

## **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>
- Shen Minghui, “Evaluation of regional economic integration in East Asia.” 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/ch10.xhtml?referer=&page=17#>
- 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#](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](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>
- Wang Kai and Ni Jianjun, "An Approach for Building a High-Quality Belt and Road," Contemporary International Relations, 2019 No. 6, China Institute of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), at <http://www.cicir.ac.cn/UpFiles/file/20200228/6371848404824817107705588.pdf>

- 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>
- Hal Brands and Jake Sullivan, “China Has Two Paths to Global Domination,” Foreign Policy, May 22, 2020, at <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/22/china-superpower-two-paths-global-domination-cold-war/>
- Anonymous, “The Longer Telegram: Toward a new American China strategy,” Atlantic Council, February 2021, at <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/content-series/atlantic-council-strategy-paper-series/the-longer-telegram/>

- “Implementing Restraint: Changes in U.S. Regional Security Policies to Operationalize a Realist Grand Strategy of Restraint,” RAND, February 2021, at [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RRA739-1.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA739-1.html)

## 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](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](https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/201204_Armitage_Nye_US_Japan_Alliance_1.pdf)
- Ryo Sahashi, “Japan’s strategy amid US–China confrontation,” *China International Strategy Review*, Volume 2, 2020, pages232–245, at <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42533-020-00061-9>
- Lindsey W. Ford and James Goldgeier, “Retooling America’s alliances to manage the China challenge,” *Brookings Brief*, Jan. 25, 2021, at <https://www.brookings.edu/research/retooling-americas-alliances-to-manage-the-china-challenge/>
- US-Japan Security Alliance, Council on Foreign Relations <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/us-japan-security-alliance>
- The US-Japan Alliance, Congressional Research Service, June 2019. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33740.pdf>

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

- Mounting Tensions: A Timeline of Japan-South Korea Relations  
<https://japankorea.csis.org>
- The Japan-Korea Crisis, CSIS <https://www.csis.org/programs/korea-chair/csis-japan-korea-crisis>
- Ji-Whan Yun, “Conservative Politics and Compassionate Paternalism in Korea and Japan: No Way Out?” *Asian Survey*, 59: 5, 2019, pp. 911-936, at <https://online.ucpress.edu/as/article-abstract/59/5/911/109479/Conservative-Politics-and-Compassionate?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
- Kyle Ferrier, “Could RCEP Help Improve South Korea-Japan Relations?” *The Diplomat*, Nov. 2020, at <https://thediplomat.com/2020/11/could-rcep-help-improve-south-korea-japan-relations/>
- “China-Japan-SK FTA to speed up with RCEP push,” *Global Times*, Nov. 18, 2020, at <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1207275.shtml>

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

- The State of Southeast Asia: 2020 Survey Report. ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore, at [https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/TheStateofSEASurveyReport\\_2020.pdf](https://www.iseas.edu.sg/images/pdf/TheStateofSEASurveyReport_2020.pdf)
- Hyo Won Lee and Sijeong Lim, “Public Feelings toward ASEAN: One Vision, One Identity, One Community?” *Asian Survey*, 60:5, 2020, pp. 803-829, at <https://online.ucpress.edu/as/article-abstract/60/5/803/112073/Public-Feelings-toward-ASEANOne-Vision-One?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

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

- Khuong Vo, “ASEAN economic prospects amid emerging turbulence: Development challenges and implications for reform,” Brookings Institute, June 2020, at [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FP\\_20200715\\_asean\\_economic\\_prospects\\_vu.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FP_20200715_asean_economic_prospects_vu.pdf)

- Somkiat Tangkitvanich and Saowaruj Rattanakhomfu, “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#>
- Kaushik Das, ASEAN's transformation to a global player, McKinsey & Company <https://www.mckinsey.com/Videos/video?vid=6094062291001&plyrid=HkOJqCPWdb>

## **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>
- Mubeen Adnan & Fakhara Shahid, “South China Sea Dispute: China’s Role and Proposed Solutions ,” *Journal of Political Studies*, Vol. 27, Issue 1, 2020, pp. 205-220. At [http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/pols/pdf-files/12-v27\\_2\\_20.pdf](http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/pols/pdf-files/12-v27_2_20.pdf)

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

- Arms Control and Proliferation Profile: North Korea, Fact Sheets and Briefs, Arms Control Association, 2018, at <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/northkoreaprofile>
- Chronology of U.S.-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy, Arms Control Association, 2020, at <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/dprkchron>
- North Korean Strategic Nuclear Threat, Nuclear Threat Initiative, at <https://www.nti.org/learn/countries/north-korea/>

## **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#>



- Prachi Priya and Aniruddha Ghosh, “India’s Out of RCEP: What’s Next for the Country and Free Trade?” Diplomat, December 2020, at <https://thediplomat.com/2020/12/indias-out-of-rcep-whats-next-for-the-country-and-free-trade/>
- “India-China Border Dispute: A Conflict Explained,” New York Times, Sept. 2020, at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/17/world/asia/india-china-border-clashes.html>

## **6/17 Conclusion**