



DSS 5314 - Strategic Survey of Asia

Course Description/Overview

This course will also cover contemporary regional issues such as the influence of Japan, India, Korea, and China on regional and global affairs with a particular focus on regional security concerns. The focus of this course is on the changing dynamics of contemporary international security in Asia. This course will include several important case studies that are important to understanding regional security in Asia. These case studies will include, but not be limited to, the ongoing and hotly debated military rise of China and the implications for the region and the world; the nuclear stand-off on the Korean peninsula; contemporary security issues in Southeast Asia; the India-Pakistan conflict; and transnational security issues in Asia.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Objectives: As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

Comprehend the key transnational and regional security issues affecting Asia and the international community.

Analyze the changing role that nations in Asia play in influencing international security.

Analyze and articulate the events and changing paradigms that have occurred since the end of the Cold War that have brought Asia to the forefront of priorities for American national interests.

Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
First Essay	20%	6-8 page essay. Due Sunday at the end of week 2 before 2100 hrs. Central Time
Midterm PowerPoint Presentation	20%	10-15 slide PowerPoint presentation. Due Sunday at the end of week 5 before 2100 hrs. Central Time.

Discussion Thread participation	20%	Occurs in weeks with no written assignment
Final Essay	40%	12-15 page essay. Due Friday at the end of week 7 before 2100 hrs. Central Time.
Late assignments will be graded accordingly.		

Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100 %

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = 59 % and below.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1: Setting the Context for Security in the Asia-Pacific: The Concept of Security in the Asia-Pacific. The Asia-Pacific is comprised of various regions that have a huge impact on the world - economically, politically, and militarily. Thus, it is important to conduct an analysis of the context for security issues that exists in the large set of regions that are often tied together because of the challenges that they face. In addition, the concept of security in the Asia-Pacific is unique because it is dominated by various issues such as maritime challenges, centuries old border disputes, a continued lack of democracy in many nation-states, and countries that possess weapons of mass destruction. It will be the goal of this lesson to set the stage for the many issues confronted in the Asia-Pacific regions in the world's largest continent - Asia.

Lesson 2: Institutions and Outside Influences in the Asia-Pacific: The Asia-Pacific has often been referred to as the "21st century region." While this is an arguable concept (and in fact the Asia-Pacific is really composed of at least three separate regions), it does highlight the importance of the nation-states there and the institutions that tie them together with varying degrees of success and effectiveness. While the Asia-Pacific continues to be rich in resources, political and military might, and economic growth, it is also very influenced by outside sources. Thus, it will be the goal of this lesson to discuss the role of institutions (and address what these institutions are as well as their varying degrees of importance), and to examine the complexities and details of outside influences (particularly nation-states like the USA) in the Asia-Pacific.

Lesson 3: Democracy and Community in the Asia-Pacific: The Asia-Pacific is an area of the world that has surprised many policy makers and analysts since the end of WWII. There are not many who would have predicted that countries such as South Korea, Japan,

and Taiwan would have vibrant, transparent democracies. While many nation-states have successfully transitioned to democracy in the Asia-Pacific, there is still a long way to go. A great many nations in the Asia-Pacific have made strides but democracy remains a possibility for future consideration. In addition, nation-states in the Asia-Pacific now cooperate like never before - thus bringing about more of a sense of "community." But how far has that truly come? It will be the goal of this lesson to examine democracy and community in the Asia-Pacific, and to give the student insights into what the future may hold.

Lesson 4: Terrorism and Maritime Security in the Asia-Pacific: The Asia-Pacific is not an area of the world that has traditionally not been thought of as a "hotbed for terrorism." But terrorism is an unfortunate fact of life there - particularly in Southeast Asia, where Jemaah Islamiah and other splinter groups have very real ties to more well known terrorist groups and have conducted violent acts with compelling results. Another key security challenge in the Asia-Pacific is maritime security. Because of energy security, important shipping lanes, and a wide variety of border disputes (among other issues) maritime security is of paramount importance in both Northeast and Southeast Asia. It will be the goal of this lesson to examine the two key security challenges of terrorism and maritime security in the Asia-Pacific, and to give the student key issues to ponder.

Lesson 5: Nuclear Weapons in the Asia-Pacific: China and North Korea: The Asia-Pacific is an important area of the world for a wide variety of reasons. But perhaps among the most compelling is the threat of nuclear weapons posed by communist, non-democratic nation-states. China and North Korea each fall into this category. For the purposes of this lesson, these are the two nations in the Asia-Pacific that we will study in addressing the nuclear threat. India and Pakistan also possess nuclear weapons, but this issue (and others regarding India and Pakistan) will be addressed in lessons 6 and 7, when we specifically look at South Asian security issues in Asia. For this lesson (lesson 5), it will be important to understand not only the nuclear weapons capability that North Korea and China have, but their assessed intentions, strategy, and the policy that the United States and its allies have regarding this important and compelling threat.

