

City University of Hong Kong

**Information on a Gateway Education Course
offered by Department of Asian and International Studies
with effect from Semester in 2012 / 2013**

Part I

Course Title: The Asian Century: Exploring the Rise of Asia as a Global Powerhouse

Course Code: GE2207

Course Duration: One semester

Proposed Area:

- 2 Arts and Humanities
- 1 Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations
- Science and Technology

No. of Credit Units: 3

Level: B2

Medium of Instruction: English

Medium of assessment: English

Prerequisites: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Precursors: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Equivalent Courses: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Exclusive Courses: (Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II

1. Abstract

The Asian century hypothesis suggests that the supporting factors are in place for Asia to be the dominant global storyline of this century. Some analysts, for example, predict that Asia will produce well over half of global GDP within this century. The course will engage students in an introductory examination of major patterns for Asian societies to test the Asian century hypothesis. Students will address three principal research questions i) to what extent are activities in selected issue areas national, regional and global? ii) is Asia coming together in these issue areas, or is it divided? iii) how much does Asia affect the world?

2. Course Aims

This course aims to engage students in an introductory examination of major trends and issues for Asian societies in the 21st century. The course will include attention to comparisons with issues, trends, and problems in South Asia, with particular attention to India, and comparisons between development and external impacts of China and India. The topics discussed in the course are chosen on the basis that they are relevant to students as future employees, managers and citizens of the region.

3. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Compare and contrast different perspectives on the Asian Century hypothesis	
2.	Apply these perspectives to key empirical cases in order to determine their relevance and limits	
3.	Evaluate challenges and opportunities facing the Asian region in issue areas such as aging, authoritarianism, China and India, the China-US relationship, economic integration, popular culture, regionalism and urbanization	
4.	Analyze the role of individual countries in the region and the relations between them that may aid or hinder the rise of Asia	

4. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs - Some TLAs may address more than one CILO.)

ILO No	TLAs
1-4	Lectures: Impacts of the economic and political rise of Asian societies on each other, and on other regions. Competing explanations for the rise of Asia in global prominence and global affairs. Problems which accompany the rise of Asian societies and measures adopted in selected Asian societies to deal with such problems. Conflict and cooperation among Asian societies in regional and global affairs
1-4	Guest lectures: speakers from business, government, international organizations and NGOs will be invited to share their expertise and personal knowledge with students
1-4	Field trips: theories and concepts from class will be applied to real world cases. Each student will join a minimum of one field trip in Hong Kong and South China. Table 1 lists a range of likely trips.
1-4	Mobile learning: iPod Touch units will be available in every class for real-time questions and answers and discussion using online software. This will supplement conventional class Q&A. Students will learn how to pose better and more frequent questions and a wider range of student voices will be heard.
1-4	Blog and Twitter: new media will be used to engage students with course material, especially readings, early in semester. Starting in Week 2, students will raise questions on Twitter before lectures and post analysis and observations on a Facebook blog after lecture.

5. Assessment Tasks/Activities

(designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs –Some assessment tasks/activities may address more than one CILO.)

Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weight	ILOs to be addressed	Remarks
Pre-lecture questions on readings (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8)	10%	1-4	Students will post 3-5 questions before lecture on Twitter. They will be assessed on the originality of the questions and their relevance to the topic. Lectures will tackle some of the themes raised in these questions.
Postings and comments on course blog (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8)	20%	1-4	Students will be divided into two groups and will alternate posting their own analysis and commenting on the posts of classmates. The Facebook blog is weighted higher than the Twitter assignment since students will go deeper into issues in this exercise and write 300-400 words each time.

Debate	15%	1-4	Debate resolutions will be provided and teams of three students will present the cases in favour and against the motion. Students will also learn how to make a rebuttal.
Participation and Attendance	20%	1-4	Students will be assessed on the quality and quantity of their contributions to lectures, mobile learning and field trips. Attendance will be taken in lectures.
Essay or Quiz	35%	1-4	Students have the choice of writing a term paper or sitting a quiz to test the knowledge they have gained in the course. For the essay, students will choose one issue to explore in depth, taking account of lectures, presentations and class discussions to go beyond what has been presented, or to do critical analysis of what has been presented. For the quiz, students will be expected to demonstrate a strong grasp of the concepts and empirical matter studied in the course.

