

Syllabus (2022-Summer)

Course Title	International Relations of East Asia	Course No.	
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Thr Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name: Antonio Fiori	Department:	
	E-mail: antonio.fiori@unibo.it	Phone	
Office Hours Office Location			

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

Northeast Asia, a geographic area including the People's Republic of China, Japan, the Republic of China and the two Koreas, represents one of the most important regions in the world in terms of population, natural resources, trading, and investment opportunities. Despite the outstanding economic performances, this region remains unstable from the political point of view: the division of the Korean peninsula, territorial disputes between Japan and Russia and between Japan and China, complicated relations between Taipei and Beijing, without mentioning the debated role played by the United States in the region. The main task of this course is to shed light on the "nature" and problems in the relations among the main "regional" actors by examining the changes that have taken place, especially in the last two decades. The course will also focus on the main events which have recently taken place in the Southeastern region of the continent in relation with China's rise.

This course is an overview of international relations of the East Asian region, which aims at broadly exploring the economic and political issues surrounding the Asia-Pacific rim. At the end of the course students will be able to examine a set of topics related to historical and contemporary patterns of state relations in East Asia, US security alliance in East Asia, the rise of China, the uncertain situation in the Korean Peninsula, territorial disputes, regional multilateral institutions, East Asian development models and economic integration, environmental challenges, energy security, and other related issues.

2. Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites to attend this course, although students should have a basic knowledge of Asia's history from World War II. Eventually, students can have a look at: Michael Yahuda, *The International Politics of Asia-Pacific*, Routledge, 2019, with particular reference to pp. 1-138.

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
70%	30%	%	%	%

3. Course Objectives

The main aim of this course is to offer students introductory knowledge and critical understanding of the political, economic and security relations in the Asia Pacific, both from a theoretical and empirical perspective.

In particular, the course is designed to:

- Offer knowledge of the evolution of international relations in the region from World War II to the present era;
- Gain critical understanding of the main theories in the study of international relations in the Asia Pacific;
- Explore the key actors in the region, particularly the respective foreign policy of China, Japan, Korea and the US, and the emergence and development of regional institutions, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the East Asia Summit;
- Analyze the dynamics of regional security, democratization and economic reform and their impact on both regional/world order.

5. Evaluation Systems

Relative evaluation Absolute evaluation (for Ewha International Summer College students only) Others

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Others
%	50%	%	10%	%	10%	30%	%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

Class materials will be provided by the instructor. Students will be asked to read the material before taking each class.

2. Supplementary Materials

Each presentation's power point will be provided to students.

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/30)	Outline and aims of the course. General Introduction to IR in the Asian context. The Sinocentric system: is it still valid to interpret China's foreign policy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D.C. Kang, "International Order in Historical East Asia: Tribute and Hierarchy Beyond Sinocentrism and Eurocentrism", in <i>International Organization</i>, vol. 74, no. 1, 2020.
Day 2	(7/4)	China's Foreign Policy Under Xi Jinping

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 3	(7/5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Zhao, “Chinese Foreign Policy as a Rising Power to Find Its Rightful Place”, in <i>Perceptions</i>, Vol. 13, No. 1, 2013. J. Zhang, “China’s New Foreign Policy under Xi Jinping: Towards ‘Peaceful Rise 2.0’?,” in <i>Global Change, Peace & Security</i>, Vol. 27, No. 1, 2015. <p>China’s Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> W.M. Morrison, <i>China’s Economic Rise: History, Trends, Challenges, and Implications for the United States</i>, Congressional Research Service, 2019. <p>China-US Relations and a new model of big power relations</p>
Day 4	(7/6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S. Biba, “It’s Status, Stupid: Explaining the Underline Core Problem in US-China Relations,” <i>Global Affairs</i>, vol. 2, no. 5, 2016. E. Demir, “Fragmented or Integrated Asia: Competing Regional Visions of the US and China,” in <i>Rising Powers Quarterly</i>, vol. 3, 2018.
Day 5	(7/7)	<p>China’s naval and infrastructural diplomacy; Territorial disputes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> K.S. Lim, H. Ju, M. Li, “China’s Revisionist Aspirations in Southeast Asia and the Curse of the South China Sea Disputes”, in <i>China: An International Journal</i>, Vol. 15, No. 1, February 2017. J. Kim, “The Clash of Power and Nationalism: The Sino-Japan Territorial Dispute”, in <i>Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs</i>, Vol. 5, No.1, 2018.
Day 6	(7/11)	<p>The Belt and Road Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. Zhou, “Cooperation between China and Africa under the One Belt One Road Initiative: China’s Benefits and Problems”, in <i>Chinese Studies</i>, vol. 8, 2019. Y. Huang, “Understanding China’s Belt & Road Initiative: Motivation, Framework and Assessment”, in <i>China Economic Review</i>, No. 40, 2016. C.P. Chung, “What are the strategic and economic implications for South Asia of China’s Maritime Silk Road Initiative?” in <i>The Pacific Review</i>, 2017. V. Tekdal, “China’s Belt and Road Initiative: At the Crossroads of Challenges and Ambitions”, in <i>The Pacific Review</i>, 2017.
Day 7	(7/12)	<p>China’s Soft Power: The African Case</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Galchu, “The Beijing consensus versus the Washington consensus: The dilemma of Chinese engagement in Africa,” in <i>African Journal of Political Science and International Relations</i>, vol. 12, 2018.

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 8	(7/13)	Japan's Security Challenges and Ambitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> V. Teo, "Recalibrating Japan's Foreign Policy," in: <i>Japan's Arduous Rejuvenation as a Global Power</i>. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore, 2019.
Day 9	(7/14)	MID-TERM EXAM
Day 10	(7/18)	South Korea's foreign policy at the crossroads; South Korea's middle power diplomacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J. Mo, "South Korea's middle power diplomacy: A case of growing compatibility between regional and global roles," in <i>International Journal</i>, vol. 71, 2016.
Day 11	(7/19)	South Korea's strategy towards North Korea; The logic of engagement policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.H. Kim, "Reasons for a Policy of Engagement with North Korea," in <i>North Korean Review</i>, vol. 13, no. 1, 2017.
Day 12	(7/20)	The North Korean Regime: the domestic situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Isozaki, <i>Understanding the North Korean Regime</i>, Wilson Center, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation, 2017.
Day 13	(7/21)	North Korea between the US and China <ul style="list-style-type: none"> S.S. Kim, "U.S.-China Competition over Nuclear North Korea," in <i>Insight Turkey</i>, vol. 19, no. 3, 2017.
Day 14	(7/25)	Simulation
Day 15	(7/26)	FINAL EXAM
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

IV. Special Accommodations

* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment: braille, enlarged reading materials . Hearing impairment: note-taking assistant . Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra days for submission, alternative assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment: braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant . Hearing impairment: written examination instead of oral examination . Physical impairment: longer examination hours, note-taking assistant

-Actual support may vary depending on the course.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.