INR4224 Contemporary International Politics of Asia
(Spring 2018)
University of Central Florida
MoWeFr 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM
PSY 0105

Instructor: Xiongwei Cao
Office: Howard Phillips Hall Room 312 (next to the Doctoral GTA Room)
Phone: (407)618-3262, but email is better
E-mail: caoxiongwei@knights.ucf.edu
Office hours: Mon: 11:30 AM-15:30 PM, or by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the contemporary international politics in Asia, a most diversified and important region for the study of international politics today. Asia, as a region compared to others, has the largest population, biggest economic size, and most heterogeneous characteristics of the states included. This is the region that witnessed two major hot wars during the Cold War era—The Korean War and the Vietnam War. This is the region that almost all the major powers are engaged in their power game. After the end of the Cold War, global power is increasingly shifting to this region. The United States during President Obama's term announced a "pivot to Asia" to rebalance its resource investment in this region. Today, it is still a region continuously attracting policy, media and academic attentions with hot issues such as North Korea's nuclear program. Our study will not only cover the international politics of the major regional states such as China and Japan, but also key "outside" players deeply involved in Asia such as the United States and the European Union. This course will equip you with basic knowledge and various perspectives about international politics in Asia. My hope is that every member of this class will, at the end of this course, develop a profound and comprehensive understanding of the international politics in Asia

Required Books

1. David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds). 2014. *International Relations of Asia*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

Course Requirements: You are supposed to have already taken basic International Relations Theories class and are familiar with the major perspectives and theories in the discipline of International Relations. Attendance and participation is a crucial component of your learning experience. The best way to do well in the course and develop a strong grasp of the material it covers is to attend the course regularly, read and carefully

consider the required materials beforehand, and be prepared to analyze and discuss those materials in class. An active participation in all class discussions is expected.

Your final grade will be based on one research paper, two exams and your weekly participation. The exams will account for 60% of your final grade (mid-term exam and final exam 30% each). Attendance and participation will account for 10% and the research paper the last 30% of your final grade.

Exams: Each of the two exams will consist of around 20 multiple-choice or true/false questions and 2-4 short essay questions. All of them are open-book open-note exams. Exams will be available on Webcourses at the class time of the exam day. Scores of the exams will be released within one week on Webcourses.

Research paper: You are supposed to raise an important question concerning international relations in Asia. Then, you are expected to briefly introduce relevant background of the question, and search different sources of academic literature to address the causes of that question. You must finally come up with your own opinion on the question with arguments supported by facts and analysis. More details about the requirements will be released in class. You are encouraged to pick the question and discuss with the instructor early.

Extra Credit: You may receive an additional bonus towards your final grade, up to 5%, based on a review of a book on the topic of international politics in Asia. It must be submitted before the end of the 14th week in order to be graded.

Course Correspondence and Webcourses: All correspondence with the instructor will be via email or through Webcourses. I will usually respond to your email/message within 48 hours on business days. I will also post important information or any changes to the syllabus on Webcourses. So please check Webcourses periodically.

Make-up Exam Policy: Make-up exams will be granted only in the case of an emergency and/or a university documented absence. If exam dates conflict with a religious holiday, please notify the instructor about this at the beginning of the semester. I will seek to accommodate you.

Academic Activity and Financial Aid: All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity no later than **Friday, January 12, 2018** on the course page on Webcourses: post a brief description (up to a paragraph) of why you are interested in taking this course. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid (but this academic activity is not graded and has no impact on your final grade).

UCF Disability Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the

instructor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center, Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the instructor.

UCF Rules of Conduct: As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offenses. Please refer to the University's Rules of Conduct (available at: http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu) for more information on these issues. Failure to comply with university rules may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university authorities and/or appropriate civil authorities. The penalty for students who plagiarize or cheat on an exam or an assignment will include a grade of F on that exam or assignment.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A -	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B -	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C -	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D -	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction (01/08—01/12)

David Shambaugh, "International Relations in Asia: A Multidimensional Analysis," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 1.

Week 2: Legacies & Theories I (01/15—01/19)

Samuel S. Kim, "The Evolving Asian System: Three Transformations," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 2

Note: No class on Monday, January 15.

Week 3: Legacies & Theories II (01/22—01/26)

Amitav Acharya, "Thinking Theoretically about Asian IR," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 3

Week 4: The Role of External Powers I (01/29—02/02)

Robert Sutter, "The United States in Asia: Durable Leadership," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 4

Week 5: The Role of External Powers II (02/05—02/09)

Sebastian Bersick, "Europe's Role in Asia: Distant but Involved," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 5

Week 6: Regional Powers I (02/12—02/16)

Philip C. Saunders, "China's Role in Asia: Attractive or Assertive?" in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 6

Week 7: Regional Powers II (02/19—02/23)

T.V. Paul, "India's Role in Asia: A Rising Regional Power," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 7

Week 8: Regional Powers III (02/26—03/02)

Michael Green, "Japan's Role in Asia: Searching for Certainty," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 8

Note: The mid-term exam will be taken during the class time (10:30-11:20 AM) on Friday, March 02.

Week 9: Sub-Regional Actors I (03/05—03/09)

East Sheldon W. Simon, "ASEAN and Southeast Asia: Remaining Relevant," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 9

Week 10: Spring Break (03/12—03/16)

No class

Week 11: Sub-Regional Actors II (03/19—03/23)

1. Hugh White, "Australia's Choices in the Asian Century," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 10
2. Martha Brill Olcott, "Central Asia: The End of the 'Great Game'?" in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 11

Week 12: Sub-Regional Actors III (03/26—03/30)

Scott Snyder, "The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian Stability," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 12

Week 13: Trans-Regional Linkages and Dynamics I (04/02—04/06)

Edward J. Lincoln, "The Asian Regional Economy" in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 13

Week 14: Trans-Regional Linkages and Dynamics II (04/09—04/13)

1. Nayan Chanda, "Globalization and International Relations in Asia," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 14
2. Ralph A. Cossa, "Security Dynamics in Asia," in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 15

Note: Book review due on Friday, April 13 if you want a bonus.

Week 15: Conclusion (04/16—04/20)

Michael Yahuda, "Looking Ahead: A New Asian Order?" in Shambaugh & Yahuda (eds) 2014: Chapter 16

Week 16: Final Exam Week (04/23—04/27)

No class meeting required.

Note: Research paper due Friday, April 27.

Final Exam time: Monday, April 30, 2018
10:00 AM – 12:50 PM[1]

[1] **Note:** This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.