

Vilnius University
Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Asia-Pacific Studies

2014/2015 autumn semester

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Seminars: each Wednesday, 11:30-13:00

Course review: the principal goal of the course is to introduce the Asia-Pacific region from the political point of view, i.e. its principal states' political systems, relations among themselves as well as with outside actors. The course examines not only the Western part of the Pacific littoral (Northeast and Southeast Asia), but also South Asian region (Indian subcontinent) and the most important "peripheral" countries.

Assessment:

- seminar work – 30% (10% attendance and active participation; 20% individual presentation);
- essay (12 pt. Times New Roman, 1,5 space; max. 10 pages; min. 10 sources; due mid-December) – 30%;
- exam (in-class, closed-book, open-question; January) – 40%.

The course is successfully finished only by those who get positive grade (5 or more) for both their essay and exam, have made a presentation, and attended not less than 75% of seminars (missed no more than 4).

Individual presentation is made with slides (Power Point), 20 minutes maximum. Each student has to send his/her presentation slides and short summary (750-1000 words) in two weeks after its delivery in class.

Literature: all literature is available in electronic format. During preparations for the classes, essay and exams the students are induced to use any additional material of academic value.

Topics and literature

Introductory lecture

MODULE I – CHINA

2 seminar. China's contemporary history

Literature:

- a) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, pp. 108-144.
- b) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapter 2.

Presentations:

- "China's history from the Opium Wars to the People's Republic"
- "China's history from 1949 to 1989"

3 seminar. China's political system and domestic politics

Literature:

- a) William A. Joseph (ed.), *Politics in China: An Introduction*. 2nd edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014, chapters 6 & 8.

Presentations:

- “China’s economic miracle: sources, trends and challenges”
- “China’s political system: institutions and role of the party”

4 seminar. China’s Separatist Challenges

Literature:

- a) Andrew J. Nathan and Andrew Scobell, *China’s Search for Security*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012, chapters 8 & 9.

Presentations:

- “China’s administrative divisions and separatist challenges: Tibet and Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Macau”
- “Taiwan: post-war history, political system and relations with the mainland”

5 seminar. China’s foreign policy: how to become a superpower?

Literature:

- a) David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*. 2nd edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, chapter 6.
- b) David M. Lampton, *Following the Leader: Ruling China, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping*. Berkeley, Los Angeles & London: University of California Press, 2014, chapter 4.
- c) Wang Yuan-kang, “China’s Response to the Unipolar World: The Strategic Logic of Peaceful Development.” *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 45 (5), 2010.

Presentations:

- “China’s foreign policy: goals, directions and means”
- “China’s relations with the US and the West”

MODULE II – NORTHEAST ASIA AND PRINCIPAL PERIHPERAL ACTORS

Japan

6 seminar. Japan’s contemporary history

Literature:

- a) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, chapter 2.
- b) Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Armonk & London: M.E.Sharpe, 2012, chapters 13-16.

Presentations:

- “Japan’s history from mid-19th century to 1945”
- “Japan’s post-war history: becoming a global economic power”

7 seminar. Japan’s political system and foreign policy

Literature:

- a) Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Armonk & London: M.E.Sharpe, 2012, chapters 17 & 18.
- b) Milton W. Meyer, *Japan: A Concise History*. 4th edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009, chapter 17.
- c) David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*. 2nd edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, chapter 8.

Presentations:

- “Japan’s political system: division of powers, parties and the emperor”
- “Japan’s foreign policy: goals, directions and means”

Korea

8 seminar. Korean Peninsula: history and contemporary challenges

Literature:

- a) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, chapter 4.
- b) Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Armonk & London: M.E.Sharpe, 2012, chapters 7-12.

