

International Relations of East and Southeast Asia

Global Cultures Flag

GOV 365D (#38350); ANS 361-23 (#32780)

Fall 2023

University of Texas at Austin

TTH: 11:00-12:30, ART 1.120

Instructor: Dr. Patricia L. MacLachlan

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Office Hours (In person): Tues, 1:00-3:00 pm; Thurs, 9:30-10:30, or by appointment.

Use Calendly to reserve a 20-minute timeslot:

https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office/office-hours

TA: Seongjun Kim

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

More than at any time since the collapse of the Cold War, the international relations of East Asia are in flux—and sometimes dangerously so. The rules of engagement and balance of power in the region are rapidly changing, and economic, political, and even cultural animosities are intensifying. What explains these recent trends? And how do they reflect and influence American power in the region? To tackle these and related questions, this course explores three sets of major issues in the region's post-Cold War international relations: Japan's growing international posture in the context of the U.S.-Japan alliance; the military and economic rise of China; and the ongoing North Korean nuclear and missile threats. We explore each topic from the perspective of IR theories and assess the impact of history and institutions—both domestic and international—on state behavior. In addition, we touch on a range of related issues that are the stuff of today's headline news, including the impact of war and memory on regional relations; China's fraught relationship with Taiwan and its implications for U.S. foreign policy; tensions over uninhabitable islands in the East and South China seas; the gradual weakening of U.S. power in the region; and the future of the liberal international order.

It is my hope that by the end of the semester, you will have acquired not only a strong grounding in the facts of international relations in this crucial region of the world, but also an appreciation of the theories, values, and assumptions that inform various interpretations of the significance of those facts.

Prerequisites

Six hours of lower division Government coursework. No prior knowledge of East Asia is required.

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This course is designed to increase student familiarity with cultural groups outside the U.S. We therefore pay close attention to the cultural and institutional foundations of the international relations of the region, and with reference to comparable Western and other Asian experiences.

Required Texts

There are no assigned texts for this course. All required readings—except for “CFR Backgrounder,” for which URLs are provided in this syllabus—are posted under Modules on our Canvas site.

Note that the syllabus includes a variety of different types of readings: theoretical and historical writings, policy analyses and government statements, think tank reports, and newspaper articles. You are advised to read all assigned readings before the targeted lecture. At the end of each unit, we will have an open discussion that will both give you an opportunity to further explore issues that interest and help you prepare for exams and written assignments.

You are encouraged to keep up with current events in the region. See the “Syllabus and Other Course Resources” module on Canvas for a list of Asia-specific sources. The *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The Economist* are general newspaper sources with excellent Asia coverage.

Assignments

1. **Essay assignment #1 (Due 11:59 pm, Sun. Sept. 17: 20%).** You will be asked to write two brief essays on topics relating to theories of IR (2-2½ double-spaced pages each). Further details about the assignment will be posted on Canvas. This is an open-book assignment.
2. **Exam #1 (Oct. 5: 25%):** This in-class exam will cover all lectures, discussions, and readings addressed through Oct. 3. It will consist of 3 parts: 1) true/false & multiple-choice questions; 2) questions requiring short written responses; and 3) questions requiring paragraph answers.
3. **Exam #2 (Nov. 30: 30%):** Same format as first exam. *Cumulative.*
4. **Essay assignment #2 (Due at 11:59 pm, Wed. Dec. 6: 25%).**
A. **Take-home memo assignment.** You will be asked to pose as the National Security Advisor to the President of the United States (!) and write a 5-page

memo on an issue or theme relating to American foreign policy toward East and Southeast Asia. Questions will be posted on Canvas immediately after Exam #2.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	.67	60-63
F	0	59 & below

Class Guidelines

Attendance and Discussions: Although there are no attendance or discussion grades in this class, a significant portion of the course material will be conveyed via lectures and discussions. It is therefore in your interest to be both present and engaged.

Class etiquette:

- You are expected to arrive for class on time. If you must arrive late or leave early, you should inform me in advance.
- Please do not call me by my first name.
- Please be respectful in your email messages to me. During the week, you should expect a response within 24-36 hours; if you don't hear from me within that window, feel free to contact me again. If you contact me over the weekend, expect a response on Monday.
- Please be respectful of your fellow students during class discussions—even when you strongly disagree with them.

Communications: The Canvas Announcements and email functions will be my primary mechanisms for communicating with you.