Lesson 6: Conflict and Crisis in South Asia: The Asia-Pacific has dominated the previous lessons in this course. For the purposes of this course, that has included issues and challenges in Northeast and Southeast Asia. But South Asia (primarily India and Pakistan) is hugely important for American foreign policy - for a variety of reasons. India and Pakistan dominate the agenda for Washington's strategic, economic, political, and often, military objectives. For these reasons, the next two lessons will cover some of the complex issues in India and Pakistan that are important for American interests overseas. In this lesson, we will analyze conflict and crisis in South Asia.

Lesson 7: Assessment: This week is set aside for the student to complete a 12-15 page essay assignment. The purpose of this assignment is to measure student mastery of the course objectives.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

Arief Subhan, "[Defence and security cooperation in ASEAN](#)," The ASEAN Post, March 7, 2020.

Bechtol, Bruce E. Jr., "[North Korea's nuclear program accelerating?](#)" *Fox Business News*, September 9, 2016.

Bechtol, Bruce E. Jr., [The Last Days of Kim Jong-il: The North Korean Threat in a Changing Era](#), (Washington DC: Potomac Books, 2013). – Available on Kindle.

Bechtol, Bruce E. Jr., "[Why US remains skeptical of North Korean H-bomb claims](#)," *Fox News*, January 7, 2016.

Bruce E. Bechtol Jr. and Paul Bonicelli, "[North Korea Operating Out of a Position of Fear?](#)" *Fox Business News*, August 10, 2017.

Chari, P.R., Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema, and Stephen P. Cohen, [Four Crises and a Peace Process: American Engagement with India and Pakistan](#), (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2007), – Available on eBooks.

Coll, Steve, Basharat Peer, and Arif Jamal, "[Flash Point: India, Pakistan, and Kashmir, an Open Forum from NYU Law's Center on Law and Security](#)," NYU School of Law, Center on Law and Security, April 7, 2009.

Dobell, Graeme, "[The 2020 Asia–Pacific Outlook](#)," Real Clear Defense, December 19, 2019

MAIKO ICHIHARA, "[The Changing Role of Democracy in Asian Geopolitics](#)," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 14, 2017.

EMMERSON, DONALD K., "[Security, Community, and Democracy in Southeast Asia: Analyzing ASEAN](#)," *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 6 (2), 2005.

Hernandez, Carolina G., "[Peace and Security in the Post-Cold War Asia Pacific Region](#)," Paper Delivered at the United Nations University Global Seminar '96 Shonan Session, 2-6 September 1996, Hayama, Japan.

"[How is China modernizing its nuclear forces?](#)," Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2020.

"[India, Pakistan, and Kashmir: The Partition of India](#)," *The Economist*, Videographic, November 17, 2009.

Kerr, Paul K., and Mary Beth Nikitin, "[Pakistan's Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Security Issues](#)," CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service, January 13, 2011.

Manning, Robert A., Ronald Montaperto, and Brad Roberts, "[China, Nuclear Weapons, and Arms Control: A Preliminary Assessment](#)," Council on Foreign Relations, 2000.

Mian, Zia, "[The Politics of South Asia's Nuclear Crisis](#)," *Medicine & Global Survival*, Vol. 5, No. 2, October, 1998.

Michael S. Chase, "[Chinese Views on the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, and Their Implications](#)," China Brief, The Jamestown Foundation, Volume 18, Issue 4 (March 12, 2018).

M.V. Ramana and Lauren J. Borja, "[COMMAND AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN INDIA](#)", NAPSNet Special Reports, August 01, 2019.

"[North Korea: Nuclear](#)," Nuclear Threat Initiative, October, 2018.

"[Nuclear Crisis in South Asia: Underrated or Overstated?](#)" Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, March 11, 2019,

Pollack, Jonathan D., Katharine H.S. Moon, Sheila Smith, and Richard C. Bush, "[North Korea's fourth nuclear test: How will Pyongyang's neighbors and the U.S. respond?](#)" *Brookings Institute*, February 3, 2016.

Roy, Nalanda, [The South China Sea Disputes: Past, Present, and Future](#), (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2016), Read Chapters 2, 3, and 4.

Saalman, Lora, "[China and the U.S. Nuclear Posture Review](#)," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, February, 2011.

Schneider, Mark B. "[Does North Korea Have a Missile-Deliverable Nuclear Weapon?](#)," Heritage Foundation, May 22, 2013.

Terada, Takashi, "[East Asian Regionalism: Power, Interest, and Institution Building](#)," Presentation Delivered at the Leow Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, October 25, 2010.

"[Terrorism in Southeast Asia](#)," Congressional Research Service, May 5, 2017.

Tow, William T., (Editor), [Security Politics in the Asia-Pacific: A Regional-Global Nexus?](#) (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009), Available on eBooks.

Communication

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Scholastic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Accommodations Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services, and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#).

Student Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in-person if on campus.

- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [Military Student Success Center](#): UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.