**CONTEMPORARY ASIA**

**Spring 2021, Prof. Philip Yang, philipyang101@gmail.com**

**AIMS**

* This course is designed to serve as a major course for graduate and undergraduate International Relations students, but is also open to other students with a background or interest in studies of Asia.
* Its emphasis is on contemporary Asia, from current Asian economic development and integration, to bilateral and sub-regional issues.
* Lecture, presentation, and discussion on topics of modern Asia, including economic and political as well as cultural and historical aspects.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

* You are expected to read most the readings before the class and active participate in class discussion. Class attendance, active participation in discussion, and most readings are required.
* In-class presentation: You should make at least TWO in-class presentations, and, if necessary, work closely with other classmates to prepare for the presentations.
* Short 3-page papers: You should submit THREE 3-page papers, which focus on the analysis and comments on the scheduled topics that you choose. You are expected to submit one paper each month in March, April, and May/June.
* If you are ill and not able to come the class, you should send an explanatory email to me/teaching assistant BEFORE lecture. In Fairness: Absences (beyond one) are excused only for documented illness.

**GRADING:**

* Presentations: 20%
* THREE 3-page papers: 60%
* Attendance and participation: 20%

**SCHEDULE**

**2/25 Introduction**

**3/04 Asian Economic Integration: APEC to RCEP**

**3/11 Asian Century? Rise of Asia**

**3/18 China’s Rise and China Power**

**3/25 Belt and Road Initiative: Impact and Debt Trap**

**4/08 US-China Relations: Extreme Competition**

**4/15 US in Asia: Biden’s Asia and China Policy**

**4/22 Taiwan-US-China Trilateral Relations**

**4/29 Japan: US-Japan Security Alliance**

**5/06 Japan-South Korea Relations and NEA FTA**

**5/13 Southeast Asia: One Voice and Non-Intervention**

**5/20 Southeast Asia: Regional Powerhouse**

**5/27 South China Sea and Maritime Security in the Asia-Pacific**

**6/03 North Korea Nuclear Threat: What’s Next?**

**6/10 India: Indo-Pacific Region and China-India Conflicts**

**6/17 Conclusion**

**2/25 Introduction**

**3/04  Asian Economic Integration: APEC to RCEP**

* Mari Pangestu and Shiro Armstrong, “Asian economic integration: The state of play,” from *Asian Economic Integration in an Era of Global Uncertainty*, Australian National University Press, 2018, at <http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n4106/html/ch02.xhtml>
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* Henry S. Gao and Gregory Shaffer, “The RCEP: Great Power Competition and Cooperation over Trade,” UC Irvine School of Law Research Paper No. 2021-09, Feb. 2021, at https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3777604#
* “Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: Overview and Economic Impact,” Asian Development Bank, Dec. 2020, at https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/664096/adb-brief-164-regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership.pdf

**3/11 Asian Century? Rise of Asia**

* This is the Asian Century: Seven reasons to be optimistic about it, Nikkei Asia, Sep. 2020, at https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/The-Big-Story/This-is-the-Asian-Century-Seven-reasons-to-be-optimistic-about-it
* Peter A. Petri and Michael G. Plummer, “Trade War, RCEP and CPTPP: Will East Asia Decouple from the United States?” Working Paper 20-9, Peterson Institute for International Economics, June 2020, at http://asiapacifictrade.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Petri-Plummer-East-Asia-complete-112820.pdf
* The future of Asia: Asian flows and networks are defining the next phase of globalization, McKinsey & Company, Sep. 2019, at <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/asia-pacific/the-future-of-asia-asian-flows-and-networks-are-defining-the-next-phase-of-globalization>

**3/18 China’s Rise and China Power**

* Wayne M. Morrison, “China’s Economic Rise: History, Trends, Challenges, and Implications for the United States,” Congressional Research Service, February 5, 2018, at https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33534.pdf
* Manoj Joshi, “Invest, Acquire, Dominate: The Rise and Rise of China Tech”, ORF Occasional Paper No. 223, November 2019, Observer Research Foundation, at https://www.orfonline.org/research/invest-acquire-dominate-the-rise-and-rise-of-china-tech/
* Chu Yun-han, “It’s Time to See China for the Emerging Reformist Power It Is,” *Global Asia*, June 2020, at https://www.globalasia.org/v15no2/cover/its-time-to-see-china-for-the-emerging-reformist-power-it-is\_chu-yun-han
* “China’s Major Countries Diplomacy,” Contemporary International Relations, 2020 No. 2, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), at http://www.cicir.ac.cn/UpFiles/file/20200529/6372633918259312732554463.pdf
* Lindsay Maizland, “China’s Modernizing Military,” Council on Foreign Relations, Feb. 2020, at https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-modernizing-military