Presentations:

- “Korea’s history since mid-19th century to 1953”
- “North Korea’s political and economic development”
- “South Korea’s political and economic development”

Peripheral actors

9 seminar. East Asia’s peripheral actors

Literature:

- a) David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*. 2nd edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, chapters 5 & 10.
- b) Paul J. Bolt and Sharyl N. Cross, “The Contemporary Sino-Russian Strategic Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities for the Twenty-First Century.” *Asian Security*, 6 (3), 2010.

Presentations:

- “Australia’s Asian foreign policy: problems, goals and means”
- “EU’s Asian foreign policy: problems, goals and means”
- “Russia’s Asian foreign policy: problems, goals and means”

MODULE III – SOUTH ASIA

10 seminar. South Asia’s contemporary history

Literature:

- a) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, chapter 16.
- b) Stephen Philip Cohen, *India: Emerging Power*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2002, chapter 1.

Presentations:

- “India’s history from the mid-19th century to the independence”
- “Independent India’s history: from non-alignment to regional hegemony”

11 seminar. India’s political system and domestic politics

Literature:

- a) Judith E. Walsh, *A Brief History of India*. 2nd ed. New York: Facts On Life, 2011, chapter 10.
- b) David M. Malone, *Does the Elephant Dance? Contemporary Indian Foreign Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012, chapter 3.
- c) Ramachandra Guha, *India After Gandhi: The History of the World’s Largest Democracy*. London: Pan Books, 2007, epilogue.

Presentations:

- “India’s political system: how the world’s largest democracy is being governed?”
- “India’s administrative divisions and separatist challenges”

12 seminar. India’s foreign policy and main regional problems

Literature:

- a) David Shambaugh and Michael Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*. 2nd edition. Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014, chapter 7.
- b) Ravi Kalia (ed.), *Pakistan: From the Rhetoric of Democracy to the Rise of Militancy*. London, New York & New Delhi: Routledge, 2011, chapter 10.
- c) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, pp. 500-504.

Presentations:

- “India’s foreign policy: goals, directions and means”
- “Pakistan’s politics: between Islamic democracy and militancy”
- “Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal: comparative analysis of political systems”

MODULE IV – SOUTHEAST ASIA

13 seminar. Post-colonial Indochina’s political systems

Literature:

- a) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, chapter 17.
- b) Richard Robison (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Politics*. London & New York: Routledge, 2012, chapters 9 & 17.

Presentations:

- “Three Wars of Indochina: causes, course and results”
- “Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia: comparative analysis of political systems”

14 seminar. Continental Southeast Asia

Literature:

- a) Peter Calvocoressi, *World Politics since 1945*. 9th edition. Harlow: Pearson, 2009, chapter 18.
- b) Richard Robison (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Politics*. London & New York: Routledge, 2012, chapter 6.
- c) Robert D. Kaplan, *Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power*. London: Random House Publishing Group, 2010, chapter 12.

Presentations:

- “Thailand: political history and contemporary military rule”
- “Myanmar/Burma: military junta and democratization”

15 seminar. Insular Southeast Asia I

Literature:

- a) Richard Robison (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Politics*. London & New York: Routledge, 2012, chapter 5.
- b) Robert D. Kaplan, *Monsoon: The Indian Ocean and the Future of American Power*. London: Random House Publishing Group, 2010, chapter 13.
- c) Lukman Thaib, “Muslim Politics in Malaysia and the Democratization Process.” *European Social Science Research Journal*, 1 (1), 2013.

Presentations:

- “Indonesia as a regional power: strengths and weaknesses”
- “Malaysia: postcolonial history and political system”

16 seminar. Insular Southeast Asia II

Literature:

- a) Richard Robison (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Politics*. London & New York: Routledge, 2012, chapters 7 & 8.
- b) John Sidel, „The Islamist Threat in South East Asia.“ *Asian Affairs*, 39 (3), 2008.

Presentations:

- “Philippines: contemporary history and political system”
- “Singapore, Brunei and East Timor: comparative analysis of political systems”
- “Radical islamism in Southeast Asia”