



Asia-Pacific Regional Development

亞太區域發展

Course Number: 1131_265781001

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1. Introduction

Content

This course is a survey of key topics from the four main subfields within the IDAS program: Public Governance, International Relations, Political Economy, and Society and Culture. This course will introduce how social scientists study the Asia Pacific. We will consider a variety of theoretical debates, methods, and disciplinary approaches throughout the social sciences.

Audience

This course is required for NCCU IDAS doctoral students. Assignments will prepare IDAS students for their Qualifying Exam. The course is also open to graduate students from other programs who wish to study the Asia Pacific region from a social science perspective.

Pre-requisites

No prerequisites are required. Students will be expected to read and write at a graduate level.

2. Qualifying Exams

Qualifying Exams: <https://idas.nccu.edu.tw/PageDoc/Detail?fid=13499&id=31226>

Reading Lists: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W6A3XVbsk6sCbgXmu8mzpG6IOoczJPIE>

International Relations: Foreign Policy Analysis, Security and Strategic Studies, International Political Economy, International Trade and Development, International Organizations, Asia Pacific Security, Political Identity in the Asia-Pacific, Cross-Strait Relations and Chinese Foreign Policy.

Public Governance: Political Systems Theory, Democratization and Political Participation, Dynamics of Social Movements, Globalization and its Modern Issues, Civil Society and the Third Sector, Public Governance Strategy, Theories of Agenda-Setting, Problem Definition and Decision-Making, Policy Development, Design and Evaluation, Public Policy and Program Implementation Studies, Public Leadership Theory and Strategy, Theories and Practices of Public Sector Performance, Managing Public and Non-profit Organizations. State-Centered Political Communication.

Political Economy: Theory of Political Economy, Development, Strategies and Patterns of Industrialization, Varieties of Capitalism, Globalization and Regionalization, The East Asian Miracle and the Developmental State, The Asian Financial Crisis, Asian Economic Integration, Institutional Arrangements of Economic Cooperation in Asia, The Rise of China and Cross-strait Relations, Financial systems and Monetary Integration.

Society and Culture: History and Theory of Anthropology, Research Methods of Ethnography, Religious Studies, Cultural Studies, Sociology of Culture, History of Culture, Linguistics, Cross-cultural Studies, Migration and Diaspora Studies and Nationalism, Indigenous Studies. Political Identity and Gender.

3. Intended Learning Outcomes

Students will be introduced to the knowledge domains and academic skills necessary to study the Asia Pacific region from a social science perspective:

1. Survey the topics, theories and readings of the four IDAS exam areas
2. Evaluate the arguments, evidence and framing of research papers
3. Prepare essay responses to prior Qualifying Exam questions.

As students read papers, take notes and write analytical summaries, they are encouraged to prepare and organize these materials in preparation for their qualifier exam and thesis prospectus.

4. Assessments

Grades

Assessment	Details	Points
Qualifying Exam Essay	4 essays x 25 points	100
Attendance	Lose points for 2+ absences (see Attendance Policy)	≤ 0

Mock Qualifying Exams

Students will take one mock Qualifying Exam after each of the first two modules and a third QE covering the last two modules. Each mock exam will be worth one third of the overall semester grade. For each mock exam, students will prepare an annotated reading list and respond to two exam questions. Exams may initially be graded on a scale of 60 points (20 points for reading list + 20 points for each QE response), but will be scaled to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the overall semester grade.

Annotated Reading List (20 points)

The annotated reading list will include 20 or more articles. Article annotations for each article will include bullet point summaries of the article's scope, topic, data/methods, abstract, and arguments. The reading list may be customized to match the exam questions, but may also include general readings from the QE reading list which are not cited in the responses to the mock QE questions.

Example:

- Chatfield, A. T., Reddick, C. G., & Brajawidagda, U. (2015). Government surveillance disclosures, bilateral trust and Indonesia–Australia cross-border security cooperation: Social network analysis of Twitter data. *Government Information Quarterly*, 32(2), 118-128.
 - Scope: Asia Pacific, 2010s
 - Topic: social media discourse about government surveillance, cross-border security
 - Data/Methods: social network analysis of Twitter data
 - Abstract
 - Copy and paste

- Arguments:
 - Market-based perspective of governance: citizen trust/distrust can affect foreign policy/security decisions
 - Domestic social media can mobilize activism, can influence your own government’s foreign policy decisions
 - Distinct roles apparent in social media movements: initiator (Viva), local “interpreter” (movie director), foreign broker (Time) - who conveyed movement to Australia.

A 20 point grading rubric for the annotated reading list is provided below.