**3/25 Belt and Road Initiative: Impact and Debt Trap**

* A Concise Guide to the Belt and Road Initiative <https://www.nbr.org/publication/a-guide-to-the-belt-and-road-initiative/>
* Belt and Road Initiatives <https://www.beltroad-initiative.com/>
* Romi Jain, “Pitfalls or Windfalls in China’s Belt and Road Economic Outreach?” *Asian Survey*, 60:4, 2020, pp. 685-709, at https://online.ucpress.edu/as/article/60/4/685/111115/Pitfalls-or-Windfalls-in-China-s-Belt-and-Road
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* Deborah Brautigam and Meg Rithmire, “The Chinese Debt Trap Is a Myth, The Atlantic, February 6, 2021, at https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2021/02/china-debt-trap-diplomacy/617953/

**4/08 US-China Relations: Extreme Competition**

* Timeline: U.S. Relations with China, Council on Foreign Relations, at https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china
* Ash Carter, “Reflections on American Grand Strategy in Asia,” Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, Oct. 2018, at <https://www.belfercenter.org/publication/reflections-american-grand-strategy-asia>
* U.S.-China Relations, Congressional Research Service, Aug. 2019. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45898.pdf>
* America's Future in a Dynamic Asia (Douglas Paal, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Jan. 2019) <https://carnegieendowment.org/2019/01/31/america-s-future-in-dynamic-asia-pub-78222>
* David Dollar and Ryan Hass, “Getting the China challenge right,” Brookings Institute, January 2021, at https://www.brookings.edu/research/getting-the-china-challenge-right/

**4/15 US in Asia: Biden’s Asia and China Policy**

* Kurt M. Campbell and Rush Doshi, “How America Can Shore Up Asian Order,” Foreign Affairs, January 12, 2021, at https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2021-01-12/how-america-can-shore-asian-order
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**4/22 Taiwan-US-China Trilateral Relations**

* Robert D. Blackwill and Philip Zelikow, *The United States, China, and Taiwan: A Strategy to Prevent War*, Council of Foreign Report, Feb. 2021, at https://cdn.cfr.org/sites/default/files/report\_pdf/the-united-states-china-and-taiwan-a-strategy-to-prevent-war.pdf
* John Fuh-sheng Hsieh, “Continuity and Change in the US–China–Taiwan Relations,” Journal of Asian and African Studies, March 2020, Volume: 55 issue: 2, pp. 187-200.
* Dean Chen, “The End of Liberal Engagement with China and the New U.S.-Taiwan Focus,” *Pacific Focus*, 35, no. 3, 2020, pp. 397-435.
* Patricia Kim, “Understanding China’s Military Expansion,” Pacific Council of International Policy, September 2019, at https://www.pacificcouncil.org/newsroom/understanding-china’s-military-expansion

**4/29 Japan: US-Japan Security Alliance**

* Richard L. Armitage and Joseph S. Nye, “The U.S.-Japan Alliance in 2020,” CSIS Report, December 2020, at https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/201204\_Armitage\_Nye\_US\_Japan\_Alliance\_1.pdf
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**5/06 Japan-South Korea Relations and NEA FTA**

* Mounting Tensions: A Timeline of Japan-South Korea Relations https://japankorea.csis.org
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**5/13 Southeast Asia: One Voice and Non-Intervention**

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* Somkiat Tangkitvanich and Saowaruj Rattanakhamfu, “The ASEAN Economic Community and the East Asian agenda,” from *Asian Economic Integration in an Era of Global Uncertainty*, Australian National University Press, 2018, at [http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n4106/html/ch07.xhtml?referer=&page=14#](http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n4106/html/ch07.xhtml?referer=&page=14)
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**5/27 South China Sea and Maritime Security in the Asia-Pacific**

* Suisheng Zhao, “East Asian Disorder: China and the South China Sea Disputes,” *Asian Survey*, 60:3, 2020, pp. 490-509, at https://online.ucpress.edu/as/article/60/3/490/110498/East-Asian-DisorderChina-and-the-South-China-Sea
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**6/03 North Korea Nuclear Threat: What’s Next?**

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**6/10 India: Indo-Pacific Region and China-India Conflicts**

* Dhiraj Nayyar, India's Asian trade strategy, [http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n4106/html/ch08.xhtml?referer=&page=15#](http://press-files.anu.edu.au/downloads/press/n4106/html/ch08.xhtml?referer=&page=15)
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**6/17 Conclusion**