International Politics of Asia

Course Description: The center of world politics is returning to Asia where the key trend is the rise of China. Participants in this seminar will examine perceptions and policies in various places including the United States, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, ASEAN and India, and the controversies that animate politics among them. In addition to learning about the international politics of Asia, participants will improve: 1) their understanding of and ability to use theories of international relations; 2) their ability to analyze texts and arguments; 3) their understanding of the current state of relevant literature and debates; and 4) their skills in research and writing.

Course Requirements:
1. Research Paper. (36%) Each student will write an original paper of approximately 20 pages based on extensive research. Students will consult with the instructor regarding their topic and submit a proposal at mid-term (which is required but not graded). Potential topics, grading criteria, format, etc. will be discussed in class. A first draft of the paper will be due on April 29 and presented to the class on May 2 (also required but not graded). Final drafts will be due on May 9.
2. Critical Reviews (36%) Students will write a critical review of each of 10 weeks’ readings. Reviews will not exceed three pages and will be due at the start of the class to which the readings pertain. Reviews cannot be accepted after student has attended the relevant class. Reviews should analyze and evaluate the required readings. Strategies for writing reviews and evaluation will be discussed in class.
3. Class Presentations (14%). Each student will present relevant information on the relationship between domestic and international politics in the case studied that week. Presentations will not exceed 10 minutes.
4. Paper reviews. (required but not graded) Students will write a short page reviewing each of the papers submitted on April 29. These will be presented in class on May 2 and given to both the instructor and the authors.
5. Class participation. (14%) Students are expected to have carefully read each week’s reading prior to class, to attend each class, and to make a creative contribution to class discussion.

Notes: 1) All written work will conform to normal academic style, e.g., typed, 10-12 point fonts, standard margins, double-spaced, consistent system of footnotes, bibliography, etc. 2) Plagiarism may be punished as severely as allowed by College and University regulations. 3) Late assignments may be penalized (except in the case of critical reviews which cannot be accepted). Advance warning and/or truly tragic or unavoidable circumstances may improve the prospects for mercy. 4) Students should regularly check their email address as listed in CheckMarq for information and updates.

Schedule of Topics and Readings: Readings marked with an asterisk are recommended, all others are required. On the digital copy of the syllabus, “[here]” will provide a link to many readings. Students will be advised of any changes to the schedule below either in class or via email.

Week 1/January 17 — Introduction
Week II/January 24 — The Sino-Centric World

Week III/January 31 — Imperialism: Nanjing Massacre
*Feifei Li, Robert Sabella, David Liu, Nanking 1937: Memory and Healing (Armonk: ME Sharpe, 2002).

Week IV/February 7 — Political Economy: Models
Sumit Ganguly and Rahul Mukherji, India Since 1980 (New York: Cambridge
John Williamson “Is the ‘Beijing Consensus’ Now Dominant?” Asia Policy 13 (Jan 2012) 1-16.

Week V/February 14 — Washington: the Pivot
Hillary Clinton, “America’s Pacific Century” Foreign Policy 189 (Nov 2011) 56-63.
Shawn Brimley and Ely Ratner “Smart Shift: A Response to ‘The Problem With the Pivot’” Foreign Affairs (Jan/Feb 2013) 177-81.
*Abraham Denmark et. al., “Regional Perspectives on U.S. Strategic Rebalancing” Asia Policy 15 (January 2013), 1-44.

Week VI/February 21 — Beijing: Rising Power


Li Keqiang, “The World Should Not Fear a Growing China” *Caijing* 10 Jan 2011 [here].


Simon Shen and Shaun Breslin, “Online Chinese Nationalism” *Catham House Asia Programme Paper* ASP PP 2010/03 (September 2010) [here].


**Week VII/February 28 — Tokyo: A New Appreciation for Old Friends?**


Björn Jerdén and Linus Hagström “Rethinking Japan’s China Policy: Japan as an


*Michael J. Green, “US-Japan Relations: Meet the New Boss/Same as the Old Boss?” *Comparative Connections* 14:3 (January 2013) 19-28 [here].


**Week VIII/March 7 — Seoul & Pyongyang**


Sook-Jong Lee “South Korea as New Middle Power: Seeking Complex Diplomacy” *EAI Security Initiative Working Paper* (Sep 2012) [here].

Yoonhee Kang “Korean Civil Society and Trust-Building between South Korea and the United States” *Asia Policy* 13 (Jan 2012) 61-80.


Victor Cha “US-Korea Relations: Political Change and a Rocket Launch” *Comparative Connections* 14:3 (January 2013) 45-54 [here].
Spring Break

Week IX/March 21 — Taipei: Survival


Easter Holiday

Week XI/April 4 — ASEAN & the South China Sea


Christopher Roberts “ASEAN Institutionalisation: The Function of Political Values and State Capacity” *RSIS Working Papers* 217 (8 December 2010) [here]


Leszek Buszynski “The South China Sea: Oil, Maritime Claims, and U.S.-China
Strategic Rivalry” *The Washington Quarterly* 35:2 (Spring 2012) 139-156.


Carlyle A. Thayer “Chinese Assertiveness in the South China Sea and Southeast Asian Responses” *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs* 30:2 (2011) 77-104.


*Hong Thao Nguyen “Vietnam’s Position on the Sovereignty over the Paracels & the Spratlys” *Journal of East Asia International Law, V* JEAIL (1) 2012 [here].


*Mark E. Redden and Phillip C. Saunders “Managing Sino-U.S. Air and Naval Interactions” Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs Strategic Perspectives 5 (Sep 2012) [here].

Sheldon Simon “US-Southeast Asia Relations: High-Level Attention” *Comparative Connections* 14:3 (January 2013) 55-68 [here].

Robert Sutter, “China-Southeast Asia Relations: China Gains and Advances in the South China Sea” *Comparative Connections* 14:3 (January 2013) 69-78 [here].

**Week XII/April 11 — New Delhi**


Francine R. Frankel “The Breakout of China-India Strategic Rivalry in Asia and the Indian Ocean” *Journal of International Affairs* 64:2 (Spring/Summer 2011) 1-17


*Jingdong Yuan “Beijing’s Balancing Act: Courting New Delhi, Reassuring Islamabad” *Journal of International Affairs* 64:2 (Spring/Summer 2011) 37-54


Satu Limayev “India-East Asia/US Relations: A Year of Notable Visits and
Anniversaries” Comparative Connections 14:3 (January 2013) 147-58 [here].

Week XIII/April 18 — Africa: New Imperialism or Model for Success?
*Johan Lagerkvist and Gabriel Jonsson “Foreign Aid, Trade and Development: The Strategic Presence of China, Japan and Korea in Sub-Saharan Africa” Swedish Institute of International Affairs Occasional Papers 5 (2011) [here].
*Human Rights Watch “‘You’ll Be Fired if You Refuse’: Labor Abuses in Zambia’s Chinese State-owned Copper Mines” (2011) [here].
*Global Witness, “China and Congo: Friends in Need” (March 2011) [here].

Week XIV/April 25 — Human Rights
Sonya Sceats with Shaun Breslin “China and the International Human Rights System” Catham House (October 2012) [here].

Week XV/May 2 — Paper Presentations
Research Papers Due May 9