

INTA 3131 Pacific Security Issues

Spring 2025

Class Time: M/W 12:30-13:45

Prof. Katja Weber

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Office Hours: M/W 13:45-14:45 and by appointment (please email me to set up)

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines security relations in Asia-Pacific. Following a discussion of colonialism, war and decolonization (1932-1949), we will take a closer look at Cold War security structures in the region (hub-and-spokes relationships with the US, the creation of ASEAN, the need to “enmesh” Japan, deal with an increasingly powerful China, etc.). We will then focus on non-traditional security challenges such as piracy, illegal trafficking of people and goods, infectious diseases, environmental disasters, etc. Paying particular attention to Southeast Asia, we will come to appreciate that countries like Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Singapore not only have a different conceptualization of sovereignty than their western allies who are trying to aid them in tackling these challenges, but that, due to the great political heterogeneity of these Southeast Asian countries, there are also significant differences within the region when it comes

to curtailing a state's autonomy. Core concepts such as non-interventionism, non-use of force, consensus decision-making, sovereignty, and the protection of human rights will feature prominently in our discussions.

In addition to its substantive focus, the course is designed to sharpen your listening, analytical, and communication skills through active participation in the seminar, writing assignments, as well as a presentation and simulation exercise.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to use their knowledge of various state/non-state actors in Asia Pacific in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate concern to these actors. Students should be aware of the diverse cultural/ethnic backgrounds of these international actors and the many challenges that arise from their heterogeneity. Students, moreover, will demonstrate the ability to describe the causal and determinant relationships between various actors and their security concerns and will be able to explain specific cases where human security is threatened. Students should also be able to express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations; and work in small groups in a way that demonstrates respect for their colleagues and efficiency in working collaboratively towards projects and goals.

Required Text:

Milton Osborne, *Southeast Asia: An Introductory History* (Allen & Unwin 2016).

In addition to the book listed above there will be readings that can be accessed on **Canvas (C)** under *Files*.

The Economist: <http://prx.library.gatech.edu/login?url=http://www.economist.com/gatech>

Course Requirements and Grading:

Students must have completed all their readings for each class and are expected to participate in classroom discussions. Students must also keep up with current events in world politics by regularly reading a high-quality news source like the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, etc.

1 Map Quiz 5%

Midterm 25%

Class presentation and team paper 20% (Further directions will be given in class)

Class participation 20%

Simulation 30% (You will receive a tasker and detailed instructions!)

There will be NO extra credit assignments!

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

No screens (open laptops, tablets, phones) will be permitted during class to facilitate active engagement and minimize interruptions.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is expected and essential for obtaining a passing grade.

Honor Code:

The Georgia Tech Honor Code is available online:

<https://osi.gatech.edu/students/honor-code>

If caught cheating, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

Students with Disabilities:

Georgia Tech is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities through the ADAPTS program (<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>). Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate his/her educational opportunities. Students with disabilities must be registered with the ADAPTS-Disability Services Program prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The ADAPTS-Disability Services Program is located in Smithgall Student Services Building, phone 404-894-2564 or TDD only 404-894-1664.

For Student-Faculty Expectations see: <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/>

Readings

Jan. 6 Introduction (this class will be held virtually, and a link will be sent via an announcement!)

Syllabus; also, please write a brief **autobiography** so I can learn a bit about you. This is a great opportunity to share anything you would like for me to know about you, including whether you require special accommodations.

Jan. 8 Southeast Asia Before the Arrival of the Europeans (this class will be held virtually and a link will be sent via an announcement!)

Milton Osborne, chapters 1-4

Jan. 13 From European Colonialism until World War II

Milton Osborne, chapters 5-8

Jan. 15 World War II in Southeast Asia

Warren Cohen, *East Asia at the Center: Four Thousand Years of Engagement with the World*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), chapter 11.

(Canvas)

Milton Osborne, chapter 9

Jan. 20 No Class (MLK Day)

Jan. 22 Map Quiz; Paths to Independence

Milton Osborne, chapters 10-13

Jan. 27 Reconciliation

[View 3 examples of Divisive Historical Issues in Asia-Pacific:](#)

-Yasukuni Shrine:

<https://www.nahf.or.kr/eng/gnb02/snb01.do?mode=view&page=3&cid=56215&cid=66158>

-“Comfort Women”:

<https://www.nahf.or.kr/eng/gnb02/snb01.do?mode=view&page=3&cid=56218&cid=66158>

-Distorted Textbooks:

<https://www.nahf.or.kr/eng/gnb02/snb01.do?mode=view&page=3&cid=56219&cid=66158>

Katja Weber and Jonathan Huang, “East Asian Security Revisited in Light of the European Experience,” *Issues and Studies*, 46, no. 1 (2010), pp. 89-121. **(Canvas)**

Jan. 29 Security Developments in Asia-Pacific During the Cold War

Victor Cha, “The Dilemma of Regional Security in East Asia: Multilateralism Versus Bilateralism,” in P. Diehl and J. Lepgold (eds) *Regional Conflict Management*, (Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003). **(Canvas)**

(Compare with security developments in Europe during this time)

Feb. 3 Regional Organizations: Asia's New Multilateralism

Michael Green and Bates Gill, *Asia's New Multilateralism: Cooperation, Competition, and the Search for Community*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), chapters 1 & 2. (Canvas)

Ryan Hartley and Edward Newman, "Global and Regional Organisations," *Sage Handbook of Asian Foreign Policy*, 2020.

https://www.academia.edu/41497249/Global_and_Regional_Organisations

Feb. 5 Regional Organizations: ASEAN

<https://asean.org> for a discussion of ASEAN's history, rationale, etc.

