

**THE ASIAN PACIFIC RIM**  
**SYLLABUS**

**1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:**

What would happen if China's 1.3 billion people consumed energy and resources near the consumption rate of a developed western nation? Is Japan's economy still a powerhouse, or is it struggling in the face of competition from more aggressive nations in the region? How can South Korea balance its own economic prosperity with nuclear threats from North Korea? All these questions and more have turned the world's attention more critically towards the Asian Pacific Rim.

In this course, students address the current status of and future outlook for Asian Pacific Rim countries. By examining complex issues like trade, overpopulation, immigration, wartime history, security, and the respective countries' relationships with the US, they learn what connects these countries and what keeps them apart. Through discussions and debates, students examine recent diplomatic obstacles including disputes over territories and China's struggle to define communism's role in a highly capitalist region. In addition, they write essays about the political perspectives and developments, which have affected and continue to influence the countries both individually and collectively. By exploring the different historical, political, and economic interests that drive East Asian interrelations, students are equipped to think critically about the international politics that shape this part of the world.

Among other goals, this course aims to:

- a. Introduce students to the analytic and normative study of international relations. We will survey various perspectives in the discipline to help understand the chief problems, actors, and structures of international politics in the Asia Pacific Rim.
- b. Through the organizing concept of security, identity, culture, and political economy, students will explore a range of contemporary phenomena, including traditions, and ethnic group; international organizations and society; political change, resistance, and nationalism, etc.
- c. Debates and presentations on controversial issues, as well as participation in a simulated ASEAN conference, will allow students to appreciate the international dimensions of politics and economics from the global to the local level. Themes in the course will provide frameworks to both interpret current events and evaluate the proper nature of international society within the Asia Pacific.
- d. Parallel goals of this course include developing effective research, analysis, speaking, reading, and writing skills about international issues. On a normative level, the class also aims to foster a global understanding and appreciation of cultural diversity, difference, and inequality through critical thinking.

## 1. TENTATIVE TIMETABLE:

WEEK 1		WHAT	HOW
DAY 1	Morning	Introductions Ice-breakers Classroom/Course Rules	Personal Scavenger Hunt Writing Suggestions for Activities
	Afternoon	Pre-Assessment Brainstorming What We Know	What Do We Already Know About The Pacific Asia
	Evening	Introduction to the Asia Pacific Region <b>Geography and History</b> <b>Wartime in the Region</b> Glossary Explanation	Asian Pacific Countries Word Search Map Drawing/Outlining Keeping a Glossary of Key Terms
DAY 2	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>The Asian Pacific Region</b> <b>Differences and Commonalities</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Comparing and Contrasting Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Storytelling	Asian Short Stories
	Evening	Pair Work Country by Country Research Paper Writing Project Presentation Guidelines Quiz Game	Reading and Preparing for Presentations Country Study Project Checking Outline
DAY 3	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Colonialism in the Asia Pacific</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Acting Out	The Philippines Performing Short Stories/Skits
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Application Cards	Country Study Project Checking Outline Real-World Learning
DAY 4	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Nationalism and Independence</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Debate	Nationalism vs. Globalization
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Minute Paper	Country Study Project Checking Outline 2-Question Paper
DAY 5	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Government and Politics in the Asia</b> <b>Pacific I</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	South and North Korea Case Studies	Brunei, Hong Kong, North Korea
	Evening	Documentary/Video	Movie Presentation

WEEK 2		WHAT	HOW
DAY 1	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Government and Politics in the Asia Pacific II</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Writing a Timeline	Vietnam and Indonesia Timeline of Main Events in the Pacific Asia
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Quiz Game	Country Study Project Checking Outline
DAY 2	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Authoritarianism and Democracy</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Problem Solving	Malaysia and Myanmar Finding Solutions to Conflicts
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Question of the Day	Country Study Project Checking Outline One or Two Questions To Be Answered
DAY 3	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Strong State – Weak State</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Group Work	Singapore and The Philippines Making Decisions
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Quiz Game	Country Study Project Checking Outline
DAY 4	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Economy and Development Trade and Market in the Asia Pacific</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	<b>Overpopulation Japanese Powerhouse</b> Case Studies	Japan and China
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Quiz Game	Country Study Project Checking Outline
DAY 5	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>NICs and NECs Immigration Issues in the Asia Pacific</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Advisors for a Day	Vietnam and Thailand Being an Advisor to the President
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing Quiz Game	Country Study Project Checking Outline

WEEK 3		WHAT	HOW
DAY 1	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Culture and Ideology</b>	Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Bingo Game	South Korea and Japan
	Evening	Country by Country Research Paper Writing One Sentence Summary	Country Study Project Checking Outline Summary of the Day in One Sentence
DAY 2	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Evolution of Ideologies and Cultural Changes - Confucianism</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Drawing a Web	China and Taiwan Brainstorming Without Words
	Evening	Country by Country Presentations	Checking Outline
DAY 3	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Globalization and Development The Asia Pacific and the U.S.</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Jeopardy Game	South Korea and Vietnam
	Evening	Country by Country Presentations	Checking Outline
DAY 4	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News <b>Looking Ahead/ Future Perspectives Security</b>	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis Outline to be Filled Out During Lecture
	Afternoon	Case Studies Self-Assessment	Ho Chin Min and <b>ASEAN</b> Student Self-Assessment
	Evening	Model ASEAN	Mock Session of ASEAN
DAY 5	Morning	The Asia Pacific in the News Post-Assessment	Newspaper/Magazine Analysis
	Afternoon	Parent-Teacher Conference Closing Ceremonies	
	Evening		