Exams: You must take exams on their designated days. Exams will be administered in person via Canvas. (Bring your laptop to class on exam days.)

Grade disputes: If you have reason to suspect a mistake in the grading of a quiz, exam, or written assignment, send our TA a written explanation of the issue within one week of receiving your grade and after reviewing relevant answer keys and/or instructor feedback.

Laptop and cellphone policy: Scientific research has proved that college students perform better without the distractions of laptops and cell phones during lectures and discussions. **So, I ask that you put these devices away during class and take notes by hand.** You will, however, bring your laptop to the classroom on exam days.

Late penalties: All assignments must be completed on schedule. Students with documented illnesses may be exempted from this rule. Late written submissions will be penalized 5% per day beginning one hour after the deadline.

Office hours: I will hold my office hours this semester in person, in my office, but will accommodate Zoom meetings as necessary. Please set up a 20-minute appointment via Calendly: https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office/office-hours Email me if you cannot attend my regular office hours; I will set up a meeting with you at an alternative time.

Policy on Covid-19: This course will meet **in person**. Please don't come to class if you feel ill or suspect that you've been exposed to Covid; I and our TA will help you catch up and access class notes from other students. In the event of a Covid outbreak on campus, I will encourage you to wear a well-fitting mask during class. For information about Covid-19 testing and assistance, consult the University Health Services website: <https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

PowerPoint Presentations will be posted on Canvas prior to relevant lectures. These are intended to outline and supplement—not replace—the lectures. **To do well, you must take notes during lectures and discussions.**

Readings: Assigned readings for each lecture should be completed *before* we meet. Note that exams and written assignments are designed to reward students who thoroughly engage the reading material.

You have the right to miss class for **religious purposes**. But I encourage you to keep our TA informed of such absences.

Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement for more information: <https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/about> And be sure to speak to me early in the semester to discuss your needs.

Students guilty of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper) will receive a “0” for the assignment in question. No exceptions. **Note that use of ChatGPT and other AI platforms is strictly forbidden in this class.** Students should familiarize themselves with the following tutorial on what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided:

<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=539686&p=8083280>

Lecture Schedule

Introduction

Aug. 22: Introduction to the Course

- No readings

Aug. 24: The Region: History, Geography, and the Challenges of Institution Building

- CFR Backgrounder. “What is ASEAN?” Apr. 11, 2022. See
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-asean>

Unit 1) Concepts and Theories of International Relations

Aug. 29 & Aug. 31: The Role of Theory in International Relations/ Realism

- Walt, Steven M. “International Relations: One World, Many Theories.” *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998): 29-46.
- Mearsheimer, John M. “The Inevitable Rivalry: America, China and the Tragedy of Great-Power Politics.” *Foreign Affairs* (Nov./Dec. 2021): 48-58.

Sept. 5: Liberal Internationalism & Constructivism

- Deudney, Daniel, and G. John Ikenberry. “Liberal World: The Resilient Order.” *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug. 2018): 16-24.
- Allison, Graham. “The Myth of the Liberal Order: From Historical Accident to Conventional Wisdom.” *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug. 2018): 124-133.
- Berger, Thomas U. “Power and Purpose in Pacific East Asia: A Constructivist Interpretation.” In G. John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno, eds., *International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2003), pp. 387-419.

Sept. 7: Huntington’s “Clash of Civilizations” Theory: Still Relevant Today?

- Huntington, Samuel P. “The Clash of Civilizations.” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993): 22-49.

Sept. 12: Class Discussion

Sun., Sept. 17, 11:59 pm: Essay assignment #1 due

Unit 2) Japan's Changing Global Role

Guest speaker: Major Ryan Ashley (U.S. Air Force). Date T.B.D.

Sept. 14: The Weight of History

- No readings.

Sept. 19: The U.S.-Japan Alliance

- Krauss, Ellis S. "Japan-U.S. Relations: The Most Important Bilateral Relationship in the World." In Robert J. Pekkanen and Saadia M. Pekkanen, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022, pp. 811-31.

Sept. 21 & 26: Japan's More Assertive Foreign Policy

- Samuels, Richard J. "'New Fighting Power!': Japan's Growing Maritime Capabilities and East Asian Security." *International Security* 32, no. 3 (Winter 2007-08): 84-112.
- Green, Michael J. *Line of Advantage: Japan's Grand Strategy in the Era of Abe Shinzō*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2022, Introduction, Chapter 1, and Conclusion (pp. 1-15, 16-44, and 218-28).