ASEAN 50th Anniversary (1967-2017): Celebrating ASEAN (skim)

<https://www.aseanstats.org/publication/celebrating-asean-50-years-of-evolution-and-progress/>

Feb. 10 Regional Organizations: ARF

<https://aseanregionalforum.asean.org/about-arf/>

for a discussion of ARF's history, rationale, etc.

Ron Huisken and Anthony Milner, "ASEAN Regional Forum: Less Might Be More," *The Interpreter*, 2022.

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/asean-regional-forum-less-might-be-more>

Feb. 12 Southeast Asia's Modern History

Milton Osborne, chapters 14-15

Feb. 17 China/Japan & Southeast Asian Relations

Xue Gong, "Non-traditional Security Cooperation Between China and Southeast Asia: Implications for Indo-Pacific Politics," *International Affairs* 96: 1 (2020) 29-48.

<https://academic.oup.com/ia/article-abstract/96/1/29/5697519?login=false#>

Bibek Chand, Zenel Garcia, and Kevin Modlin, "Southeast Asian Hedging and Indo-Japanese Strategies for Regional Balance," Winter 2018.

https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/JIPA/journals/Volume-01_Issue-2/03-Chand%20et%20al.pdf

Feb. 19 **Review for MIDTERM**

Feb. 24 **Midterm**

Feb. 26 **The US and Southeast Asian Relations**

John Lee, “The Free and Open Indo-Pacific Beyond 2020,” *Trends in Southeast Asia*, 2020.

https://www.iseas.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/TRS6_20.pdf

Ryan Hartley and Edward Newman, “Global and Regional Organisations,” *Sage Handbook of Asian Foreign Policy*, 2020.

https://www.academia.edu/41497249/Global_and_Regional_Organisations

March 3 **No Class (ISA) [work on group projects or research papers!]**

March 5 **Non-Traditional Security Challenges (Human Trafficking)**

Katja Weber, “The EU, China and Southeast Asia: Divergent Views of Dealing with Human Security,” in Jan Wouters, Jean Christophe Defraigne and Matthieu Burnay, eds., *EU-China and the World: Analyzing the Relations with the Developing and Emerging Countries* (2015). (Weber-Burma) (**Canvas**)

“East Asia and the Pacific” (Human Trafficking)

https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Glotip16_Country_profile_East_AsiaPacific.pdf

<https://apnews.com/b9e0fc7155014ba78e07f1a022d90389/ap-investigation-are-slaves-catching-fish-you-buy>

<https://www.mercurynews.com/2015/04/03/hundreds-of-fishermen-rescued-amid-indonesian-slavery-probe/>

March 10 **Non-Traditional Security Challenges (Piracy)**

“Non-Traditional Security Challenges in Asia: What Role for Multilateralism”? (5 March 2007)

<https://www.rsis.edu.sg/rsis-publication/nts/2436-non-traditional-security-chall/#.WFcwLbGZN0s>

Sam Bateman and Jane Chan, “Good Order at Sea in Southeast Asia,” in *Maritime Security and Piracy: Common Challenges and Responses from Europe and Asia*. Edited by Wilhelm Hofmeister and Patrick Rueppel. Singapore: Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung; East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore; European Union Centre in Singapore; Brussels, Belgium: European Policy Centre, 2014.

https://www.kas.de/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=00ca482c-6ebf-8d25-4ac9-cee4c44df207&groupId=252038

March 12 Student Presentations on NTS Challenges in Asia Pacific (Infectious Diseases)

March 17 & 19 Spring Break

March 24 Student Presentations on NTS Challenges in Asia Pacific (South China Sea)

March 26 Student Presentations on NTS Challenges in Asia Pacific (Food Security)

March 31 Student Presentations on NTS Challenges in Asia Pacific (Environmental Disasters)

April 2 The ICC & Southeast Asia

Emma Palmer and Christoph Sperfeldt, “International Criminal Justice and Southeast Asia: Approaches to Ending Impunity to Mass Atrocities,” *Asia Pacific Issues* (Honolulu: East-West Center, No. 126, Sept. 2016).

<https://www.eastwestcenter.org/publications/international-criminal-justice-and-southeast-asia-approaches-ending-impunity-mass>

David Cohen et. al., “A Well-Reasoned Opinion? Critical Analysis of the First Case Against the Alleged Senior Leaders of the Khmer Rouge (Case 002/01),” (Honolulu: East-West Center, 2015). (skim)

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/299606120_A_Well-Reasoned_Opinion_Critical_Analysis_of_the_First_Case_Against_the_Alleged_Senior_Leaders_of_the_Khmer_Rouge

April 7 Orientation Session for Simulation on International Security (Hand out Scenario and Tasker; Group Assignments)

April 9 Team Meetings for Simulation

(In-class discussions and development of a 2-3 page position paper)

- April 14** **Inter-Team Meetings for Simulation**
(Bring copies of your position papers for each team; in-class negotiations with members from other delegations)
- April 16** **Simulation**
(Bargaining and negotiation among different teams; closing remarks)
- April 21** **Wrap-up**