

International Relations of East and Southeast Asia

GOV 365D (#38535); ANS 361-23 (#32665)

Fall 2022: IN PERSON

University of Texas at Austin

TTH: 11:00-12:30, WAG 214

Instructor: **Dr. Patricia L. MacLachlan**

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Office Hours (Zoom or in person): Tue.: 1:15-3:00; Thurs.: 9:15-10:30, or by appointment

Please set up a 20-minute appointment via Calendly:

https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office

TA: TBA

Office Hours:

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 takes a deep dive into 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 threat. 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; increasing 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 Asia is required.

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 give you an opportunity to further explore issues that interest you while helping you prepare for exams and written assignments.

Assignments

1. Essay assignment #1 (Due 10:00 pm, Sept. 14: 20%). You will be asked to write two short 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. 4: 25%): This in-class exam will cover all lectures, discussions, and readings addressed through Oct. 4. 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 (Dec. 1: 25%): Same format as first exam. Cumulative.

4. Essay assignment #2 (Due at 12 pm, Dec. 8: 30%). Choose one of the following assignments:

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.

OR

B. Research paper (6-8 pp.) on a topic of your choosing. Detailed information about this assignment will be posted on Canvas. I will also hold an online informational session in early October for potential paper writers. Proposal forms must be submitted by 10:00 pm Oct. 18. *Students who choose this option will receive 10 bonus points for the assignment.*

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 if you strongly disagree with them.

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

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

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

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.

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: You have the choice to meet me either in person or via Zoom. Please set up a 20-minute appointment via Calendly: https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office If you choose to attend in person, send me an email on the morning of our meeting to let me know that you will visit my office at your scheduled time. Note: I will wear a mask during in-person meetings and respectfully ask that you do the same.

Policy on Covid-19: This course will meet in person. I encourage you to wear a well-fitting mask while attending class. I will wear a mask when speaking to you up close—including during in-person office hours—but will remove it while lecturing. Please don't come to class if you feel ill or suspect that you've been exposed to the virus. I will help you catch up and access class notes from other students. 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 Services for Students with Disabilities (512-471-6259/ ssd@austin.utexas.edu) for further information, and be sure to make an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss your requirements.

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. 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. 23 & 25

#1) Introduction to the Course

- No readings

#2) The Region: History, Geography, and the Challenges of Institution Building

- CFR Backgrounder. “What is ASEAN?”, Nov. 24, 2020. See
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-asean>

Unit 1) Concepts and Theories of International Relations: Aug. 30-Sept. 8

#3) Theories of IR—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.

#4) Theories of IR—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.
- Leheny, David. “Constructivism and International Relations in Asia.” In Saadia M. Pekkanen, John Ravenhill, and Rosemary Foot, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 64-80.

#5) Huntington’s “Clash of Civilizations” Theory: Still Relevant Today?

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

#6) Class Discussion

** **Essay assignment #1 due Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 10 pm.**

Unit 2) Japan's Changing Global Role: Sept. 13-29

#7) The Weight of History

- No readings.

#8) 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.

#9 & 10) 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).

#11) Memories of War and the Politics of Apology

- 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.
- Lind, Jennifer. "The Perils of Apology: What Japan Shouldn't Learn from Germany." *Foreign Affairs* 88 (May/June 2009): 132-47.

#12) Class discussion

#13) Oct. 4: Exam #1 (In Class)

Unit 3) The Rise of China and the Changing Balance of Power in East Asia: Oct. 6-Nov. 1

#14) A Brief History of the Sino-American Relationship

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

#15) Behind the Scenes of Chinese Foreign Policy—Authoritarianism, Public Opinion, and Xi Jinping's Leadership Style

- Shirk, Susan. "The Domestic Contest of Chinese Foreign Security Policies." In Saadia M. Pekkanen, John Ravenhill, and Rosemary Foot, eds., *The Oxford*

Handbook of the International Relations of Asia. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, pp. 391-410.

- Hessler, Peter. "The Rise of Made-in-China Diplomacy." *The New Yorker*, March 8, 2021.
- "Xi Jinping Has Nurtured an Ugly Form of Chinese Nationalism." *The Economist*, July 13, 2022.

#16 & 17) Is China a "Threat"?

- Fravel, M. Taylor. "China's 'World-Class Military' Ambitions: Origins and Implications." *The Washington Quarterly* 43, no. 1 (2020): 85-99.
- Pantucci, Raffaello. "The Many Faces of China's Belt and Road Initiative." *Current History* (January 2021): 28-34.
- Repnikova, Maria. "The Balance of Soft Power: The American and Chinese Quests to Win Hearts and Minds." *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug. 2022): 46-51.
- Walker, Christopher. "What is 'Sharp Power'?" *Journal of Democracy* 29, no. 4 (2018): 9-23.

**** Oct. 18, 10:00 pm: Proposal forms due for paper writers**

#18) Cross-Straight Relations

- CFR Backgrounder. "Why China-Taiwan Relations Are So Tense." May 26, 2022. 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.

#19) Troubled Waters—China's Ongoing Maritime Disputes

- Scobell, Andrew. "The South China Sea and U.S.-China Rivalry." *Political Science Quarterly* 133, no. 2 (2018): 199-224.

#20) The Sino-Russian Relationship and Its Impact on the Region

- CFR Backgrounder. "China and Russia: Exploring Ties Between Two Authoritarian Powers." June 14, 2022. See <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-russia-relationship-xi-putin-taiwan-ukraine>

#21) Class Discussion

Unit 4) The Challenge of North Korea: Nov. 3-17

#22 & 23) 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, no. 3 (2009/10): 158-96.
- Cha, Victor. *The Impossible State*. New York: Ecco, 2012, Chapter 5 (pp. 163-211).
- Lankov, Andrei. "Masters of Survival." In Adrian Buzo, ed., *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary North Korea*, 3rd ed. London: Routledge, 2020, pp. 42-55.

#24 & 25) 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.

#26) Class Discussion

Nov. 22 & 24: Thanksgiving Break—no classes

#27) Nov. 29: Wrapping Up—The U.S. in a Changing Regional Order

- The White House. "Indo-Pacific Strategy of the United States." February 2022.

#28) Dec. 1: Exam #2 (In Class)

** Dec. 8, 12:00 pm: second writing assignment due