Overview

This two-credit course will examine current issues in Asia, current US policy toward the region, and ideas for improving that policy. Students enrolled in the course will participate in a student conference from Oct. 12-15 that will involve other students from around the country.

Objectives

Gain a better understanding of current issues in Asia and US policy in the region.

Develop critical thinking and communication skills as you analyze problems and policies and develop and defend new policy ideas.

Prepare for and participate in a student conference analyzing US policy in Asia.

Requirements

Attendance in Course and at Conference 25 percent
Draft Policy Paper and Annotated Bibliography 35 percent
Final Policy Paper 40 percent

Attendance. Attendance at all class sessions and throughout the entire conference is required. We will deduct points from your attendance grade for time missed in class or at the conference. The conference will take place on Oct. 12-15. The conference schedule is evolving, but plan on an evening session on Oct. 12, all-day sessions on Oct. 13-14 and a half-day session on Oct. 15.

Draft Policy Paper and Annotated Bibliography. A draft policy paper and annotated bibliography is due in class on Monday, Sept. 13. This is an individual project, though you should coordinate with your group so you cover a broad range of issues and sources among you. This assignment consists of two parts.

In the first part, you should write a five-page paper (double-spaced) that provides initial answers to the following questions: What are US interests in your country? What problems exist in your country that affect the United States? What is the current US policy toward that country, either generally or on a particular significant issue? What problems or costs exist for that policy? What alternative policy might you suggest and why? You obviously must cover a lot of ground in little space and should be brief and succinct while still being specific
In the second part, you must produce an annotated bibliography with at least 5 sources totaling at least 50 pages (beyond the required readings for the course) on your chosen country/region. The sources should be cited fully. For each source, you should include 4-5 sentences that summarize the main policy arguments of that source, the reasons given for those arguments, and the nature of the evidence used to defend those arguments.

**Final Policy Paper.** This is a group project. Each group should produce a 7-8 page policy paper that answers the same questions as the draft policy paper and that integrates the various perspectives and issues addressed by the individual draft papers. A bibliography should be added to these 7-8 pages, but annotations of that bibliography are not required. This paper is due on Monday, Oct. 18. Twenty percent of the grade will be based on evaluations of other group members' contribution to this final paper.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**30 August**

*Introduction*

Choose topics and divide into groups  
Start working on your country

**6 September**

*Labor Day Holiday, No Class*

**13 September**

*China*


*Foreign Policy Shorts:*

**Big Trouble With Big China**
From Washington to Beijing, relations are looking more tense than ever. Here's a guide to which disputes matter -- and which are likely to blow over fast.  
**BY JOHN LEE | FEBRUARY 2, 2010**

**Time to Defriend China**
The quest for the illusory "G-2" has wasted everyone's time for long enough.  
**BY ELIZABETH ECONOMY, ADAM SEGAL | MAY 24, 2010**

**Beijing's Billions**
China's foreign-policy ambitions could change the way it spends its money abroad.  
**BY EVAN A. FEIGENBAUM | MAY 20, 2010**
Is Talking to Beijing About Human Rights a Waste of Time?
Why Obama's new meetings with China should only be the beginning.
BY SOPHIE RICHARDSON | MAY 12, 2010

The Myth of One China
To understand the contradictions and internal conflicts of Asia's rising superpower, you have to understand its incredible diversity.
BY JEFFREY WASSERSTROM | APRIL 13, 2010

Hands Off the Yuan
The escalating calls for China to rebalance its currency are based on deeply flawed assumptions and will only make Americans pay more for their favorite products -- like iPhones.
BY DAN NEWMAN, FRANK NEWMAN | MARCH 16, 2010

Draft policy paper and annotated bibliography due in class

20 September       Japan


27 September       Koreas


Foreign Policy Shorts:

Goodbye Sunshine
South Korea has officially accused Kim Jong Il's regime of committing an act of war. Now comes the hard part.
BY CHRISTIAN CARYL | MAY 21, 2010

Multiple Personality Disorder in Pyongyang
Yes, Kim Jong Il's still in charge. But intrigue at the top is heating up, which may explain some of the bizarre behavior coming out of North Korea these days.

BY CHRISTIAN CARYL | APRIL 19, 2010

Life After Kim
As North Korea's Dear Leader celebrates his 69th birthday, it's worth asking what plans the United States has for Pyongyang once he's gone. Turns out, Washington doesn't have much.

BY SUNG-YOON LEE | FEBRUARY 16, 2010

The Peace Deal Obama Should Be Making
With its Middle East negotiations going nowhere, the United States should seize the chance to make a historic agreement with North Korea.

BY ANTHONY DIFILIPPO | FEBRUARY 1, 2010

4 October India


Luce, Edward. 2009. India’s fortune: The prospects of a country on the rise. (Review Essay). Foreign Affairs (July/August), 144-149.


11 October Southeast Asia/Indonesia


Brinkley, Joel. 2009. Cambodia’s curse: Struggling to shed the Khmer Rouge’s legacy. Foreign Affairs (March/April).

12-15 October  Student Conference

18 October  No class

*Final Group Policy Paper Due in Drop Box outside 745 SWKT by 5 pm*