Sept. 28: Memories of War and the Politics of Apology

- Lind, Jennifer. "The Perils of Apology: What Japan Shouldn't Learn from Germany." *Foreign Affairs* 88 (May/June 2009): 132-47.
- McCarthy, Mary M. "The Enduring Challenge of History Issues." In Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipsky, eds., *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021, pp. 511-33.

Oct. 3: Class discussion

Oct. 5: Exam #1 (In Class, via Canvas: Bring your laptop to class)

Unit 3) The Rise of China and the Changing Balance of Power in East Asia

Oct. 10: A Brief History of the Sino-American Relationship

- Pei, Minxin. "Nixon Was Right to Gamble on China." *Japan Times*, February 24, 2022.

Oct. 12: Behind the Scenes of Chinese Foreign Policy—Authoritarianism, Public Opinion, and Xi Jinping's Leadership Style

- Pei, Minxin. "China: Totalitarianism's Long Shadow. *Journal of Democracy* 32:2 (2021): 5-21.
- Kevin Rudd. "The World According to Xi Jinping: What China's Ideologue in Chief Really Believes." *Foreign Affairs* 101:6 (Nov./Dec. 2022): 8-21.

Oct. 17 & 19: Assessing the "China Threat"

- Fravel, M. Taylor. "China's 'World-Class Military' Ambitions: Origins and Implications." *The Washington Quarterly* 43:1 (2020): 85-99.
- Weiss, Jessica Chen. "The China Trap: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Perilous Logic of Zero-Sum Competition." *Foreign Affairs* 101:5 (Sept./Oct. 2022): 40-58.
- Walker, Christopher. "What is 'Sharp Power'?" *Journal of Democracy* 29:4 (2018): 9-23.
- Pantucci, Raffaello. "The Many Faces of China's Belt and Road Initiative." *Current History* (January 2021): 28-34.

Oct. 24: Cross-Strait Relations

- CFR Backgrounder. "Why China-Taiwan Relations Are So Tense." April 18, 2023. See <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-taiwan-relations-tension-us-policy-biden>
- Sarah A. Topol, "Is Taiwan Next?" *The New York Times*, August 4, 2021. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/04/magazine/taiwan-china.html?searchResultPosition=1> (PDF—without photos—available on Canvas)
- Mastro, Oriana Skylar. "The Taiwan Temptation: Why Beijing Might Resort to Force." *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug. 2021): 58-67.

Oct. 26: Troubled Waters—China's Ongoing Maritime Disputes

- Fravel, M. Taylor, and Glaser, Charles. "How Much Risk Should the United States Run in the South China Sea?" *International Security* 47:2 (2022): 88-134.

Oct. 31: Class Discussion

Unit 4) Tensions on the Korean Peninsula

Guest speaker: Ret. General Vincent Brooks (U.S. Army). Date T.B.D.

Nov. 2 & 7: History of the Korean Peninsula—From Imperialism to Post-Cold War

- Cha, Victor. "Powerplay: Origins of the U.S. Alliance System in Asia." *International Security* 34:3 (2009/10): 158-96.
- Cha, Victor, and Ramon Pacheco Pardo. *Korea: A New History of South & North*. New Haven, NJ: Yale University Press, 2023. Chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 119-184).

Nov. 9, 14 & 16: The North Korean Threat and the U.S. Response

- CFR Backgrounder. "North Korea's Military Capabilities." June 28, 2022. See <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/north-korea-nuclear-weapons-missile-tests-military-capabilities>
- Cha, Victor, and Katrin Fraser Katz. "The Right Way to Coerce North Korea: Ending the Threat Without Going to War." *Foreign Affairs* 97 (May/June 2018): 87-100.
- Jervis, Robert, and Mira Rapp-Hooper. "Perception and Misperception on the Korean Peninsula: How Unwanted Wars Begin." *Foreign Affairs* 97 (May/June 2018): 103-117.
- Mastro, Oriana Skylar. "Why China Won't Rescue North Korea: What to Expect if Things Fall Apart." *Foreign Affairs* (Jan./Feb. 2018): 58-66.

Nov. 21 & 23: Thanksgiving Break—no classes

Nov. 28: Class Discussion

Nov. 30: Exam #2 (In Class)

Wed., Dec. 6, 11:59 pm: Memo assignment due