeast Asia

Simone chap. 4, pp.118-119 (Hong Kong), pp. 119-129 (China), pp. 129-132 (North Korea), pp. 136-140 (Taiwan), pp. 161-166 (Japan), pp. 166-172 (South Korea), pp. 182-185 (democratic trends)

McDougall chap. 8, pp. 170-173

Borthwick chap. 8 pp. 350-362 and chap. 10, pp. 403-413, 417-426

Maidment, Goldblatt & Mitchell chap. 3, pp. 63-78 and chap. 6, pp. 129-137

5. Economic Development – Japan and the NIEs

Borthwick chap. 6, 265-270 and chap. 7, pp. 271-280

Thompson chap.3, pp. 56-60, 70-74; chap. 6, pp. 143-159 and chap. 11, pp. 287-289

Maidment, Goldblatt & Mitchell chap. 8, pp. 173-180

Simone chap. 5, pp. 213-221

Morley chaps on Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore (optional)

6. Economic Development –ENIEs and the socialist economies

Borthwick chap.7, pp. 280-287 and chap.10, pp. 439-442

Maidment, Goldblatt & Mitchell chap. 8, pp. 180-188

Thompson chap.3, pp. 74-76 and chap. 11, pp. 289-290, 295-297

Simone chap. 5, pp. 221-241

De Vienne, Marie-Sybille. (Institut National Des Langues Et Civilisations Orientales) “For A Tentative Modelization of the Economic Weight of Overseas Chinese at the Beginning Of the 3rd Millennium.” <http://www.nias.ku.dk/issco5/documents/VienneMarie-Sybillede.doc>

Morley chaps on Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, China, North Korea and Vietnam (optional)

7. Societal Change and Social Issues (I)

Thompson chap. 5

Tan chaps. 6 and 8

Maidment & Mackerras chaps. 3, pp. 49-63

8. Societal Change and Social Issues (II)

Maidment & Mackerras chap. 7

Tan chap. 7

Alexa Olesen, "Twitter, Internet play a key role in China's latest bout of ethnic unrest."

<http://blog.taragana.com/n/twitter-internet-play-a-key-role-in-chinas-latest-bout-of-ethnic-unrest-102081/>

Stephanie Ho, "Chinese Authorities Blame Internet for Fanning Uighur Anger."

<http://www.voanews.com/english/archive/2009-07/2009-07-08-voa13.cfm?CFID=274489829&CFTOKEN=55318602&jsessionid=8430e3595f2a4248a924364a330754252257>

9. International Relations During and After Cold War

Simone chap. 7, pp. 304-307, 315-338, esp. 338-367 and chap. 9, pp. 452-460

McGrew & Brook chaps. 2 and 5

Tan chap. 12

Yahuda chap. 8

McDougall chaps. 8 and 9

10. Regionalism

Simone chap. 8, pp. 378-408, esp. 408-419

McDougall chap. 13

Severino chap. 6

Richard Stubbs, "ASEAN Plus Three – Emerging East Asian Regionalism?" *Asian Survey*, Volume 42, Number 3, May/June 2002, pp. 440-455 [SER 330.95 ASIS v.42 2002]

11. Challenges and Opportunities in the Pacific Century

Borthwick chap. 13, pp. 533-548

Simone chap. 9, pp. 423-452

McGrew & Brook chap. 15

POINTS TO NOTE:

Students are responsible for all the assigned readings in tutorial discussions and presentations, and the writing of terms papers and examinations.

The deadline for the term paper is 2 weeks after the student's presentation. Papers handed in late are graded down on a progressive scale. The term paper should be a maximum of 1500 words length. Keep it concise and relevant. It must include either numbered footnotes or short citations in the text (using the 'Harvard style') and should also have a list of references or bibliography at the end of the paper.

Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations.