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## Course plan

**B2.522 - East Asia in World Politics**

**Credits: 4.0**

**Subject coordinator**

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## Presentation

### Description

In the course **East Asia in World Politics** students will gain an in-depth knowledge of the **international politics** of this important region.

**East Asia** is today one of the most **relevant regions** in the world, both **economically** and **politically**. This vast and diverse region is home to the second and third largest economies in the world, **China** and **Japan**. In the last decades, it has become a **global hub** of finance, manufacturing and trade. However, contrasting with its **economic dynamism**, the region is also a **hotspot of geopolitical tension** and potentially destabilizing latent conflicts.

During the **Cold War**, East Asia was the scenario of **superpower competition** with myriad proxy wars fought in this theater. Today, despite having become an engine of the global economy, the **sequels of the Cold War** remain palpable throughout the region as several of its latent conflicts originated in that context: e.g. **Taiwan**, the **Korean Peninsula**... At the same time, with the **rise of China**, the region has undergone a major **shift in the balance of power**, whose outcome remains **uncertain**. This course will examine the main dynamics of **conflict and cooperation** in these two periods in order to understand the full complexity of the region today.

The course is divided into **four activity-centered units**:

**Unit 1** will give us an **overview of the region** today and **introduce** some of the **relevant questions** that will be analyzed during the course. How do we define East Asia? Contending geopolitical delimitations of the region. Which changes has this region experienced in recent years? What are the main challenges facing this region today? What is the legacy of the Cold War in this region? To what extent is East Asia a cohesive region? In this unit, we will also review how the main theories of International Relations (IR), Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, look at the international politics and security of this region.

**Unit 2** is dedicated to analyzing the impact of the region's **three major powers** in shaping it: the US, China and Japan. The first part of the unit is dedicated to the **United States**. We will analyze Washington's preeminent role in East Asia, and the elements of consistency and disruption that have characterized the American policies and approach to this region from World War II until the Trump Administration. The second part of the unit is dedicated to **China**. We will analyze the impact China's rise for the region and, particularly, for China's relations with its regional neighbors, paying attention to Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan and North Korea. We will also discuss the so-called 'Beijing Strategy' and the challenges this poses for the region as we know it. The third part of the unit is dedicated to **Japan** and its evolving role from what some have described a 'client state' of the US into a key politico-strategic partner for the US in the region. We will discuss how the Japanese foreign and security policies have been shaped by its so-called 'Peace Constitution' and whether, against the backdrop of a rapidly changing international environment, pacifism has given way to more proactive foreign policy postures in the island-nation.

**Unit 3** will revolve around the challenges of **regionalism** and **regional security in East Asia**. First, we will look at the impact of transnational forces (**globalization**) in the region. We will discuss how the intensification of globalization has given place to different types of regionalism in the East Asian context and we will explore the complex relations of **interdependence** that link Northeast, Southeast and South Asia. Next, we will pay attention to the study case of ASEAN - the Association of South East Asian Nations. We will explore how this organization has become a hub around which a network of Asian regional organizations has emerged (the centrality of **ASEAN**). Finally, this unit will shift to issues concerning intra-regional security, with focus on the main flashpoints of tension in the region. We will analyze how the East Asian **security architecture** has been built through US-led bilateral 'hub-and-spokes' model, and the challenges it faces.

**Unit 4** is a synthesis unit, organized around a **virtual debate**. In this unit we will put the contents of the course in perspective while maintaining an academic discussion about some of the most poignant international issues unfolding currently in that region.

### The course as part of the programme as a whole

The Master's Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy (UOC, UNITAR) is designed for diplomats and government officials involved in international affairs, as well as those persons involved in international relations or seeking a career in this field.

The course **East Asia in World Politics** provide the students with an in-depth knowledge of the dynamics of conflict and cooperation that occur in this important region of the world as well as the driving forces behind them. After completing this course, students will be able to critically analyze and discuss international issues unfolding in the region with observance of the strictest academic standards and methods.

