

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**  
College of Arts & Science  
Department of Politics

V53.0770 International  
Relations of Asia (Pacific)

Sp/07 (MW2-3:15 p.m.)  
Prof. James C. Hsiung

**Syllabus**

This course studies the international relations of Pacific Asia, i.e., the relations of the region's component parts both *inter se* and with external powers, incl. the United States, the former Soviet Union (now Russia), etc. Pacific Asia is defined to comprise, in descending order: China, Japan, the four Asian NIEs (newly industrialized economies: South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore), and ASEAN-5 (Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Brunei, minus the newly admitted Indochina states and Myanmar, formerly Burma, except tangentially). North Korea will also figure in our discussions of the security question confronting the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia.

This, admittedly, is a vast area to cover in a one-semester course, even though we will (basically) leave out Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the Pacific Island states, the last of which are usually referred to as the "Pacific Basin," as opposed to the Pacific Rim that command our attention. We will try to maintain a coherent view of the region as a whole, while studying the foreign relations of its members.

To give the course a focus, we will pay more attention to the international relations of two key actors—China and Japan—and draw in other key actors (incl. the U.S., Russia, etc) in the context of the reach of their influence. The term "relations" used here denotes its political, security, and economic dimensions. Although some understanding of the past (especially since WWII) is useful, the emphasis is on the post-Cold War era, which witnesses among other things the rise of what some scholars call the age of "comprehensive security." The term incorporates geoeconomics, which means that a nation's economic clout counts more than its military might and that economic security eclipses military security (or national defense) in importance. Because of its robust economic vitality (despite the effects of the financial crisis of the late 1990s), Pacific Asia is seen by many (including the World Bank) as likely to lead the world's other regions in the 21st century. Other components of "comprehensive security" include environmental and human security. All three components (incl. economic security) of comprehensive security are addressed. And, our approach is to incorporate the region into the global context.

**TEXTBOOKS FOR PURCHASE**

^Derek McDougal, *Asia Pacific in World Politics* (2007);

^Mel Gurtov, *Pacific Asia: Prospects for Security & Cooperation in East Asia* (2002);

^ Samuel S. Kim, *International Relations of Northeast Asia* (2004)

^Yutaka Kawashima, *Japanese Foreign Policy at the Crossroads* (2003)

+R^: Recommended textbook-- James C. Hsiung (a), *Comprehensive Security: Challenge for Pacific Asia* (2004).

#### BOOKS ON RESERVE

\*James C. Hsiung (b), *Twenty-First Century World Order & the Asia Pacific* (2001);

\*Samuel S. Kim (hereunder referred to as SSK), *China and the World*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (1998);

\*James C. Hsiung (JCH 1993), *Asia Pacific in the New World Politics* (1993).

#### CLASS CALENDAR AND READINGS

(N.B.: There is built-in flexibility in the readings to accommodate different backgrounds and interests of students. Depth, for example, is provided for those who wish to go on to graduate school.)

1. Intro: International Power Structure of the Region Following the End of WWII
  - ^McDougal, 1-24
  - \*JCH (1993), 213-234
  
2. Pacific Asia in the Post-Cold War Era
  - \*Hsiung (b), 17-56; 77-80
  - ^Gurtov, 1-58
  - \*JCH (1993), 1-20
  
3. China as a Regional & Global Actor
  - ^McDougal, 51-74
  - ^Gurtov, 59-90
  - ^Kim, 65-134
  - \*Hsiung (b), 87-88; 366-368; 309-325
  - \*JCH (1993), 71-92
  
4. China's Relations with the Major Powers (U.S. & Russia)
  - ^McDougal, 115-144 (post-Cold War Sino-US rels)
  - \*Hsiung (b), 356-357; 360 (the Sino-US-Japan triad)
  - \*SSK, ch. 5: 114-132 (with Russia)
  
5. China's Relations with Its Neighbors
  - ^McDougal, 145-162

\*Hsiung (b), 113-135 (with Taiwan)

6. Japan as an International Actor

^Kawashima, 1-21; 135-152

^McDougal, 75-91; 101-114

^Kim, 171-200

\*JCH (1993), 21-48; 49-70

7. Japan's Relations with Its Neighbors

^Kawashima, 73-94; 95-109; 110-125

^McDougal, 92-100

R: Curtis, 263-322

8. Japan's Economic & Security Relations in the New Era

^Kawashima, 2-54; 55-72

^Kim, 170-200

R: Curtis, 202-262

R: Garrett & Glasser

9. The Two Koreas and Northeast Asian Security

^McDougal, 179-200

^Gurtov, 161-188

^Kim, 251-300

\*JCH (1993), 93-112

10. Southeast Asia in the Region

^McDougal, 201-230; 231-266 (Indonesia)

\*Hsiung (b), 213-256

\*JCH (1993), 135-160

R: Singh (2002)

11. Regionalism & Regional Institution Building

^McDougal, 297-320

\*Hsiung (b), 159-212

^Gurtov, 50-90

^Kim, 331-362

\*JCH (1993), 195-212

## 12. Comprehensive Security in Pacific Asia

R^: Hsiung (a) (2004), 1-60

\*SSK, 264-286 (China's environmental diplomacy)

## 13. U.S. and Russian Roles in Asia Pacific

^McDougal, 31-50 (U.S.); 268-277 (Russia)

^Kim, 201-224; 225-250

^Gurtov, 189-210

\*JCH (1993), 161-176; 177-194

R: Thakur & Thayer, 85-100; 281-284

## 14. Rise of a Pacific Era? (Rise of China?)

^McDougal, 323-327

\*Hsiung (b), 80-121; 343-371

^Gurtov, 211-228

\*JCH (1993), 235-262

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Legend:

^ indicates textbook used for the course.

\* = on reserve

R: = recommended reading, not required; nor on reserve

R^ = recommended as subsidiary textbook

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## OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

Class attendance is absolutely essential, as we try to weave diverse strands together and update the readings in class lectures. In addition to an in-class mid-term and final exam, a summary paper is required, due at the time of the final. The summary paper should incorporate your notes from both the readings and class lectures. The idea is to demonstrate that you have done the readings, attended class, and digested the material—most important of all, that you see the forest, not just the trees. Length of the paper is flexible, but preferably should not be longer than 25 pages double-spaced (no elite type or small font please!), written in prose (not in outline form). Past experience indicates that preparation of the summary paper is the best way to prepare for the exams, and to retain what you have learned.

My office hours are Mondays, 3:30 -5:30 p.m., plus other times by appointment. My office is at 19 West 4<sup>th</sup> St., Rm. 222; my direct line is: (212) 998-8523 (with voice mail), and my e-mail address: <[jch2@nyu.edu](mailto:jch2@nyu.edu)>.

## TITLES CITED IN THE READINGS

Curtis, Gerald, ed. 1993. *Japan's Foreign Policy After the Cold War: Coping with Change*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Garret, Banning and Bonnie Glasser. 1997. "Chinese Apprehensions About Revitalization of the U.S.-Japan Alliance," *Asian Survey*, 37, 4: 383-402 (April).

Singh, Bhubhindar. 2002. "ASEAN's Perceptions of Japan: Change and Continuity," *Asian Survey* 42,2:276-296 (March-April).

Thakur, Ramesh and Carlyle Thayer. 1993. *Reshaping Regional Relations: Asia Pacific and the Former Soviet Union*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.