CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF ASIA. INR 4224-0001. UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA. 3:00 P.M. TO 4:20 P.M. BA1 213. TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. FALL 2015.

PROF. JOHN C. BERSIA, UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OFFICE AT UCF
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COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANT/FACILITATOR: Lauren Adair, Lauren.Adair@ucf.edu

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

INTRODUCTION

The "Pacific Century" is often used to describe the contemporary period because of 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.

TEXTBOOKS & RESOURCES

There are no textbooks required for this course. Handouts/reading assignments are 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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Structure:

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 topics such as political change, peace and security, leadership, terrorism, culture and diplomacy. 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.

Grading:

1. Take-home mid-term, with has twelve (12) short-essay questions, from which students select ten (10). 25% of the final grade.
2. Students participate in one all-class simulation and one of three small-group simulations. 30% of the final grade.
3. Final exam. 25% of the final grade.
4. Class attendance and participation are required. 20% of the final grade.
5. The grading system of A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), etc., is used in class, with pluses and minuses given.

SCHEDULE

Aug. 24 – **Term begins.**
Aug. 25 – **First day of this class.** Introduction to the Asia-Pacific region. **Formation of small groups for simulations.**
Aug. 27 – The "strategic quadrangle" concept. Asia-Pacific challenges in the 21st century. Handouts: "Japan" and "The Pacific Rim." **Last day to drop and request full refund; drop/swap deadline.**
Aug. 28 – **Add deadline.**
Sept. 1 – Japan's perspective. The debate over the country's regional and global roles.
Sept. 3 – **No class; football game.**
Sept. 8 – Japan, continued.
Sept. 10 – **Japan simulation.**
Sept. 15 – China's perspective and positioning as a 21st century rising superpower. Handouts: "China" and "History's Unfinished Business in Asia."
Sept. 17 – China, continued. **Distribution of first small-group simulation paper, "Is China Becoming a Dangerous Superpower?"**
Sept. 21 – 10:30 a.m., special presentation by Ndaba Mandela, Cape Florida Ballroom, Student Union. Extra credit given for attendance.
Sept. 22 – 3:00 p.m., special presentation by documentary-maker Hugh Renfro, Cape Florida Ballroom, Student Union. Attendance is required.
Sept. 24 – **First small-group simulation on China.**
Sept. 29 – U.S. policy toward the Asia-Pacific Region. Handouts: "China and the 'Pivot' to Asia" and "China's Bullying No Match for U.S. Pacific Power."
Oct. 1– U.S., continued. **Distribution of second small-group simulation, "Is the United States a Declining Power?"**
Oct. 5 – 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Lou Frey Institute Symposium, Pegasus Ballroom, Student Union. Advance registration required. Extra credit given for attendance.
Oct. 6 – U.S., continued. **Second small-group simulation on the United States.**
Oct. 8 – Soviet and Russian policy toward the Asia-Pacific Region. Handouts: "The Kremlin's Anti-West Turn," "Moscow and the Asia Pivot," "How to Avoid a New Cold War," "The High Stakes of the Ukraine Crisis," Russian Nationalism and Ukraine" and "The Burden of Communist Legacies."
Oct. 13 – Soviet and Russian policy, continued. **Distribution of mid-term exam.**
Oct. 15 – 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Interfaith Forum, Key West Ballroom, Student Union. Advance registration required. Extra credit given for attendance.
Oct. 15 – Soviet and Russian policy, continued. **Distribution of third small-group simulation, "Should Russia Be Considered a Hostile Country?" Mid-term exam is due.**
Oct. 20 – **Third small-group simulation on Russia.**
Oct. 22 – The 'Small Tigers' – Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea. Handouts: "Hong Kong," "Taiwan," "Singapore" and "South Korea."
Oct. 27 – The 'Small Tigers,' continued.
Oct. 29 – Remnants of socialism: North Korea and Vietnam. Handouts: "North Korea," "The Kims' Three Bodies: Communism and Dynastic Succession in North Korea" and "Vietnam."
Nov. 2 – **Withdrawal deadline.**
Nov. 3 – Remnants of socialism, continued.
Nov. 5 – Indonesia, Malaysia and remaining Southeast Asia countries. "Indonesia," "Malaysia" and "Pluralism, Performance and Personalities: Political Change in Southeast Asia."
Nov. 10 – Indonesia, Malaysia, continued.
Nov. 12 – India, Pakistan and South Asia. Handouts: "India," "Pakistan," "Images of South Asia," "Can Modi Deliver a New India?" and "War-Weary Pakistan's Internal Divides."
Nov. 17 – India, Pakistan, continued.
Nov. 19 – **No class; football game.**
Nov. 24 – India, Pakistan, continued.
Nov. 26 – **Thanksgiving Day holiday; no class.**
Dec. 1 – Special topic: human trafficking in Asia.
Dec. 3 – Prospects for the future. Review for final.
Dec. 7 – **Classes end university-wide.**
Dec. 8 – **Study day.**
Dec. 10 – **Final Exam**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.