### Professional fields it is linked to

- National bodies (such as government ministries and departments, civil services, think-tanks, and policy advisory groups)
- Embassies and consulates
- International organizations (such as the UN, UN agencies, EU departments)
- Campaign groups, aid agencies and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- Companies operating on an international level
- Journalists and other media professionals
- Banking, financial services and corporate consultancy
- University lecturers

### Prior knowledge

No prior knowledge is required, although some familiarity with the East Asian region could be useful.

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## Objectives and competencies

The course **East Asia in World Politics** aims to help students:

- Gain a solid understanding of the challenges that the East Asian region faces today.
- Understand the role that the region's main powers have had in shaping the region as it is today.
- Distinguish the elements of continuation and rupture that exist between the East Asian region during the Cold War and the post-Cold War era.
- Be able to analyze critically the dynamics of conflict and cooperation that exist in the East Asian region.
- Develop the ability to present persuasive arguments on topics related to international affairs and public diplomacy unfolding in the region.
- Develop independent research and analytical skills.

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## Content

| UNIT   | CONTENT   | MANDATORY READINGS   | ACTIVITIES   |
|--|---|--|--------------|
| <b>1. Introduction: Asia's 'Great Game'?</b> | <p>1. Basic overview of the region and the main questions the course will cover.</p> <p>1.1. Asia? East Asia? Northeast Asia? Asia-Pacific? Contending geopolitical delimitations of the region.</p> <p>1.2. A region in rapid transformation.</p> <p>1.3. Challenges</p> | <p>Learning Resource "East Asia in World Politics".</p> <p>From the book 'The New Global Politics of the Asia Pacific', 3rd ed.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction, pp. 1--28</li></ul> | <b>CAT 1</b> |

1.4. Cohesiveness and regionness

2. International Relations (IR) Theories and Asia. How Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism look at the region.

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|                                     |   |   |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| <p><b>2. East Asia's Powers</b></p> | <p>2. East Asia's main Powers and their impact in shaping the region.</p> <p>2.1. The United States. America's preeminent role in the region. US policy towards East Asia since World War II.</p> <p>2.2. China. A rising power. Relations with its neighbors. Debates on China's peaceful rise.</p> <p>2.3. Japan. A power in search of a new role in the region. US-Japan security relations. The Peace Constitution. Debates on normalization.</p> <p>2.4. Other players in the East Asian scenario: Russia, Australia, India.</p> | <p><b>From the book 'The New Global Politics of the Asia Pacific', 3rd ed.:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The United States in the Asia-Pacific: Still the hegemon? Chapter 2, pp. 29-46.</li><li>• The Chinese century?. Chapter 3, pp. 47-78.</li><li>• Between a doctrine and hard place: Japan's emerging role. Chapter 4, pp. 79-105.</li></ul> <p>One optional chapter to choose from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looking East: India and Russia in the Asia-Pacific. Chapter 5, pp. 106-134.</li><li>• Middle power and alliance diplomacy in Australia's foreign policy. Chapter 6, pp. 135-159.</li></ul> | <p><b>CAT 2</b></p> |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------|

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|--|--|---|---------------------|
| <p><b>3. Regionalism and security in East Asia</b></p> | <p>3.1. Impact of transnational forces in the region (globalization).</p> <p>3.2. Interdependence and Regionalism in the East Asian context: Links between Northeast, Southeast and South Asia.</p> <p>3.3. ASEAN: a central institution for East Asia's Regionalism.</p> <p>3.4. Regional security architecture in East Asia.</p> | <p><b>From the book 'The New Global Politics of the Asia Pacific', 3rd ed.:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South East Asia: ASEAN and the challenge of regionalism in the Asia-Pacific. Chapter 7, pp. 160-179.</li><li>• Regional Security: Legacies and new challenges. Chapter 9, pp. 193-213.</li><li>• Building blocks: Regionalism and globalization</li></ul> | <p><b>CAT 3</b></p> |
|--|--|---|---------------------|

in the Asia-Pacific. Chapter 10, pp. 214-246.

