



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2023

6,310: Asia-Pacific Security

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6.310.1.00 Asia-Pacific Security](#) -- Englisch -- [Hänggi Heinrich Stephan](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

Students should be interested in security studies and the Asia-Pacific region. A basic understanding of theoretical approaches in the field of International Relations (IR) is desirable.

Learning objectives

By the end of this course students will have:

- acquired a comprehensive and structured understanding of the Asia-Pacific security environment;
- demonstrated an ability to properly apply their gained conceptual and empirical knowledge to a specific security challenge in the Asia-Pacific region.

Course content

International security today is becoming ever more indivisible - what happens in one region increasingly impacts on others. This is especially true in the Asia-Pacific region, which has emerged as the world's economic and geopolitical centre of gravity.

The Asia-Pacific has become the central theatre in the competition between the United States and China to shape the course of the 21st century. The Asia-Pacific is also home to regional security flashpoints that could have global ramifications, including the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, and the South China Sea. Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific countries are increasingly confronted with new security challenges emerging from a host of transnational threats such as climate change and health pandemics, alongside instances of domestic political turbulence with cross-border effects. At the same time, economic interdependence among regional states remains high, and there are multiple efforts to build regional institutions aimed at mitigating conflicts and increasing the benefits of inter-state cooperation.

Drawing on International Relations (IR) theory, this course provides an introduction to the security environment of the Asia-Pacific in the early twenty-first century, with an emphasis on East Asia (Northeast and Southeast Asia), covering both traditional and non-traditional dimensions of security, and examining both the areas of conflict and the differing approaches to regional cooperation. The central thematic question is whether the Asia-Pacific region is heading towards greater cooperation, or conflict.

By exploring diverse security issues (such as the multidimensional rise of China, the United States' rebalancing to the region, possible security implications of the Russian war against Ukraine in the Asia-Pacific, territorial and maritime boundary disputes, the nuclear threat posed by North Korea, the economic-security nexus, transnational security threats, and competing visions for the regional security order, among others), and reading and hearing from security experts from the region, students



gain a broad overview of the Asia-Pacific security context and an in-depth understanding of a specific regional security challenge.

Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

We will meet weekly for 4 hours each in the second half of the semester. The course combines different formats:

- lectures on conceptual underpinnings and key issues of Asia-Pacific security delivered by the lecturer;
- guest lectures by external experts, both scholars and practitioners, from the Asia-Pacific region sharing their perspectives on the course topic;
- presentations on specific Asia-Pacific security challenges by students (in groups - allowed group sizes will be determined at the first meeting);
- break-out group and plenary discussions in class.

Course literature

Required reading and a selection of recommended texts will be made available on StudyNet at the beginning of the semester.

Although there is no compulsory textbook for this course, students may wish to use the following books for preparatory reading:

- Peou, Sorpong (2021), *Peace and Security in Indo-Pacific Asia. IR Perspectives in Context*, London: Routledge (in particular the Introduction; also useful: chapters 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10).
- Wallis, Joanne, and Andrew Carr, eds. (2016), *Asia-Pacific Security. An Introduction*, Georgetown: Georgetown University Press (in particular the Introduction; also useful: chapters 1, 2, 9 and 11).

Additional course information

--

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - examination paper written at home (individual) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

--

Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English



2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (40%)

Examination time: term time

Remark

--

Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

Supplementary aids

--

Nature of examination

analog

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

The individual examination paper written at home assesses the degree to which the participant has acquired a comprehensive and structured understanding of key security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. For relevant topics see required reading and presentation slides of all lectures on StudyNet.

The group presentation in class assesses the degree to which students have demonstrated an ability to properly apply their gained conceptual and empirical knowledge to a specific security challenge in the Asia-Pacific region. Topics for presentations will be assigned to groups of students at the first meeting.

Examination relevant literature

1. Presentation slides of all lectures (see StudyNet); for all participants.
2. Required readings (see StudyNet); for all participants.
3. Introductory reading for each topic proposed for presentation in class (see StudyNet); only for the members of the group in question.

Required reading and a selection of recommended texts will be made available on StudyNet at the beginning of the semester.



Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 26 January 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 20 March 2023);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 10 April 2023).