

YALOVA UNIVERSITY – DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Course Name/Code: *Asia-Pacific in World Politics / CIR 329*

Instructor: *İzzet Soner AYHAN*

Aim of The Course:

As stated by many important figures in International relations, today the world's gravity center is steadily shifting from the Atlantic to the Pacific region. Within this context, some analysts even go further by claiming that the twenty-first century will be "The Asian Century". There is no doubt that in the heart of this shift stands the rising power China and East Asian countries. China, Japan, the two Koreas, and the ten ASEAN states make up what is conventionally referred to as East Asia. As a region, East Asia today has become an important actor in international politics as four of the world's fifteen most populous countries (China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam) and three of the world's fifteen richest countries by nominal GDP (China, Japan, and South Korea) are in this region in addition to the US and Russia which are also traditional existing actors in the region. As a result, today in terms of IR studies, it has become almost vital to be able to understand the security, economic and other factors which shape the current policies in the region together with their regional and even to some extent global implications.

This course aims to introduce IR students to East Asia politics and the factors shaping the security politics in the region while focusing on security and economic issues in the region. The course will start by first providing an overview of East Asia during the 20th and early 21st centuries and how bipolarity during the Cold War helped to lay the groundwork for present-day political dynamics in the region while focusing on state formation, regime types, democratization, and political culture in the region. Following this overview, the course will focus on the interplay between external and regional powers in the region, alongside the foreign policies of the main actors in the region including international organizations such as ASEAN. Within this context, topics such as the rise of China and the increasing concerns about China's growing economic and military power, the growing Sino-American competition in the regime, the North Korea and Taiwan and South and East China Sea conflicts, the growing institutionalization of regional politics through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and non-traditional security problems such as terrorism and human rights violations will be covered.

As a summary, the main aims of this course are the following:

- provide an introduction to the domestic and international politics of East Asia;
- provide an overview of the regional policies and bilateral relationships of the major powers (primarily the China);
- examine regional organizations and the changing nature of regional order in the region;
- discuss the main conflictual dynamics in the region (Taiwan, North Korea, South China Sea);

Course Outcomes:

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- be familiar with the political systems of the main East Asian countries;

- explain the linkages between local, regional, and global developments and their impact on East Asian politics;
- analyze the foreign policies of the main East Asian states;
- have an understanding of the factors facilitating and hindering regional cooperation in East Asia.

Method:

Each week, in accordance with the course schedule, the instructor and students will interactively analyze and discuss the pre-designated texts stated in the syllabus.

Textbooks:

Shambaugh, D. and M. Yahuda (2008), *International Relations of Asia*. Plymouth, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers

Attendance Procedure:

Attendance for this class is mandatory. Please keep in mind that you will be responsible for all of the material covered in your absence. Students will be expected to arrive for class on time and to remain in class until the end of the class session.

Evaluation Methods and Tools:

Students will be evaluated according to below.

Mid-term exam (%30) + Weekly Homework (%20), Final exam (%50)

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty will NOT be tolerated. Any student found to be involved in any verifiable incident of academic dishonesty (copying, cheating, plagiarizing, etc.) will receive a grade of “F” for the class

Content of the Course : (Weekly Schedule)

Week 1 – General Introduction of the course,

Week 2 – Defining East Asia? Why does it matter? An introduction to China and East Asia politics.

Required reading: Shambaugh, D. and M. Yahuda (2008), *International Relations of Asia*. Plymouth, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Ch.1, p.3-31

Week 3 – The Rise and Fall of Imperial China, Colonial Period and European Powers Entrance into East Asia, ‘Age of Humiliation’, Chinese Civil War

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, chapter 1, p.51-72

Week 4 – The United States in East Asia, The Cold War and Post cold-War Security Structure in East Asia, Sino–American Relations in the 20th Century

Required reading: Shambaugh, D. and M. Yahuda (2008). *International Relations of Asia*. Plymouth, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, p.85-103

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, chapter 2, p.31-50

Week 5 – Japan in East Asia, Imperial Japan and World War II, Effects of Imperial Japan on East Asia, Sino-Japanese Relations in the Modern Period, US-Japanese Relations in the 21st Century

Required reading: Shambaugh, D. and M. Yahuda (2008). *International Relations of Asia*. Plymouth, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, p.170-189

Week 6 – Mid-Term Exam

Week 7 – The Two Koreas; The Korean War and its Effects on the Region, China and US Relations with respect to the two Koreas

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Chapter 7, p.179-196

Week 8 – Russia in East Asia, Sino-Soviet Relations in the 20th Century, Current Sino-Russian Relations in East Asia

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Chapter 8, p.267-293

Week 9 – The Taiwan Conflict and its Effects on Sino-American Relations in East Asia

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Chapter 6, p.163-177

Week 10 – Regional Organizations and East Asia Politics, ASEAN and APEC and other Regional Organizations

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Chapter 9, p.297-317

Week 11 – The Dynamics of East Asia Regional Economy, Cooperation and Competition in East Asia, Trans Pacific Partnership

Required reading: Shambaugh, D. and M. Yahuda (2008). *International Relations of Asia*. Plymouth, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, p.277-299

Week 12 – Major Territorial Disputes in East Asia, South China Sea and East China Sea Disputes, Effects of Territorial Disputes on Regional Politics

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, Chapter 8, p.201-228

Week 13 – China’s Large Scale Initiatives; AIIB, ‘One Belt One Road’ and ‘String of Pearls’, Implications of these Initiatives with respect to East Asia and Asia-Pacific Dynamics

Required reading: Shambaugh, D. and M. Yahuda (2008). *International Relations of Asia*. Plymouth, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, p.272-277

Week 14 – America’s Asian Pivot – The Changing Security Structure in East Asia.

Required reading: McDougall, Derek, (2007), *Asia-Pacific in World Politics*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, p.201-228