One optional chapter to choose from:

- The EU and the Asia-Pacific: a source of soft power? Chapter 8, pp. 180-192.
- States and markets: political economy explanation of East Asia's economic miracle. Chapter 11, pp. 247-272.
- The State in retreat? Transnational actors in the Asia-Pacific. Chapter 12, pp. 273-301.
- Civilisade: Asian values, democracy promotion and fateful hubris. Chapter 13, pp. 302-325.

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4. Synthesis

Synthesis of the course.

All materials used in the course.

CAT 4: Virtual academic debate (cross-cutting activity).

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## Resources

### View the learning resources used in the subject

| Material                            | Support           |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Introduction to East Asian Politics | <b>Audiobook</b>  |
| Introduction to East Asian Politics | <b>ePub</b>       |
| Introduction to East Asian Politics | <b>Mobipocket</b> |
| Introduction to East Asian Politics | <b>Videobook</b>  |
| Introduction to East Asian Politics | <b>HTML5</b>      |

### View the bibliography titles available in the library

•

(0). Chinese scholars and foreign policy : debating international relations / edited by Huiyun Feng, Kai He and Yan Xuetong. London New York, NY : Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2019

ISBN: 9780429642234

- Costa, Anna, autor (0). The China-Japan conflict over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands : useful rivalry / Anna Costa. London : New York : Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2018  
ISBN: 9781351389716
- (0). Critical international relations theories in East Asia : relationality, subjectivity, and pragmatism / edited by Kosuke Shimizu. Abingdon, Oxon New York, NY : Routledge, 2019  
ISBN: 9781351110228
- (0). Critical issues in contemporary Japan / edited by Jeff Kingston. London New York, NY : Routledge, 2019  
ISBN: 9781351139632
- (0). Drivers of integration and regionalism in Europe and Asia : comparative perspectives / edited by Louis Brennan and Philomena Murray. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon New York, NY : Routledge, 2015  
ISBN: 9781317591399
- Garlick, Jeremy, autor (0). The impact of China's Belt and Road Initiative : from Asia to Europe / Jeremy Garlick. Abingdon, Oxon New York, NY : Routledge, 2019  
ISBN: 9781351182768
- Hastiadi, Fithra Faisal, autor (0). Trade strategy in East Asia : from regionalization to regionalism / Fithra Faisal Hastiadi, Universitas Indonesia. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire New York, NY : Palgrave Macmillan, 2016  
ISBN: 9781137569677
- He, Baogang, 1957- autor (0). Contested ideas of regionalism in Asia / Baogang He. London New York : Routledge, 2016  
ISBN: 9781317229636
- Klecha-Tylec, Karolina, autor (0). The theoretical and practical dimensions of regionalism in east Asia / Karolina Klecha-Tylec. New York, NY : Palgrave Macmillan, 2016  
ISBN: 9783319402628
- Lanteigne, Marc, author Massey University Albany, New Zealand (0). Chinese Foreign Policy : An Introduction / Marc Lanteigne.. Abingdon, Oxon New York, NY : Routledge, 2020  
ISBN: 9780429437908
- Nahlawi, Yasmine, autor (0). The responsibility to protect in Libya and Syria : mass atrocities, human protection, and international law / Yasmine Nahlawi. London New York, NY : Routledge, 2019  
ISBN: 9780429461101
- (0). Rivalry and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific : the dynamics of a region in transition / [edited by] Mark Beeson, University of Western Australia, Australia. New Jersey : World Scientific, 2019  
ISBN: 9789811201912