Assessment criteria	2	4	6	8	10
Appropriate number of articles	1-4 articles	5-9 articles	10-14 articles	15-19 articles	20+ articles
Thorough annotations	1 of 5 items	2 of 5 items	3 of 5 items	4 of 5 items	5 of 5 items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scope ● Topic ● Data/Methods ● Abstract ● Arguments

Mock Qualifying Exam Responses (20 points each)

Two questions will be selected from old, actual exams. Responses to each exam question should be 1500 words in length, which, for each mock exam, will be approximately 3000 words overall. A 20 point grading rubric for each exam question is provided below.

Assessment criteria	1	2	3	4	5
Comprehension of Concepts	Basic understanding of concepts is wrong, incorrect, or substantially incomplete	Gets basic concepts correct but is otherwise uncomfortable with the material	Conveys content adequately but fails to elaborate	Demonstrates excellent understanding of concepts and is comfortable with nuances in material	Demonstrates superlative mastery of concepts
Argumentation	Paper made no attempt to construct an argument	Paper has arguments but often falls into description, with weak or logically inconsistent insights	Somewhat unclear or weak arguments, offering mostly sound insights	Discernible arguments, offering sound insights	Robust and clear arguments that go beyond description, offering nuanced and sophisticated insights
Depth of Research and Evidence	Paper failed to offer evidence to support arguments	Paper needed more thorough and/or additional evidence to support arguments	Paper may need more depth in evidence but is generally supported and thorough	Paper offers thorough and well-supported evidence	Paper offers detailed and comprehensive evidence, demonstrating wide reading of relevant literature

Structure and Grammar	Paper made little to no attempt to follow proper structure and was poorly organized	Paper veered significantly from proper structure and/or was not well organized	Paper has a clear organization although it veers at times from proper structure	Paper followed proper structure and has a logical organization	Paper followed proper structure and its logical organization walks the reader clearly through arguments and evidence
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5. Policies

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students receive two *free* unexcused absences. Each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5-point deduction from the overall semester grade. Arriving more than 15 minutes late to class, or leaving class more than 15 minutes early, constitutes 50% of an unexcused absence and will result in a 2.5-point deduction, once a student has exceeded the two *free* unexcused absences. Absences may be excused for medical emergencies or participation in approved school or academic events. In either case, students must provide documentation and receive instructor approval. Excused absences do not count as *free* unexcused absences or result in deductions.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for this course follows the system typically used at NCCU.

Extra Credit & Revisions

I rarely offer extra credit. However, if extra credit is offered, it will not be arbitrarily offered to individual students, but systematically offered to all students equally. If a class collectively performs poorly on a particular assignment, I may extend the deadline and offer students the opportunity to revise and resubmit their assignments.

Academic Integrity

NCCU requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. No type of academic misconduct (including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or lying to the professor) will be tolerated in this class and may result in penalties including but not limited to scores of 0 on assignments and forfeiture of extra credit points. Instances of academic misconduct will be referred directly to the appropriate disciplinary committee. For full information on these matters, please refer to the NCCU catalog or official website.

Generative AI

Students are encouraged to use generative AI to augment any aspects of all assignments including literature reviews, coding, team videos and the research poster. If AI-generated results do not fully satisfy assignment criteria, some human intervention may be required in order to complete the assignment and receive full credit.

6. Readings

All materials (or links) will be posted on the course Moodle:
<https://moodle-course02.nccu.edu.tw/course/view.php?id=509>

Most readings will be drawn from the IDAS qualifying exam reading lists:
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W6A3XVbsk6sCbgXmu8mzpG6IOoczJPIE>

Module 1 – International Relations

Week 2 – IR Theories and Topics in the Asia-Pacific Region

- Pekkanen, S. M., Ravenhill, J., & Foot, R. (2014). *The Oxford handbook of the international relations of Asia*. Oxford University Press.
- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Realism
- Chapter 3 – Idealism
- Chapter 4 – Constructivism

Week 3 – Asia Pacific Security and International Society

- Goh, E. (2013). *The struggle for order: Hegemony, hierarchy, and transition in post-Cold War East Asia*. Oxford University Press.

Week 4 – Security Studies and Middle Powers

- Pempel, T. J. (2010). Soft balancing, hedging, and institutional Darwinism: The economic-security nexus and East Asian regionalism. *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 10(2), 209-238.
- Bloomfield, A. (2015). To balance or to bandwagon? Adjusting to China's rise during Australia's Rudd-Gillard Era. *The Pacific Review*, 29(2), 259-282.
- Lee, J. Y. (2017). Hedging strategies of the middle powers in East Asian security: The cases of South Korea and Malaysia. *East Asia*, 34(1), 23-37.

