UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2815 Politics and Security in the Indo-Pacific - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2815
Year : 2024
Term : Term 2
Teaching Period : T2
Is a multi-term course? : No
Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture
Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences
Delivery Mode : In Person
Delivery Format : Standard
Delivery Location : Kensington
Campus : Sydney
Study Level : Undergraduate
Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

Handbook Class Timetable

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The Indo-Pacific is a new and dynamic region, one that poses significant challenges and
opportunities. In this course, you will explore the concept of the Indo-Pacific as a coherent
regional construct, one that reflects the increasing interaction and connectivity between the Asia-

Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions. The concept of the Indo-Pacific is contested, and you will examine different conceptions of the Indo-Pacific and where its regional boundaries lie. In doing so, you will also consider different approaches to regions and regionalism, and the problems and prospects therein. The course will also introduce you to the significant political, strategic and economic issues that the region poses and the foreign policies of major regional actors, including India, China, the US, Japan and Australia. These issues and challenges are both interstate and transnational in nature, and include strategic rivalry and competition between major regional actors, counter-piracy, maritime surveillance, and trade.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Analyse different approaches to the construction of regions and regionalism and apply these to the concept of the Indo-Pacific
CLO2 : Outline significant contemporary issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific
CLO3 : Evaluate the scholarly literature on key issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific
CLO4 : Conduct independent and scholarly research.
CLO5 : Construct an evidence-based argument both orally and in writing.

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Analyse different approaches to the construction of regions and regionalism and apply these to the concept of the Indo-Pacific	• Major Essay
CLO2 : Outline significant contemporary issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific	• Class facilitation • Major Essay
CLO3 : Evaluate the scholarly literature on key issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific	• Critical Review • Class facilitation
CLO4 : Conduct independent and scholarly research.	• Critical Review • Major Essay
CLO5 : Construct an evidence-based argument both orally and in writing.	• Class facilitation • Critical Review • Major Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Class facilitation	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable
Critical Review	25%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 24/06/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 08/07/2024 05:00 PM
Major Essay	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 09/08/2024 11:59 PM Post Date: 23/08/2024 12:00 AM

Assessment Details

Class facilitation

<u>Assessment Overview</u>

10-15 min class facilitation based on assigned readings in groups of 3-4 students followed by discussion. All students will receive the same mark.

Students will receive written feedback within 10 working days of their facilitation.

<u>Course Learning Outcomes</u>

- CLO2 : Outline significant contemporary issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific
- CLO3 : Evaluate the scholarly literature on key issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific
- CLO5 : Construct an evidence-based argument both orally and in writing.

<u>Assessment information</u>

You are required to serve as "chief discussants" of the readings in the seminar at least once during the course. Depending on the size of the class, each week three or four students will work as a team and lead off the discussion. The presenters must make a 15-20 min presentation of the week's readings and facilitate discussion. Rather than simply summarizing the readings under question (presumably all will have read it), the discussion facilitators should critically engage with the material and tease out specific questions or problems that appear worthy of attention and can be a basis for discussion. All students in a group delegated with the responsibility to lead the discussion will receive the same mark.

<u>Assignment submission Turnitin type</u>

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Critical Review

Assessment Overview

The critical review requires students to select one academic article from a week's reading and demonstrate a close engagement and analysis with the main arguments and claims of that article. The word length of the review is 750 words.

Feedback: Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of submission through the University's Learning Management System (LMS).

Course Learning Outcomes
- CLO3 : Evaluate the scholarly literature on key issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific
- CLO4 : Conduct independent and scholarly research.
- CLO5 : Construct an evidence-based argument both orally and in writing.

Assessment Length

750 words

Assessment information

You are required to prepare a "reaction piece," which should present your response to, and critique of, the major arguments from a week's reading. You can select the week of your interest to reflect on, but your selection should be different from the week of your class facilitation (Assignment 1). You will receive written feedback within 10 working days. The feedback sheet/ rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Major Essay

Assessment Overview

The essay is the final assessment of the course.

It requires students to demonstrate engagement with the core themes and issues raised in the course and their ability to construct a persuasive and well-evidenced argument. The word length of the essay is 2500 words.

Feedback: Students will receive written feedback and a numerical grade within two weeks of

submission through the University's Learning Management System (LMS). The feedback sheet/ rubric will be available to students at the start of the course so that they can work towards specified standards.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse different approaches to the construction of regions and regionalism and apply these to the concept of the Indo-Pacific
- CLO2 : Outline significant contemporary issues and challenges in the Indo-Pacific
- CLO4 : Conduct independent and scholarly research.
- CLO5 : Construct an evidence-based argument both orally and in writing.

