International Relations of the Asia Pacific Region
June-July 2006

Summer Programme 2006

Course Coordinator

Professor Tam Mito

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Visiting Guest Speaker

Professor Purnendra Jain
Professor and Head, Centre for Asian Studies
University of Adelaide, Australia
CUHK Office and phone number are the same as Prof. Mito’s
1. Course Outline

This international relations course begins with a discussion of what constitutes the Asia Pacific region and examines the impact of Western and Japanese colonization on the region. It then moves on to the Cold War and post-Cold War periods tracing the changing geo-political trajectory of the nations that comprise the region. It then examines a range of bilateral relations covering some of the major powers in the region such as China, Japan, India and the United States. Following this, it moves to the realm of regional and multilateral processes, analysing their economic and political significance for regional and world politics. Regional organisations such as APEC, ASEAN, ASEAN+3, ARF, ASEM and EAS will be examined in detail to establish the relevance and effectiveness of these institutions in the management of international relations of the region.

2. Objectives

This course prepares students to: (1) understand the key factors that have shaped the contemporary Asian Pacific Region; (2) assist students to apply concepts and theories of International Relations both to a particular political system and in regional contexts generally (3) critical understanding of regional developments, and (4) develop analytical skills in explaining regional relationships.

3. Teaching Method

Teaching will involve a combination of lectures, workshops and group activity including role-play. There will be 6 hours of classroom contact per week and two field trips in the Hong Kong area. Details of the field research will be provided at a later date.

Assessment

(1) Workshop participation and presentation  20%
(2) Research Project and Presentation  20%
(3) Test  15%
(4) Field Study Report  15%
(5) Final Essay  30%

Each student is required to make two presentations – one based on the weekly readings and the other based on his/her research of a chosen topic (in consultation with the lecturer). Students should try and choose a particular country (e.g. China, Japan, or Korea) from the region for their research project. This will allow them to do some in-depth analysis of the country of their interest.

4. Readings

**Essential Books**


Other Suggested Readings


Journals

Asian Survey
Asian Studies Review
International Relations of the Asia Pacific
Issues and Studies
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Pacific Review
Pacific Affairs
Pacifica Review (now Global Change, Peace & Security)
Journal of Southeast Asian Studies
The National Interest

Magazines and Newspapers

Far Eastern Economic Review
The Economist (London)
International Herald Tribune

NB: Many of the above are available online.

Also, read the daily local newspapers for update on issues related to this course.
# Syllabus

## 1. Lecture and Workshop Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Tute/Workshop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Understanding the Region: Imperialism, Colonization and the Pacific War</td>
<td>Organisation and Introduction Historical Background</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 / 21 June</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Changing Map of the Region: Cold War and post-Cold War political and geo-strategic maps</td>
<td>Maps, Locations and relocations of the Asia Pacific</td>
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<td>26 / 28 June</td>
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<td>30 June</td>
<td>Field Study (Friday afternoon, 3 hours HK Museum of Coastal Defence and Stanley)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Bilateralism – From a US-centric to Sino-centric map</td>
<td>Declining Japan/Rising China</td>
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<td>3 / 5 July</td>
<td></td>
<td>Where does India fit?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 July</td>
<td>Field Study (Friday morning, 3 hours Hong Kong Museum of History)</td>
<td>What about the lone super power?</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Regional Integration – Political and economic. For example, ASEAN and APEC</td>
<td>Bilateralism – its effectiveness in managing international relations</td>
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<td>10 / 12 July</td>
<td></td>
<td>For example, Sino-Japanese cooperation and rivalry; US-Japan security arrangements</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Regional Integration – Community including a security community</td>
<td>Is multilateralism a way forward in the region? Assessing regional frameworks including the new East Asian Summit initiative.</td>
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<tr>
<td>17/19 July</td>
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2. Weekly Readings:

Week 1

Introduction, Imperialism, Colonization: East Meets West and East Meets East. How have imperialism and colonization shaped the political map of today’s Asia Pacific?

Essential Readings: Read selectively from the following book.


Week 2

How have the Cold War and post-Cold War environment changed the political and geo-strategic maps of the Asia-Pacific?

Are “Pacific” links still the dominant feature of the Asian economic and geo-strategic interests? What role will the Indian Ocean play in the changing environment?

Essential Readings


Week 3

‘A stagnating Japan and a rising China’ – do you agree with this assessment of Asia’s two giants? Why? Why not?

Is Bilateralism in decline?

Essential Readings


Week 4

How effective are regional multilateral institutions? For example, APEC, ASEAN, SAARC, ARF and EAS.
What role has China been playing in the regional institutional building process?

Essential Readings


Week 5

Is today’s East Asia better integrated than before? What are the divisive forces and what steps have been taken to address them?

Role Play: China and Japan - cooperation and rivalry- searching for conflict resolution processes.
Consider issues such as Energy competition, geo-strategic rivalry, the United States as a factor-Historical factors, Yasukuni Shrine, textbooks, territorial disputes, Taiwan, etc.


3. Field Studies on 30 June and 7 July

There will be two field studies: Hong Kong Museum of Coastal Defence and Stanley on 30 June and Hong Kong Museum of History on 7 July. Field research projects and their details will be made available in due course of time.

Note
Students should read as much material in advance as possible. Active participation at workshops is required from all students. Students will be assigned ‘role play’ and effective presentation will require your deep understanding of the problem/issue of your assigned role-play task.

4. Final Essay Topics

1. Are Japan and China rivals or partners in the Asia-Pacific?
2. What factors favour China to emerge as a global power? Why couldn’t Japan achieve this status even though it has been and will remain the world’s second largest economy?
3. Many commentators regard that India can play a balancing role for the United States in the new geo-strategic environment of the region. Do you agree with this view? If so, why and if not, why not?
4. What part do regional organizations (ASEAN+3/ARF/SAARC) play in limiting sub-regional or bilateral conflicts?
5. Do Japan’s security arrangements with the US detract Japan from playing a significant role in regional security? Could its enmeshment with a regional security apparatus limit the historical apprehension of Japan’s regional neighbours?
6. What prospects do you see of the emergence of an Asian regional community along the lines of the European Community?