6. Grading of Student Achievement: Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations

A-/A/A+	Excellent mastery of course themes and concepts, and excellent work for particular topics or problems, as demonstrated in questions raised on Twitter, posting and comments on the blog, debate performance, and essay or quiz; strong participation in class discussions.
B-/B/B+	Good to very good mastery of course themes and concepts, and for particular topics or problems, as demonstrated in questions raised on Twitter, posting and comments on the blog, debate performance, and essay or quiz; constructive participation in class discussions.
C-/C/C+	Basic mastery of course themes and concepts, and for particular topics or problems, as demonstrated in questions raised on Twitter, posting and comments on the blog, debate performance, and essay or quiz, but with substantial weaknesses; at least some constructive participation in class discussions.
D	Below satisfactory and partial mastery of course themes and concepts, with seriously deficient performance in Twitter project, posting and comments on the blog, debate role, and essay or quiz; little or no constructive participation in class discussions.
F	Failure to demonstrate even basic understanding of course themes and concepts, with seriously deficient or non-existent performance in Twitter project, posting and comments on the blog, debate role, and essay or quiz; very little or no constructive participation in class discussions.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus:

1. Introduction

Keywords: structure and administration of course, historical importance of Ancient China, exchange of ideas between Southeast Asia, India and China, maps of Asia, Asian languages, the Asian Century hypothesis and critiques, rising and declining powers

2. Regionalism

Keywords: what is a region?, regionalism versus regionalization, regional versus global levels of analysis, ASEAN, APEC, G20

3. Popular Culture

Keywords: film, literature, television, media, Korean wave, Japanese popular culture, role of Asian-Americans

4. Economy

Keywords: trade, investment, global supply chains, export factories and sweatshops, industrial upgrading, technology

5. Urbanization and Global Asian Cities

Keywords: global cities, competition or cooperation between Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Singapore and Tokyo, Hong Kong and the Asian Century

6. China, India and the Asian Century

Keywords: decline of Japan, BRICs, China-India relations, soft power

7. China-USA Relationship

Keywords: conflict and interdependence, trade deficits, consumption, debt and credit, sovereign wealth funds, security faultlines

8. Energy and Environmental Challenges

Keywords: resource shortages, global warming, air pollution in Hong Kong, local, national, regional and global responses

9. Demography and Migration

Keywords: aging, immigration, tourism, youth bulges

10. The Dark Side of Asia

Keywords: state violence, transnational crime, Golden triangle, human trafficking, Myanmar, North Korea, south of Thailand, Philippines

11. Hong Kong Case Studies: Chungking Mansion and West Kowloon Cultural District

Keywords: bottom-up globalization, top-down globalization, everyday political economy, transnational flow of people and goods, Asia-Africa trade, culture and global cities, Richard Florida's bohemian index

12. Week Off: Field Trips

In exchange for one lecture off, students must attend at least one class field trip during the semester (and may attend more, space permitting). Students will be given a choice of approximately ten field trips (see Table 1).

13. Essay or quiz

Recommended Reading:

Text(s):

Course readings will be drawn from a variety of sources. The main text used will be Connors et al (2011) *The New Global Politics of the Asia Pacific*, London: Routledge.

Abramowitz, M. and Bosworth, S. (2006) "America Confronts the Asian Century" *Current History*, April.

Abramowitz, M. and Kolieb, J. (2008) "A New Strategy on Myanmar" *Current History*, November.

Allison, A. (2004) "Cuteness as Japan's Millennial Product" in J. Tobin (ed) *Pikachu's Global Adventure: The Rise and Fall of Pokemon*, Durham: Duke University Press.

Aspen Ideas Festival (2009) "Chimerica: Niall Ferguson and James Fallows Discuss the Influence of China on the US Economy."

Beeson, Mark (2007) *Regionalism and Globalization in East Asia: Politics, Security and Economic Development*, Houndmills: Palgrave.

