

The US and Pacific-Asia: Past, Present, and Future
LSHV-352-30
Georgetown University
Liberal Studies Degree Program
Summer 2008
ICC 119
Thursday, 6-9 pm

DRAFT SYLLABUS – Readings and topics are subject to revision

Dr. Michael Wall
Office: ICC 603
Office Hours: Thursday 4-5:30 pm and by appointment
Telephone: 202/687-6061
e-mail: wallm@georgetown.edu

Course Description

In 2002, President George W. Bush stated, “I’m convinced the 21st century will be the Pacific century....America....is a Pacific nation, drawn by trade and values and history to be a part of Asia’s future. We stand more committed than ever to a forward presence in this region.” Such sentiment is not new. For more than two centuries, Americans have looked to the Pacific-Asia region with a mixture of wonder and trepidation. While the intensity of American interest has waxed and waned over time, the region’s promise of unparalleled opportunity and the possibility of unprecedented danger repeatedly have made it a fixture in the American mind. This course, through an examination of historical precedent, present-day issues, and thoughts about the future, is intended to serve as an overview of a part of the world that has presented the US both with great opportunities and significant challenges, and promises to continue to do so well into the future. While his rhetoric may have been given over to hyperbole, many Americans today would agree with Senator Albert Beveridge who, in 1900, declared, “The power that rules the Pacific....is the power that rules the world.”

Course Requirements

I. Discussion Sessions

In addition to lectures, the class will feature weekly student-led discussions. The purpose of the discussion sessions is to provide opportunities for students to exchange opinions, interpretations, and ideas about the readings and the topics they address. A good discussion is one where the participants feel that they have learned something new, something that they would not have learned by simply reading the materials on their own. Note - the value of each discussion section ultimately rests on a willingness to come prepared to talk. Thus, all students are expected to do all of the assigned readings. Failure to do so will impair your ability to follow and benefit from the lectures, prevent you from being able to participate in discussion, and diminish the value of the session for those students who are prepared.

Guide for Discussions

The point of class discussion is for students to exchange opinions, interpretations, and ideas about the readings and class materials. A good discussion is one where the participants feel that they have learned something new, something that they would not have learned by simply reading the materials on their own. Your job as discussion leader is to create an environment in which this kind of learning can take place.

You will prepare a list of questions designed to provoke discussion on the readings (they should not be limited solely to assigned materials but should also consider the broader implications/significance of the topics covered in the readings as well as relevant past and/or current events). The questions must be posted in the "Discussion Board" of the class Blackboard site at least 48 hours before class. Students not leading discussion are encouraged to raise their own questions during the course of the evening.

II. Written Assignments

Students are required to submit two written assignments. Guidelines will be provided in a separate handout. Papers are due at the beginning of class on June 26 and July 24. Note - papers will be penalized by a 1/3 grade reduction for each day they are late.

Grading

Note - more than two absences will require that the student withdraw from the course

§ Discussion Participation - 35%

§ Leading discussion - 5%

§ Written assignments - 25% for the 1st paper; 35% for the 2nd

Academic Integrity

You are required to uphold academic honesty in all aspects of the course, especially on exams and papers. The professors are aware of and regularly consult all of the major Internet sources for plagiarized papers. If you have any questions about conforming to rules regarding the proper format for citations, or what constitutes plagiarism, the professor will be happy to talk with you.

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Required Books

1. Aaron Forsberg. *America and the Japanese Miracle: The Cold War Context of Japan's Postwar Economic Revival, 1950-*

1960. The University of North Carolina Press (2000). ISBN-10: 080782528X; ISBN-13: 978-0807825280
2. Thomas McCormick. *China Market: America's Quest for Informal Empire, 1893-1901*. Ivan R. Dee, Publisher (1990). ISBN: 0929587243
 3. Kevin Ruane. *War and Revolution in Vietnam, 1930-1975*. London: UCL, 1998.

Lecture and Discussion Schedule

Week 1 (May 29) – Course Introduction

Brendan Taylor. “The Bush Administration and Asia Pacific Multilateralism: Unrequited Love?” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, March 2008, Vol. 62 Issue 1.

Blackboard

William T. Tow. “America’s Asia-Pacific Strategy Is Out of Kilter,” *Current History*,

September 2007, Vol. 107, Issue 701. Blackboard

Week 2 (June 5) – In Pursuit of the “American Lake”

McCormick. *China Market*

Week 3 (June 12) – Destruction and Reconstruction

Forsberg. *America and the Japanese Miracle*

Week 4 (June 19) – The Cold War in Asia

Ruane. *War and Revolution in Vietnam*

Week 5 (June 26) - TBA

FIRST WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

Week 6 (July 3) – Regional Security: North Korea

Dong Sun Lee. “A Nuclear North Korea and the Stability of East Asia: A Tsunami on the Horizon?” *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, December 2007, Vol. 61

Issue 4. Blackboard

Mitchell Lerner. “Biting the Land that Feeds You: North Korea and the United States in the Cold War and Beyond,” *Diplomacy & Statecraft*, December 2007, Vol. 18

Issue 4. REQUEST THAT LIBRARY PLACE ON RESERVE

Michael J. Mazarr. “The Long Road to Pyongyang,” *Foreign Affairs*, September/October

2007. Blackboard

The National Bureau of Asian Research. “Nuclear Asia: U.S. Policy in an Age of Proliferation,” 2007. Blackboard

Week 7 (July 10) – Regional Security: China

Council on Foreign Relations, “US-China Relations: An Affirmative Agenda, A Responsible Course,” April 2007. Blackboard

Evan Medeiros. “Strategic hedging and the Future of Asia-Pacific Stability,” Washington

Quarterly 29:1 Winter, 2005-2006. Blackboard

Week 8 (July 17) – The Economic Environment

Joshua Kurlantzick. “Pax Asia-Pacifica? East Asian Integration and Its Implications for the United States,” Washington Quarterly, Summer 2007, Vol. 30 Issue 3. Blackboard

Wayne M. Morrison. “China-US Trade Issues.” Congressional Research Service Issue Brief for Congress (October 3, 2007). Blackboard

Adam Segal. “Practical Engagement: Drawing a Fine Line for U.S.-China Trade,” Washington Quarterly, Summer 2004, Vol. 27 Issue 3. Blackboard

Ian Taylor. “APEC, Globalization and 9/11: The Debate on What Constitutes Asian Regionalism,” Critical Asian Studies, September 2004, Vol. 36 Issue 3. Blackboard

Week 9 (July 24) – Southeast Asia: Challenges and Opportunities

Mark Beeson. “U.S. Hegemony and Southeast Asia: The Impact of, and Limits to, U.S. Power and Influence,” Critical Asian Studies, September 2004, Vol. 36 Issue 3.

Blackboard

Congressional Research Service, “Terrorism in Southeast Asia,” September 11, 2007. Blackboard

Rosemary Foot. “Collateral Damage: Human Rights Consequences of Counterterrorist Action in the Asia-Pacific,” International Affairs, March 2005, Vol. 81 Issue 2.

Blackboard

Diane K. Mauzy and Brian L. Job. “U.S. Policy in Southeast Asia,” Asian Survey, July/August 2007, Vol. 47 Issue 4. Blackboard

Ian Storey. “The United States and ASEAN-China Relations: All Quiet on the Southeast

Asian Front,” Strategic Studies Institute of the US Army War College, November 2007. Blackboard

SECOND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE