

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA3094 International Relations of Northeast Asia

Pre-requisites : HA1001

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

This course aims to unpack the complexity of Northeast Asia's international relations. This sub-region has two of the world's largest economies (China and Japan), the largest US military deployment in Asia (namely in Japan and South Korea), rising nationalism in China, Japan and South Korea, and a range of security challenges (China's strategic rise, unpredictability of North Korea and several territorial disputes) – all critical factors that could determine the peace and stability of East Asia or the Indo-Pacific region. The course covers the importance of Northeast Asia from the historical and theoretical perspectives, and introduces seven key issues that are crucial to the understanding of Northeast Asian international relations - (1) history/memory; (2) multilateralism and regionalism; (3) American (declining?) leadership; (4) China's strategic rise; (5) Japan's normalization/remilitarization; (6) nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula; and (7) Russia's resurgence. The course is for anyone who is interested in expanding or deepening their understanding of the most dynamic part of East Asia. The theoretical and empirical knowledge gained from this course would be valuable for anyone keen on pursuing a career in research, government and the private focusing on the geopolitics and geostrategy of the East Asia/Northeast Asia/the Indo-Pacific affairs.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

Upon the successful completion of this course, you would be able to:

1. Develop a systematic understanding of Northeast Asian dynamics from the historical, political, strategic, and economic perspectives.
2. Develop a conceptual and theoretical knowledge of international relations theory and apply it on Northeast Asian affairs.
3. Describe the most salient contemporary issues affecting Northeast Asia and East Asia's stability and evaluate the arguments used to explain these issues.
4. Craft your own positions on the most salient contemporary issues affecting Northeast Asia and East Asia's stability.

Course Content

1. Why Northeast Asia?
2. Historical Evolution of Northeast Asian IR
3. Studying Northeast Asia with IR Theory I
4. Studying Northeast Asia with IR Theory II
5. History and Memory in Northeast Asia
6. Multilateralism and Regionalism in Northeast Asia
7. American Leadership
8. Class Assessment
9. China's Strategic Rise
10. Remilitarization of Japan
11. Nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula
12. Russia's Resurgence
13. Round-up – Challenges and Future of Northeast Asia

Course Assessment

Class Participation	: 10%
Presentation	: 20%
Test/Quiz	: 20%
Final Exam	: 50%
Total	-----
	100%