Assessment Length

2500 words

Assessment information

This final essay can be on a topic of your interest but based on or related to the content of the course and/or tutorial discussions. This essay is the final assessment for the course. Throughout the term, you should think about a topic of your interest and how it can be analyzed. The essay proposal needs to be discussed with the instructor during the office hours or via email.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

At least 50 out of 100

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Overview & Logistics of Course: Politics and Security in the Indo-Pacific; different levels of analysis; major actors in the Indo-Pacific region.
	Tutorial	Politics and Security in the Indo-Pacific; different levels of analysis; major actors in the Indo-Pacific region. Distribution of the presentation topics.
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	The concept of the Indo-Pacific; different approaches to conceptualizing a region; critical geopolitics vs. classical geopolitics. What's in the name "Indo-Pacific?" What does the term "Indo-Pacific" convey that the term "Asia-Pacific" does not? Is Indo-Pacific an innocent or neutral description, or is it an imagined and manufactured super-region designed to hedge against a perceived Sino-centric regional order?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Problematizing the Concept: The Critical Geopolitics of Indo-Pacific. Why do we need to think about the geopolitical term "Indo-pacific" critically? What is the "geopolitical imagination"? Do Intellectuals of statecraft spatialize foreign policy in their exercise of power? What are the strengths and weaknesses of thinking about the world in geopolitical terms?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	System-level International Relations in the Indo-Pacific: China and the United States Is a peaceful power transition between the United States and China possible or is the world sliding into the Thucydidean trap? What are the implications of China's continuous rise to the Indo-Pacific region? Is strategic rivalry between America and China inevitable? Should the US contain or engage China? What is the impact of COVID-19 global pandemic on great power rivalry?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Regional Powers and International Relations in the Indo-Pacific: India, Japan, Russia-China Alignment Is India a "rising power"? Is India on the verge of becoming a great power and the swing state in the international system? Can the US, India, and Japan successfully cooperate to counter-balance China's growing influence in the region? How to conceptualize and define China-Russia strategic rapprochement? Is it a strategic partnership of consequence, or is it an ad hoc reaction to the deterioration of Russia-US and China-US relations? What are the potential avenues of China-Russia strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Reading	Non-teaching Week. Students are working on the finalization of the topic for the final essay. Students are required to confirm and discuss their topics for the final essay with the instructor during this week either face-to-face or via email. This is also an opportunity to ask any questions about your final assessment and receive important feedback regarding the topic, key arguments, structure, or any other aspects of your essay before you start writing.
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Smaller States Amidst Great Power Rivalry: Theories of Balancing, Bandwagoning, Hedging In contrast to great powers, small and middle powers are in different "weight class" which implies a different set of strategic options in the international arena. How can small and middle powers survive and secure their national interests amidst intensifying great power rivalry? What do the theories of International Relations, such as those of "balancing," "bandwagoning," and "hedging" tell us about the different patterns of smaller states' behavior? What are the patterns of smaller powers' foreign policy towards great powers in the region?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Smaller States: Empirical Cases (Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines) Is China a threat or an opportunity for the states in Southeast Asia? How do Southeast Asian states, such as Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines navigate the troubled waters of the Southeast Asian security complex in the context of intensifying US-China competition? Do they hedge against or bandwagon with the larger powers? What is the predominant pattern in their behaviour, and is it changing as the great power rivalry intensifies?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	The South China Sea Dispute and Involvement of Great and Smaller Powers What are the origins and the nature of the South China Sea Disputes? Is there a danger of direct military confrontation and what theoretical frameworks offer a most convincing explanation of the dispute? How successful has China been

		in imposing its dominance in the South China Sea? How could the South China Sea issue be resolved? How does the great vs. smaller powers dynamics play out in the South China Sea region?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Approaches to Australia's Role in the Indo-Pacific How can Australia maximize its national interests in the Indo-Pacific region? Does it have to choose between economic interdependence with China and security alliance with the United States? How should Australia navigate the ever intensifying US-China competition in Asia? Should it hedge, balance, or bandwagon? How do the theories and cases studied throughout this course inform our understanding of Australia's behavior in the region?
	Tutorial	Students-led discussion based on the assigned readings

Attendance Requirements

Both lectures and tutorials are mandatory classes in ARTS2815

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

All relevant course information and required readings are available on the Moodle site for this course. Please regularly check for updates, announcements, and other relevant course related information on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Information about additional readings and resources is also made available on the Moodle site for this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback, both formal and informal, is welcome and valued, and will be considered seriously for the continued improvement of this course. Students will be asked to give formal feedback towards the end of the semester through UNSW's MyExperience survey process. Students are also strongly encouraged to give feedback (formal or informal) on learning and teaching activities throughout the course.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Alexander Ko rolev		Room 114, Level 1, Morven Brown		Wednesday 16:00-18:00	Yes	Yes
Tutor	Hien Phan		Room 114, Level 1, Morven Brown			No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request Special Consideration as early as possible before the deadline. Support with Time Management is available here.

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences