Course Title	:	Asia Pacific and the World
Course Code	:	SSC3101
Recommended Study Year	:	3 and 4
No. of Credits/Term	:	3
Mode of Tuition	:	Lecture-Tutorial
Class Contact Hours	:	3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	:	CAPS Stream (Required Course)
Discipline	:	Social Sciences
Prerequisite(s)	:	N/A
Co-requisite(s)	:	N/A
Exclusion(s)	:	N/A
Exemption Requirement(s)	:	N/A

Brief Course Description

This course introduces students to the trade, economic, political and security relations among the countries of the Asian Pacific region. The course examines key approaches to international aspects of economic and political interaction, as well as trade and security cooperation and integration since 1945. The course is divided into two parts: the first (I-V) covering theoretical dimensions, and the second (VI-XII) covering empirical relations.

Aims

This course is required for students studying the China and Asia Pacific Studies stream. This course aims to equip students with theoretical and practical knowledge of cooperation and relations within the Asian Pacific region. It also seeks to highlight the ways in which the region interacts with global organisations and international trends, thus locating the students' understanding of regional affairs securely within the global context.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to:
1. recall and describe the major theoretical approaches to international politics, economics and security relations;
2. apply these theoretical approaches to the analysis of the changing situations in the Asian Pacific region;
3. determine and critically evaluate the dynamics of relations between important countries and organizations within the international and regional system of states; and the dynamics of relations between the regional and the global system; and
4. demonstrate an awareness of the role of regional and international organizations in the world order.

Indicative Content

I) Major International Relations Theories and the System of States

II) Terms and Concepts in International Relations Theories

III) Theories of Capital Accumulation and Underdevelopment

IV) Dependency and Modernization

V) Regional cooperation and integration: Theories and Concepts

VI) Japan and the evolution of early Asia Pacific regionalism

VII) APEC as an Economic Organization

VIII) Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Concerns of APEC

IX) ASEAN and related regional arrangements

X) Trans-Pacific Partnership versus Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

XI) China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Teaching Method

Lectures are supported by tutorials involving discussions, presentations and term paper. Current world and regional events will be used to illustrate the theories and concepts taught. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. These discussions will be facilitated by the instructor to stimulate students to give critical responses to queries posed in the readings and by current happenings, so that they will reflect keenly on the subject matter. In the presentations and term paper, students will apply the theoretical approaches studied to analyze current issues.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to contribute actively to class discussions. Students are required to demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings and current regional and world events (LOs 1-4).
2. In tutorial presentations, students will present a logical and coherent analysis of an issue chosen from the topics covered in this course, and defend their arguments (LOs 1-4).
3. Students will choose a research topic and write a tterm paper to be submitted at the end of the course. Students are expected to critically utilize both the research literature and current affairs publications, synthesize relevant information, and analyze the issues from a theoretical framework and make critical judgment and arguments on them (LOs 1-4).
4. Students will be assessed on their overall understanding of the concepts learnt to critically and holistically analyse important economic and political issues in the Asian Pacific, and assess its dynamic relations with the rest of the world and international organisations in a final examination (LOs 1-4).

Assessment

Continuous assessment   : 60%   (class attendance and participation - 10%,
                                        tutorial presentation   - 20%,
                                        term paper   - 30%)

Final examination　　　　　　　:　40%

Required/Essential Readings

Goldstein, Joshua S., and Jon C. Pevehouse, *International Relations* (11ᵗʰ edition), New York: Pearson Longman, 2017

Krugman, Paul R., Maurice Obstfeld, and Marc J. Melitz, *International Economics: Theory and Policy* (9ᵗʰ edition)*,* Boston: Addison Wesley, 2012.

Beeson, Mark, *Regionalism and Globalization in East Asia: Politics, Security and Economic Development* (2ⁿᵈ edition), New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Recommended/Supplementary Readings

Ikenberry, John, and Michael, Mastandano (eds.), *International relations theory and the Asia-Pacific*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.

Pease, Kelly-Kate S., *International Organizations: Perspectives on Governance in the Twenty-First Century* (5ᵗʰ edition), New York: Routledge, 2016.

Ethier, Wilfred J., and Arye L. Hillman, *The WTO and the political economy of trade policy*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2008.

The instructor reserves the right to assign additional recommended / supplementary readings as the class progresses.

Important Notes:

(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is "the presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student's own work". Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(4) To enhance students' understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course "Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness" is available on https://pla.ln.edu.hk/.

Additionally:

No photography, recording or use of the hand-phone is allowed in class.

A student who has missed attending half or more of either lectures or tutorials may not be allowed to sit for the final examination.