Week 5 – Cross-strait issues and Chinese Foreign Policy

- Diamond, L., Ellis, J. O., & Schell, O. (Eds.). (2023). *Silicon Triangle: The United States, Taiwan, China, and Global Semiconductor Security*. Hoover Press.

Optional Readings (from IR Reading List)

- Lai, H., & Kang, S. (2014). Domestic bureaucratic politics and Chinese foreign policy. *Journal of Contemporary China*, 23(86), 294-313.

Module 2 – Public Governance

Week 6 – Introduction to Public Governance

- Levi-Faur, D. (2012). *The Oxford handbook of governance* (Vol. 58). Oxford University Press. Chapters 1,7,13.
- *Article reflecting the Big Government, classical institutional perspective*

Week 7 – Public Governance: Hollowing Out & Shadow Hierarchy Perspective

- Raco, M., & Lin, W. I. (2012). Urban sustainability, conflict management, and the geographies of postpoliticism: A case study of Taipei. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 30(2), 191-208.
- Berman, E., Chen, D. Y., Jan, C. Y., & Huang, T. Y. (2013). Public agency leadership: The impact of informal understandings with political appointees on perceived agency innovation in Taiwan. *Public Administration*, 91(2), 303-324.

Week 8 – Public Governance: Market Perspective

- Khan, G. F., Yoon, H. Y., & Park, H. W. (2014). Social media communication strategies of government agencies: Twitter use in Korea and the USA. *Asian Journal of Communication*, 24(1), 60-78.
- Chatfield, A. T., Reddick, C. G., & Brajawidagda, U. (2015). Government surveillance disclosures, bilateral trust and Indonesia–Australia cross-border security cooperation: Social network analysis of Twitter data. *Government Information Quarterly*, 32(2), 118-128.
- Choo, S. M., Lim, E. C. L., Chang, C. T., Li, Y. C., Chang, Y. C., & Syed-Abdul, S. (2022). How #TaiwanCanHelp reverberates: an exploratory analysis of advocacy hashtag on Twitter. *Social Media+ Society*, 8(3), 20563051221116847.

Week 9 – Public Governance: Network Perspective

- Fischer, M., Nguyen, M., & Strande, L. (2019). Context matters: horizontal and hierarchical network governance structures in Vietnam's sanitation sector. *Ecology & Society*, 24(3).

- Salazar, V. (2023). From Practices to Praxis: ASEAN's Transnational Climate Governance Networks as Communities of Practice. *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, 42(2), 190-215
- Kraiwatanapong, V., & Akarapattananukul, Y. (2024). Networked Governance in Transnational Cooperation and Politics: Responding to COVID-19 Pandemic Along Thai-Laos Cross-Border Communities. *Journal of Population and Social Studies [JPSS]*, 32, 223-242.

Module 3 – Political Economy

Week 10 – Political Economy: Theories of China’s Market Transition

- Required
 - Oi, J. C. (1999). *Rural China takes off: Institutional foundations of economic reform*. Univ of California Press.
- Optional
 - Polanyi, Karl. 1957 (c1944). *The Great Transformation* (Boston: Beacon Press).
 - Zhou, Kate Xiao, 1956-. (1996). *How the farmers changed China : power of the people / Kate Xiao Zhou ; with a foreword by Edward Friedman*. Boulder, Colo. : Westview Press.
 - Nee, V. (1996). The Emergence of a Market Society: Changing Mechanisms of Stratification in China. *American Journal of Sociology*, 101(4), 908–949. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2782234>
 - Xie, Y., & Hannum, E. (1996). Regional Variation in Earnings Inequality in Reform-Era Urban China. *American Journal of Sociology*, 101(4), 950–992. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2782235>
 - Walder, A. G. (1996). Markets and Inequality in Transitional Economies: Toward Testable Theories. *American Journal of Sociology*, 101(4), 1060–1073. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2782239>

Week 11 – Political Economy: Dependency Theory and the East Asian Miracle

- Required
 - Cummings, Bruce. 1984. “The Origins and Development of the Northeast Asian Political Economy.” *International Organizations* 38(1): 1-40.
 - Wade, Robert. 1992. “East Asia’s Economic Success: Conflicting Perspectives, Partial Insights, Shaky Evidence.” *World Politics* 44(2): 270-320.
 - Doner, Richard F., Bryan K. Ritchie, and Dan Slater. 2005. “Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental State: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspectives.” *International Organizations* 59(2): 327-61.
- Optional

- Krugman, Paul. 1994. "The Myth of Asia's Miracle." *Foreign Affairs* 73(6): 62-78.