- (0). Routledge handbook of Asian regionalism / edited by Mark Beeson and Richard Stubbs. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon New York, NY : Routledge, 2012  
ISBN:
- Sharma, Manoj Kumar, 1966-, autor (0). Conflict and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific : new geopolitical realities / edited by Ash Rossiter and Brendon J. Cannon. London : Routledge, 2020  
ISBN: 9781003009269
- (0). Soft power with Chinese characteristics : China's campaign for hearts and minds / edited by Kingsley Edney, Stanley Rosen, and Ying Zhu. Abingdon, Oxon New York, NY : Routledge, 2019  
ISBN: 9781315208671
- (1065). The new politics of regionalism : perspectives from Africa, Latin America and Asia-Pacific / edited by Ulf Engel, Heidrun Zinecker, Frank Mattheis, Antje Dietze and Thomas Plo. 9781315513768  
ISBN:
- Vanden, Harry E., autor (0). Politics of Latin America : the power game / Harry E. Vanden, University of South Florida, Tampa, Gary Prevost, College of Saint Benedict, Saint John's University. New York, [etc.]: Oxford University Press, [2018]  
ISBN: 9780190647407
- Yiallourides, Constantinos, autor (0). Maritime Disputes and International Law : Disputed Waters and Seabed Resources in Asia and Europe / Constantinos Yiallourides. Abingdon, Oxon [UK] New York, NY : Routledge, 2019  
ISBN: 9781351240536

## Support tools and learning resources

Book for this course:

- Connors, M. K., Rémy Davison, and Jörn Dosch. The New Global Politics of the Asia-Pacific. London: Routledge, 2018. (Available at the UOC library as an [electronic book](#)).

## Bibliography and information sources

Here are some bibliographic references that can be useful complementary materials for this course:

**Books:**

- Beal, Tim. North Korea : The Struggle against American Power. London; Ann Arbor, MI: Pluto Press, 2005. Print.
- Beeson, Mark , and Richard Stubbs. Routledge Handbook of Asian Regionalism. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2012. Print.
- Berger, T. U. , Mike Mochizuki, and Jitsuo Tsuchiyama. Japan in International Politics: The Foreign Policies of an Adaptive State. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers : Published in association with the Japan Forum on International Relations, 2007.
- Berkofsky, Axel. Japanese Security and Defense Policies: Trends, Threat Perceptions and Prospects. Stockholm: Institute for Security and Development Policy, 2011.

- Breslin, Shaun. Handbook of China's International Relations. London: Routledge, 2010. Bush, Richard C. The Perils of Proximity China-Japan Security Relations. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2010.
- Christiansen, Thomas, Emil Joseph Kirchner, and Philomena Murray. The Palgrave Handbook of Eu-Asia Relations. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.
- Christensen, Thomas. The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015).
- Dent, Christopher Mattinson. China, Japan and Regional Leadership in East Asia. Cheltenham [etc.]: Edward Elgar, 2008.
- Friedberg, A.L. A Contest for Supremacy: China, America, and the Struggle for Mastery in Asia. W. W. Norton, 2011.
- Hook, Glenn D., et al. Japan's International Relations: Politics, Economics and Security. Third ed. New York: Routledge, 2012. Print.
- Hsiung, James C. China and Japan at Odds : Deciphering the Perpetual Conflict. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Ikenberry, J., and M. Mastanduno. International Relations Theory and the Asia Pacific. New York: Columbia University Press, 2003.
- Jacques, Martin. When China Rules the World : The End of the Western World and the Birth of a New Global Order. New York: Penguin Press, 2009.
- Miyashita, A., and Y. Sato. Japanese Foreign Policy in Asia and the Pacific: Domestic Interests, American Pressure, and Regional Integration. Palgrave Macmillan US, 2001.
- Pempel, T. (ed.), Remapping East Asia: The Construction of a Region (Cornell University Press, 2005).
- Shirk, Susan L. China: Fragile Superpower. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Smith, Sheila A. Intimate Rivals: Japanese Domestic Politics and a Rising China (New York: Columbia University Press, 2015).Suh, J.J, Peter J. Katzenstein, and Allen Carlson (eds.), Rethinking Security in East Asia: Identity, Power, and Efficiency (Stanford University Press, 2004).
- Tow, William T., and Institute Australian Strategic Policy. Asia-Pacific Security : Us, Australia and Japan and the New Security Triangle. London; New York: Routledge, 2007.
- Tow, William T., and Brendan Taylor. Bilateralism, Multilateralism and Asia-Pacific Security: Contending Cooperation. London; New York: Routledge, 2013.
- Wacker, Gudrun. Security Cooperation in East Asia: Structures, Trends and Limitations. Vol. 4/2015. DEU Berlin, 2015.
- Yahuda, Michael. The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific, third and revised edition (New York: Routledge, 2011).

