CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF ASIA. INR 4224-0001. UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA. 3:00 P.M. TO 4:20 P.M. BA 221. TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. FALL 2011.

PROF. JOHN C. BERSIA, UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OFFICE AT UCF
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

I. INTRODUCTION

The "Pacific Century" is often used to describe the contemporary period, due to the Pacific Rim"s increasing prominence in global economics, concentration of rising powers such as China, India and Russia, and importance as an international crossroads. This course defines the Asia-Pacific region in a broad sense, providing a survey and critical evaluation of the status of and relationships among nations of East, Southeast and South Asia, along with their connections to the rest of the world. Special attention is given to U.S. links with the Pacific Rim, "strategic quadrangle" (Japan, China, the United States and Russia) issues and India.

II. TEXTBOOKS & RESOURCES

Two texts are required for this course:

1) Collinwood, Dean W. *Japan and the Pacific Rim*. Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series, 2011 (10th ed.).
2) Norton, James H. K. *India and South Asia.* Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series, 2011 (10th ed.).

Additional material is distributed in class. Also, please consult the Global Perspectives Office"s website, www.ucfglobalperspectives.org, for details on co-curricular activities related to the course.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is not a traditional one with formal lectures. Rather, it features a combination of informal discussions and simulations, with an emphasis on interactive learning. Presentation material – including talks by guest speakers – is often not found in reading assignments. Students also have an extraordinary opportunity to participate in public, co-curricular programs on campus featuring prominent specialists on global issues such as political change, peace and security, social media, terrorism, genocide and the environment. Attendance at these programs is required when they are scheduled at the same time as the class. Extra credit is given for participating in programs at other times. There are two exams, a take-home mid-term and an end-of-term exam (in class); each one has twelve (12) short-essay questions, from which students select ten (10), and is worth 30% of the final grade. Students participate in one all-class simulation and one of three small-group simulations (with each small group producing a 5-page position paper due on the date of that group"s simulation); each simulation is worth 10% of the final grade. The end-of-term exam is not cumulative. There are two pop quizzes; each is worth 5% of the final grade. Class attendance and participation are required (10% of the final grade). The grading system of A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), etc., is used in class, with pluses and minuses given.

IV. SCHEDULE (Japan = Japan and the Pacific Rim; India = India and South Asia)

Aug. 23 – Introduction to the Asia-Pacific region. **Formation of small groups for simulations.**
Aug. 25 – The "strategic quadrangle" concept. Asia-Pacific challenges in the 21st century. Japan, "The Pacific Rim."
Aug. 30 – Japan"s perspective. The debate over the country"s regional and global roles. Japan, "Japan" and related articles.
Sept. 1 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Anthony Shadid, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and Beirut bureau chief for *The New York Times*, Pegasus Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).

Sept. 6 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Ramesh Ponnuru, a senior editor for *The National Review* who writes on national and international issues (especially Japan), Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Sept. 8 – **Japan simulation.**
Sept. 13 – China‟s perspective and positioning as a 21st century superpower. Japan, "China" and related articles.
Sept. 15 – China, continued.
Sept. 20 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Rose Mapendo, a humanitarian, activist and survivor of the Congolese genocide, Pegasus Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Sept. 22 – China, continued. In-class presentation by Jessica Gagnon. **Distribution of first small-group simulation paper, "Will China Soon Become a Threatening superpower?"**
Sept. 27 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by James Traub, author of *The Freedom Agenda* and contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Sept. 29 – **First small-group simulation on China.**
Oct. 4 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Roya Hakakian, an author, poet and documentary filmmaker who is one of the founding members of the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Oct. 6 – U.S. policy toward the Asia-Pacific region. **Distribution of second small-group simulation, "Is the United States a Declining Power?"**
Oct. 11 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Peter Bergen, a senior fellow at the New America Foundation and national security analyst for CNN, is the author of the best-selling books, *Holy War, Inc*., and *The Osama bin Laden I Know*, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required). **Review for mid-term distributed.**
Oct. 13 – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., special conference on "People Power, Politics and Global Change," featuring Fiona Hill, director of the Europe Center at the Brookings Institution and formerly the National Intelligence Council‟s officer for Russia; Sam Graham-Felsen, a global emerging media strategist; and others, Pegasus Ballroom, UCF Student Union (strongly encouraged, with extra credit given). **Mid-term exam distributed. No meeting at usual class time because of morning program.**
Oct. 18 – **Second small-group simulation on the United States. Mid-term exam is due.**
Oct. 20 – Soviet and Russian policy toward the Asia-Pacific region. **Distribution of third small-group simulation, "Has Russia Become Undemocratic and Antagonistic?"**
Oct. 25 – 3:00 p.m., special conference on Women and Leadership: A Global Perspective, featuring Samantha Nutt, M.D., humanitarian and author of *Damned Nations: Greed, Guns, Armies and Aid*; among others, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Oct. 27 – **Third small-group simulation on Russia.** India and South Asia. India, "Images of South Asia," "India," "Pakistan" and related articles.
Nov. 1 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Peter Thum, founder of Ethos Water, speaking on water issues as part of the university-wide focus on the environment and global climate change, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Nov. 3 – India and South Asia, continued.
Nov. 8 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Bing West, correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly* and a former Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Nov. 10 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by Arun Gandhi, peace activist and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Cape Florida Ballroom, UCF Student Union (required).
Nov. 14 – 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., International Education Week kickoff event, featuring Mariane Pearl, author of *A Mighty Heart* and widow of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl (strongly encouraged, with extra credit given).
Nov. 15 – The „Small Tigers‟ – Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea. Japan, "Hong Kong," "Taiwan," "Singapore," "South Korea," and related articles.
Nov. 17 – Remnants of socialism: North Korea and Vietnam. Japan, "North Korea," "Vietnam" and related articles.
Nov. 22 – Indonesia, Malaysia, and other remaining Southeast Asia countries and issues. Japan, unread sections.
Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving Day holiday; no class.
Nov. 29 – Prospects for the future.
Dec. 1 – **Review for final**. Last day of this class.
Dec. 3 – Classes end university-wide.
Dec. 8 – **Final Exam**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.