Borras et al. (eds) (2000) *International Production Networks in Asia: Rivalry or Riches?* London: Routledge.

Bowring, P. (2011) "Can Asia Really Fulfil Its Promise" *South China Morning Post*, May 8.

Campbell, L.B. (2004) "The Political Economy of Environmental Regionalism in Asia," in T.J. Pempel (ed) *Remapping East Asia: The Construction of a Region*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

- Craig, T.J. and King, R. (2003) *Global Goes Local: Popular Culture in Asia*, Vancouver: UBC Press.
- Crossette, B. (2007) "Think Again: India" *Foreign Policy*, January.
- Dirlik, A. (1998) "Introduction: Pacific Contradictions" in Dirlik (ed) *What is in a Rim? Critical Perspectives on the Pacific Region Idea*, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Eisenman, J. and Kurlantzick, J. (2006) "China's African Strategy" *Current History*, May.
- Elliott, M. (2008) "A Tale of Three Cities" *Time*, January 17.
- Fairbank et al. (1989) *East Asia: Tradition & Transformation*, London: Wadsworth Publishing.
- Ferguson, N. (2009) "Chimerica is Headed for Divorce," *Newsweek*, August 24/31.
- Foot, R. and Walter, A. (1999) "Whatever Happened to the Pacific Century?" in Cox et al (eds) *Interregnum: Controversies in World Politics 1989–1999*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Friedman, T. (2008) *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
- Hamilton, A. (2004) "The Moving Zones of China: Flows of Rite and Power in Southwest Asia" in Iwabuchi et al (eds) *Rogue Flows: Trans-Asian Cultural Traffic*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Harding, H. (2007) "Think Again: China" *Foreign Policy*, March/April.
- Hobson, J.M. and Seabrooke, L. (2008) "Everyday IPE: Revealing Everyday Forms of Change in the World Economy," in J.M. Hobson and L. Seabrooke (eds) *Everyday Politics of the World Economy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Holland, T. (2010) "HK Gains Ground as Financial Centre; Shanghai Nowhere" *South China Morning Post*, September 2.
- Kang, D.C. and Cha, V.D. (2003) "Think Again: The Korea Crisis" *Foreign Policy*, May/June.
- Kennedy, P. (1989) *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, New York: Vintage.
- Leung, L. (2008) "Mediating Nationalism and Modernity: The Transnationalization of Korean Dramas on Chinese (Satellite) TV" in Huat, C.B. and Iwabuchi, K. (eds), *East Asian Pop Culture: Analysing the Korean Wave*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press.
- Loh, C. and Tay, S. (2007) "Marshalling Asia to Act," *GlobalAsia*, Vol. 2, No. 3.
- Mahbubani, K. (2008) "America's Place in the Asian Century" *Current History*, May.
- McNicoll, G. (2004) "Demographic Future of East Asian Regional Integration" in T.J. Pempel (ed) *Remapping East Asia: The Construction of a Region*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Pempel, T.J. (2004) "Introduction: Emerging Webs of Regional Connectedness" in T.J. Pempel (ed) *Remapping East Asia: The Construction of a Region*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Powell, B. (2008) "The Ballad of Kim Jong Il" *Time*, March 10.

Rubin, J. (2009) "Why the US, China Are About to Get Divorced," *The Globe and Mail*, November 25.

Sassen, S. (1999) "Global Financial Centers," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 78, No. 1.

Sharma, S. (2006) "Asia's Challenged Giants" *Current History*, April.

Solingen, E. (2004) "East Asian Regional Institutions: Characteristics, Sources, Distinctiveness" in T.J. Pempel (ed) *Remapping East Asia: The Construction of a Region*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Stubbs, R. and Reed, A.J. (2005) "Regionalization and Globalization" in R. Stubbs and G.R.D. Underhill (eds) *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order*, Toronto: University of Oxford Press.

Varian, H. (2007) "An Ipod has Global Value" *New York Times*, June 28.

Walker, M. (2006) "The Geopolitics of Sexual Frustration: Asia Has Too Many Boys" *Foreign Policy*, March/April.

"The Odd Couple" *The Economist*, October 22, 2009.