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<u>Assessment rubrics</u>

Participation (10%)

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Comprehension of all the relevant concepts	Demonstrates a deep insightful level of understanding	Demonstrates a good surface level of understanding	Demonstrates an adequate level of surface understanding	Demonstrates an inadequate level of understanding
3%	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark
Application of concepts to the topic	Appropriate concepts are all applied correctly, to provide in-depth analysis elaboration to all aspects of the topic	Appropriate concepts are correctly applied, to provide analysis to all important aspects of the topic	Appropriate concepts are, for the most part, correctly applied, to provide analysis to all important aspects of the topic	Concepts are not applied, or are generally applied inappropriately or incorrectly; important aspects of the topic unaddressed
3%	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark	0 mark
Presentation	Expression of ideas were consistently accurate, logical and clear	Expression of ideas were generally accurate, logical and clear. Lapses were rare and minor in nature.	Expression of ideas were generally accurate, logical and clear, but with a number of minor lapses	Ideas were not expressed logically, and were characterized by significant inaccuracies and lack of clarity
4%	4 marks	3 marks	2 marks	1 mark

Presentation (20%)

Category	Excellent	Fair	Below Standard
Analysis of Issues	• Thoroughly interpret and evaluate the information • Comprehensively analyze and synthesize the issues from multiple perspectives	• Information with some interpretation/evaluation • Basic analysis or synthesis from two perspectives	• List information without interpretation/evaluation • Superficially analyze or synthesize the issue • Single perspective is discussed
4%	4 marks	2.5 marks	0-1 mark
Integration of sources and evidence	• Empirical evidence or information (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) is highly relevant	• Empirical evidence or information (explanations, examples, illustrations, statistics, analogies, quotations from relevant authorities) is generally relevant	• Much of Information included is not relevant and inadequate to support the topic. Some information is inaccurate or unverifiable
4%	4 marks	2.5 marks	0-1 mark
Uses good body language, eye contact, appropriate voice tone	• Makes good eye contact with audience • Shows enthusiasm and confidence • Uses voice tone effectively	• Makes fairly good eye contact with audience • Shows some enthusiasm and confidence • Uses voice tone relatively effectively	• Make little or no eye contact with audience • Shows little or no enthusiasm and confidence • Uses voice tone ineffectively or too monotone
4%	4 marks	2.5 marks	0-1 mark

Appropriate time allocation and pace	• Allocated time appropriately and managed time effectively • Appropriate pace	• Marginally long or marginally short but uses time reasonably effectively • Reasonable pace	• Significantly too short or too long and did not use time effectively • Pace is significantly too fast or too slow
4%	4 marks	2.5 marks	0-1 mark
Makes effective use of presentation tools (slides/handouts)	• Proper use of presentation tools with little or no distractions (e.g. appropriate animation/pictures, appropriate information on one slide, clear titles, etc.)	• Generally good use of presentation tools. Some distractions but they are not overwhelming (e.g. reasonable animation/pictures, fair information on one slide, fair titles, etc.)	• Poor use of presentation tools and/or many distractions (e.g. too much animation/ pictures, too much information on one slide, absence of titles, etc.)
4%	4 marks	2.5 marks	0-1 mark

Term-paper (30%)

Category	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Argument	Arguments both well supported and genuinely compared to conflicting explanations	Main arguments valid, systematic, and well supported	Some arguments valid and well supported, some not	Weak, invalid, or no argument, perhaps a simple assertion
11%	9-11 marks	6-8 marks	3-5 marks	0-2 marks
Use of Data or Evidence	Fully exploits the richness of the data/evidence/ideas, and is sufficiently persuasive	Feasible evidence appropriately selected and not over-interpreted	Some appropriate use of evidence but uneven	Draws on little or no evidence, mostly relies on assertions or opinions, or evidence not clearly presented
11%	9-11 marks	6-8 marks	3-5 marks	0-2 marks
Organization and Writing	Structure enhances the argument, strong sections and seamless flow. Virtually no English error.	Structure supports the argument, clearly ordered sections fit together well. Some minor English errors.	Structure is of inconsistent quality, may have redundancies or disconnections. Frequent English errors.	Needs significant reorganization. English errors significantly impair readability.
8%	7-8 marks	5-6 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks

Examination (40%)

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Meets Minimum Standard	Below Standard
Comprehension of all the relevant aspects about the question	Demonstrates a deep insightful level of understanding	Demonstrates a good surface level of understanding	Demonstrates an adequate level of surface understanding	Demonstrates an inadequate level of understanding
10%	8-10 marks	5-7 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks
Application of concepts to the problem posed	Appropriate concepts are all applied correctly	Appropriate concepts are correctly applied	Some concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied but the central ones are applied correctly and specifically	Most concepts are applied at too general a level or misapplied
10%	8-10 marks	5-7 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks
Extent to which ideas are expressed logically, accurately and clearly	Expression of ideas were consistently accurate, logical and clear	Expression of ideas is generally accurate, logical and clear with some minor lapses	Expression of ideas is comprehensible but there are some major lapses	Largely incomprehensible with some major inconsistencies and errors
10%	8-10 marks	5-7 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks
Quality of English	English is consistently excellent	English is proficient with no major errors	English conveys the essential meaning but contains a number of errors	English is below acceptable university standard
10%	8-10 marks	5-7 marks	3-4 marks	0-2 marks