Week 12 – Political Economy: Crony Capitalism and the Asian Financial Crisis

- Required
 - Kang, D. C. (2002). *Crony capitalism: Corruption and development in South Korea and the Philippines*. Cambridge university press. Chapters 1 and 2.
 - Kim, B. K., & Im, H. B. (2001). 'Crony capitalism' in South Korea, Thailand and Taiwan: myth and reality. *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 1(1), 5-52.
- Optional
 - Khair, A. H. A., Haniffa, R., Hudaib, M., & Karim, M. N. A. (2015, September). Personalisation of power, neoliberalism and the production of corruption. In *Accounting Forum* (Vol. 39, No. 3, pp. 225-235).

Module 4 – Society and Culture

Week 13 – Demand-led Industrialization & Family Firms – Part 1 (Chapters 1-5)

- Hamilton, G. G., & Cheng-Shu, K. (2020). *Making money: How Taiwanese industrialists embraced the global economy*. Stanford University Press.

Week 14 – Demand-led Industrialization & Family Firms – Part II (Chapters 6-10)

- Hamilton, G. G., & Cheng-Shu, K. (2020). *Making money: How Taiwanese industrialists embraced the global economy*. Stanford University Press.

Week 15 – Migration in Asia – Part I

- Annual Review Article
 - Fong, E., & Shibuya, K. (2020). Migration patterns in East and Southeast Asia: Causes and consequences. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 46(1), 511-531.
- Special Issue on Migration in Asia
 - Hosogaya, N. (2020). Migrant workers in Japan: Socio-economic conditions and policy. *Asian Education and Development Studies*, 10(1), 41-51.
 - Deng, J. B., Wahyuni, H. I., & Yulianto, V. I. (2020). Labor migration from Southeast Asia to Taiwan: Issues, public responses and future development. *Asian Education and Development Studies*, 10(1), 69-81.

Week 16 – Migration in Asia – Part II

- Handbook on Labor Migration in Asia
 - Hoang, L. A., & Yeoh, B. S. (2015). Transnational labour migration, debts and family economics in Vietnam. In *Transnational labour migration, remittances and the changing family in Asia* (pp. 283-310). London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.
 - Sobieszczyk, T. (2015). “Good” Sons and “Dutiful” Daughters: A Structural Symbolic Interactionist Analysis of the Migration and Remittance Behaviour of Northern Thai International Migrants. In *Transnational labour migration, remittances and the changing family in Asia* (pp. 82-110). London: Palgrave Macmillan UK.

7. Fall 2025 Schedule

Week	Date	Readings	Activities	Assessments
1	9/3	Introduction	Rank QE fields & topics <i>Area Studies vs Disciplines</i>	
Module 1 - International Relations				
2	9/10	IR Theories and Topics	<i>Arguments on three levels</i>	
3	9/17	Asia Pacific Security	<i>Journal Rankings</i>	
4	9/24	Security Studies: Middle Powers	QE Response Essay Instructions	Receive QE1 Exam Wed 9/24 in class
5	10/1	Cross-strait Relations: Silicon Triangle	Silicon Triangle Forum	
Module 2 - Public Governance				
6	10/8	Five public governance paradigms & Big Government, classic institutional perspective		QE Essay 1 Due Sun 10/12 23:59
7	10/15	Hollowing out & shadow hierarchy perspectives	Review QE Essay 1	
8	10/22	Market perspective	<i>Types of arguments</i>	Receive QE2 Exam Wed 10/22 in class
9	10/29	Network perspective		
Module 3 - Political Economy				
10	11/5	China's marketization: central gov, private enterprise, FDI, local gov		QE Essay 2 Due Sun 11/9 23:59
11	11/12	Dependency Theory and the East Asian Miracle	Review QE Essay 2	
12	11/19	Crony Capitalism and the Asian Financial Crisis	<i>Matching front-end and back-end: logic of RQ, MA=logic of RD & DA</i>	
Module 4 - Society and Culture				
13	11/26	Demand-led Industrialization & Family Firms – Part 1		Receive QE3,4 Exam Wed 11/26 in class

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14	12/3	Demand-led Industrialization & Family Firms – Part II		
15	12/10	Labor Migration in Asia – Part I	<i>Professional Skills: Advisors, Conferences, Networking</i>	
16	12/17	Labor Migration in Asia – Part II		QE Essay 3 Due Sun 12/21 23:59
Grades Due 1/5 23:59				