CÖSB10: The International Relations of East Asia: From the Pacific War to the Rise of China, 7.5 Credits

Autumn Semester

Credits: 7.5 ECTS

Course Director and Sole Teacher: Paul O’Shea

Description of Course

This is a freestanding course at the BA level and can be included in a first or second cycle degree. Entry requirements and previous university studies requirements correspond to at least 30 credits. Proficiency in Swedish is not required, and the class is taught in English.

It is a broad introduction to the international relations of East Asia, covering the period from the Pacific War to today. The first part of the course provides students with the background necessary to form a historical understanding of contemporary issues. Thus, the course focuses on key historical moments, including the defeat and occupation of Japan, the Korean War, and the Chinese Civil War. Armed with an understanding of these events, the second part of the courses looks at how these issues have developed. For example, understanding Japan’s colonial rule of the Korean peninsula together with the subsequent Korean War, forms the basis for understanding Japan’s poor relations with both North and South today, as well attitudes to the US in both North and South, not to mention inter-Korean relations and of course China-Korea relations.

The core reading is drawn from textbooks. For the history part, key chapters are selected from textbooks aimed at undergraduate students. In several cases these are available online through the library, and are generally considered the definitive textbooks on their respective topics. The course uses the selected theory chapters from the standard introduction to international relations textbook to provide students with an understanding of basic concepts. Finally, it uses a new edition of a well-regarded book on international relations of East Asia. I have used previous editions in other courses.

The final part of the course features short academic survey articles as well as pieces from selected popular English-language journals and magazines such as *Foreign Affairs, The National Interest,* and *Foreign Policy*. As the circumstances on the Korean Peninsula, the Straits of Taiwan, etc.. change regularly, the literature list contains examples of these, but reserves 150 pages for keeping this up-to-date based on new publications and new developements.

In terms of gender, one of the textbooks is co-authored by a woman. While the authors of the history textbooks are all male, the selection of contemporary survey/popular articles include two women, and the reserve will also feature a better mix, due to the better gender balances in the field today vs. historically.

The textbooks account for 472 pages, the reserve for 150, and the listed articles for 60, making a total of 682.

**Textbooks**

Yahuda, Michael (2019) *The International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, London: Routledge. 4th Edition.

Chapters 1-8, pp. 1-255

Total 255 pages

Ordered and will be available as reference in the library.

Saxo.com 425 sek

McMahon, Robert J. (2003) *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

pp. 35-55, 78-81.

Total 28 pages

Available as a ebook through the library.

Bokus.com: 96 sek

Cumings, Bruce. (1998) *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History*

Chapter 3, pp. 139-184.

Total 45 pages

Available through the Asia Library (will be on reserve) Later edition is available.

Bokus.com: 189 sek

Gordon, Andrew. (2013) *A Modern History of Japan*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 3rd Edition.

Chapters 12 & 13, pp. 202-241

Total 40 pages

Available as reference at SOL, will also be reference at Asia Library.

Bokus: 463 sek

Fairbank, John King, and Goldman, Merle (2006) *China: A New History*. Harvard University Press.

Chapter 16 & 17, pp. 312-341, plus 378-380.

Total 30 pages

Available online through the library.

Bokus.com 299 sek

Robinson, Michael (2007) *Korea’s Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History*. University of Hawaii Press.

Chapter 5, pp. 100-121.

Total: 21 pages

Available throught the Asian library, will be a reference book.

Bokus.com 299 sek

Baylis, John, Smith, Steve and Owens, Patricia (2014) *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press .

Total: 52 pages

Several copies of the 5th edition in the library. Students can also use other editions. The chapter numbers have changed, but the topics have not.

Introduction & Chapter 6-9.

Bokus: 459 sek

Textbook total: 472 pages

**Articles**

Allison, Graham (2015), ‘The Thucydides Trap: Are the US and China headed for war?’ *The Atlantic* Sept 24, available online at: <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/>

13 pages

Feng, Zhu (2017) ’China’s North Korean Liability: How Washington can get Beijing to Rein in Pyongyang’. *Foreign Affairs*, July 11.

Available online at: [http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social\_science/clarkd/upload/China's%20North%20Korea%20Liability.pdf](http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/social_science/clarkd/upload/China%27s%20North%20Korea%20Liability.pdf)

Also availabe through the library website.

4 pages

Katz, Richard (2013) ‘Mutual Assured Production: Why Trade Will Limit Conflict Between China and Japan’ *Foreign Affairs* 92, 4: 18-22.

5 pages

Lam, Peng Er (2016) ‘China, the United States, Alliances, War: Avoiding the Thucydides Trap?’ *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, 43: 2, pp. 36-46.

10 pages

Mearsheimer, John J. (2015) “Say Goodbye to Taiwan,” *The National Interest*, March/April 2014, online at: http://nationalinterest.org/article/say-goodbyetaiwan-9931

4 pages

Roy, Denny (2017) “Prospects for Taiwan Maintaining its Autonomy under Chinese Pressure,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 57, no. 6, pp. 1135-1158.

23 pages

Tucker, Nancy Bernkopf and Glaser, Bonnie (2011) “Should the United States Abandon Taiwan?,” The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 34, no. 4, pp. 23- 37.

14 pages