**Academic journals:**

- Asia Pacific Review
- Asian Security
- Asian Perspective
- Asian Journal of Political Science
- Asian Studies Review
- Asian Survey
- Australian Journal Of Chinese Affairs
- Australian Journal of International Affairs
- Berkeley Research Journal on South and Southeast Asia (BRJSS)
- China Quarterly
- China Review International
- China Strategic Review
- Chinese Journal of International Law
- Columbia East Asian Review
- Contemporary Southeast Asia
- Current Politics and Economics of Asia [formerly Current Politics and Economics of Japan]
- Diplomatic History
- East Asian Review
- Europe-Asia Studies
- European Journal of East Asian Studies



- Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA)
- Global Change, Peace & Security (Routledge)
- Harvard Asia Pacific Review International
- Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies
- Hitotsubashi Journal of Law and Politics
- International Affairs
- International Relations of the Asia-Pacific
- International Security
- Japan Forum. The International Journal of Japanese Studies
- Japan Review of International Affairs
- Japanese Journal of Political Science
- Journal of Japanese Studies
- Journal of East Asian Studies
- Journal of Southeast Asian Studies
- The Journal of Asian Studies
- Journal of Contemporary China
- Journal of International and Area Studies
- Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society
- Korean Journal of Defense Analysis
- Security Studies
- Southeast Asian Affairs
- The China Quarterly
- The Chinese Journal of International Politics
- The International Journal of Asian Studies
- The National Interest
- The Pacific Review (Routledge)
- Pacific Focus
- The Washington Quarterly
- World Politics

**Podcasts:**

- [Asian Studies Centre podcast](#). University of Oxford.
- [Asia Unbound](#). Council on Foreign Relations.
- [International Affairs Podcast](#). Chatham House.
- [UCLA Burkle Center for International Relations](#). UCLA. (Requires third-party iTunes software)
- [Asia](#). Center for Strategic and International Studies CSIS. (May require third-party iTunes software)
- [DiploPod](#). Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (Requires third-party iTunes software)
- [Asia and the Pacific](#). Australian National University ANU.
- [Asia & China podcast](#). European Council on Foreign Relations ECFR.eu

**Other resources:**

- Asian politics and economics (general):
  - BBC News Asia-Pacific Section (<http://news.bbc.co.uk>)
  - Far Eastern Economic Review ([www.feer.com](http://www.feer.com))
  - Asiaweek ([www.asiaweek.com/asiaweek](http://www.asiaweek.com/asiaweek))
  - International Herald Tribune ([www.iht.com](http://www.iht.com))
- Japan:
  - The Japan Times ([www.japantimes.co.jp](http://www.japantimes.co.jp))
  - Asahi Shimbun ([www.asahi.com/english/english.html](http://www.asahi.com/english/english.html))
  - Yomiuri Shimbun (<http://the-japan-news.com>)
- South Korea
  - The Korean Times ([times.hankooki.com](http://times.hankooki.com))

- The Korea Herald ([www.koreaherald.co.kr](http://www.koreaherald.co.kr))
  - North Korea
    - KCNA ([www.kcna.kp](http://www.kcna.kp) / [www.kcna.co.jp](http://www.kcna.co.jp))
  - China & Taiwan
    - China Daily ([www.chinadaily.com.cn](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn))
    - The People's Daily (<http://en.people.cn>)
    - Huanqiu / Global times ([www.globaltimes.cn](http://www.globaltimes.cn))
    - South China Morning Post ([www.scmp.com](http://www.scmp.com))
    - Taipei Times ([www.taipeitimes.com](http://www.taipeitimes.com))
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