

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF ASIA
Political Science 385
Fall 2008

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Office hrs: TTh 1-2

TTh 9:30-10:45
280 SWKT

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to analyze the international relations of the great powers in East Asia—China, Japan, Russia and the United States—and the interactions of other states in the region. We will cover the breakdown of the traditional East Asian world order, the age of imperialism, the cold war, and conclude with the current challenges to regional security. While the emphasis will be on strategic and economic aspects of the region, we will also give attention to the unique cultural and political characteristics of the twenty-odd countries of the region. Students will become aware of the domestic sources of various nations' foreign relations and gain an appreciation of the rich diversity that characterizes the Asia-Pacific. Such knowledge is important for Asian area specialists whether their expertise is language and literature, history, or economics. A well-rounded political scientist must have a basic understanding of the politics and international relations of this important region.

Our study of the international relations of Asia will focus on:

1. Understanding the extent to which Asian states have not simply “reacted” to the West, but have “interacted” with it;
2. Developing an appreciation for the diversity and dynamism of the Asia Pacific region and the various development paths taken by various countries;
3. Interpreting contemporary developments by reference to past traditions and history.

Course Requirements and Grading

Required readings from the textbook, *Pacific Century: the Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia*, should be completed in advance so students can participate in class discussion. There will be an online reading quiz for each assigned chapter with ten questions. The quiz will be posted on Blackboard every Thursday and must be completed before the following Tuesday at midnight. There are very few acceptable reasons for not completing the quiz on time so schedule a specific time each week to take the quiz so you do not forget! You will be limited to 10 minutes for the quiz and it is NOT OPEN BOOK.

Required writing consists of three 4-5 page (1,700 word maximum is the absolute limit) analytical essays based on assigned readings that will be posted on Blackboard. In the first paragraph of your essay, **you must state a question** that you will discuss and analyze. I am interested in the analysis and the substance of your papers, and in your capacity to write clearly and persuasively. “Good reading is hard writing”—the only road to good writing is disciplined practice.

You are required to work with your assigned Writing Fellow. This includes discussing your planned revisions during a scheduled meeting with your fellow after your first draft is returned. **Your first draft must be handed in on time or you will lose all credit for that assignment.** The final draft will be read and graded by the instructor.

Exams (a midterm and a final) will consist of short identification questions and analytical essays based on the lectures, assigned readings, video programs, and class discussions. Exam times are set and there are very few acceptable reasons for not taking the exams at the scheduled time. *University policy prohibits taking final exams early and strongly discourages rescheduling exams except under extraordinary circumstances. If you cannot take the final exam during the scheduled time, I will allow you to take an incomplete in the course and take the final exam at the beginning of Winter Semester.* (See University policy below.)

The course grade will be based on the **midterm** (100 points), the **final exam** (100 points), online reading quizzes of assigned chapters from the text (10 points each), and the writing assignments (50 points each).

It is always a struggle to balance encouragement, compassion, and support for students in their intellectual and career pursuits with the necessary rigorous evaluation of their work and intellectual honesty. As a teacher, I always feel the pressure to grant inflated grades and often students seek exceptions on the grounds that they need a high grade to graduate or get into the desired graduate program. I seek to be fair, but at the same time maintain rigorous standards. Your grade is based upon your performance. I will calculate your final grade using standard percentages.

Required Text

Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia* 3rd ed. (Westview, 2007).

Analytical Essay Readings: TBA

Recommended Supplementary Reading

Paul H. Clyde and Burton F. Beers, *The Far East: A History of Western Impacts and Eastern Responses, 1830-1975*.

D.F. Lach and E.S. Wehrle, *International Politics in East Asia Since World War II*.

H.F. MacNair and D.F. Lach, *Modern Far Eastern International Relations*.

Derek McDougall, *The International Politics of the New Asia Pacific*

Academic Standards and University Policies

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to avoid plagiarism and deal with the stress of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers.

See http://honorcode.byu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=3568 for specific examples of intentional or inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification.

Federal law and BYU policy prohibits sex discrimination and sexual harassment. This extends to students as well. If you encounter sexual harassment or gender based discrimination,

please talk to your professor, contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24 hours), or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Brigham Young University seeks to accommodate qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability that may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). If you need assistance, or you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through the established grievance policy and procedures.

Final Exam policy: Students must plan their schedules to complete their final examinations during the regularly scheduled examination times. If unplanned, non-academic extenuating circumstances (such as serious illness, personal injury, etc.) prevent completion of a final examination before the Grade Submission Deadline, an Incomplete Grade Contract (available from the Records Office) should be completed and submitted.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Sept. 2. Dynasties and Empires: Pacific Asia to the 19th Century

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 1.

Sept. 4. Video: “Two Coasts of China.”

Sept. 9-11. Incursions by the West

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 2.

Sept. 16-18. Historical Perspective on America and the Asia Pacific

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 3; Video: “Sentimental Imperialists.”

Sept. 23-25. World War I and the Interwar Period

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 4.

Sept. 30. World War II

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 5; Video: “Fog of War” (clip).

Oct. 2. Video “From the Barrel of a Gun.”

Oct. 7-9. World War II and its Aftermath (Occupation of Japan)

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 6 (7 extra credit).

Oct. 14. Video: “Reinventing Japan.”

Oct. 16. MIDTERM EXAM (Testing Center all day)

Oct. 21-23. The Cold War in Asia (The Korean War and The Vietnam War)

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 9; Video: “Fog of War” (clip).

Oct. 28-30. Reemerging China

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 10.

Oct 30, First draft due “China’s Rise”

Nov. 4-6. The Rise of Asian Democracies

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 8 (11 extra credit);

Video: “The Fight for Democracy.”

Nov. 11-13. Russia in Pacific Asia

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 12; Video: “Siberian Tiger.”

Nov. 18-20. The “Taiwan Issue;” Video: “Tug of War.”

Nov. 20, First draft due “South East Asia”

Dec. 2-4. Contemporary Hot Issues.

Required Reading, TBA.

Dec. 9-11. Catch-up, Conclude, and Review

Required reading: *Pacific Century*, Ch. 13.

Dec. 11, Third paper due “The Korean Crisis”

FINAL EXAM: Monday, December 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (in class)