

ARTS3850

Security in Asia: Politics Meets Economics

Term 1, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

In this course you will examine the complex and dynamic relationship between political and economic processes and outcomes in Asia. You will be challenged to ask: How have geopolitical concerns shaped economic development trajectories across the region? How have domestic and geo-political dynamics within the region been transformed by economic developments? And what are the implications of the region's rapid rise for the global economic and security landscape? Through a theoretically informed analysis of such questions, you will develop an understanding of the the interdependencies between economic and political developments in the region, and the possible trajectories of future economic and political developments.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the various ways in which geopolitical concerns have shaped economic development trajectories across the region
2. Analyse and evaluate key debates about how domestic and geo-political dynamics within the region have been transformed by economic developments
3. Assess the implications of the region's rapid rise for the global economic and security landscape, from a theoretically grounded point of view.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale

This course seeks to encourage and reward students as independent learners who approach their studies with enthusiasm and diligence. You will find much of this course demanding and many of the theories and approaches we will cover are intrinsically challenging. It is important that you always try to express yourself in a self-aware and fluent manner, that your interpersonal skills are used to the maximum, that your critical analysis and problem-solving skills are being extended and promoted at all times and that you are free to think creatively. Assignments have been designed to offer you flexibility and choice, while requiring sound organisational and communication skills.

Teaching Strategies

Seminars and course assessments are the key means by which learning outcomes are evaluated in this course. At the 3000 level, you are expected to attend three hours of seminars a week. This course runs through a weekly two-hour seminar, with the additional hour spent researching, preparing and submitting a weekly assessment (either a question-based task for class discussion or a briefing paper).

Assessment

1. What if I go over the word limit?

A +/- 10% leeway is applied to all written assessments. For example, for a 2000-word essay can be anywhere between 1800 and 2200. Essays that are shorter or longer than the allowed range will be penalised at 3% for every 100 words (or part thereof).

2. What is included in the word count?

Everything except your reference list is included in the word count. That means that footnotes, sub-headings and in-text references **are** included in the word count.

3. What referencing style should I use?

Political science and international relations do not have a standard referencing style like some other disciplines (e.g. psychology and law). You can use any referencing style you want, provided that:

1. You use just one style consistently
2. You use the style correctly
3. You use an actually existing style (i.e. you don't just make something up).

Poor referencing and attribution of sources will result in a lower grade and may even constitute academic misconduct. There is a lot of assistance available to you to help you learn about referencing, attribution and avoiding plagiarism. If you are not sure just ask! See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/support-referencing-assignments>.

If you submit work for this course that you have already submitted for assessment in another course at this University or any other institution, in whole or in part, or if you copy material from another source and do not attribute that material to its original author, your work will be referred to the School Student Ethics Officer for an investigation into a possible charge of academic misconduct. See <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>.

4. There is something I do not understand about the assessment, what should I do?

Please make sure you have read the assessment instructions closely. Also have a look at the marking rubric, which explains what we will be looking for when we mark your assessment. If you still have questions, you can ask the convenor.

Because I will often field similar questions from multiple students, I ask that you raise questions in the seminar, if possible.

5. What if I submit an assignment late?

Unless you have an approved extension (see question 6 below), 5% is deducted from the 'total awardable mark' each calendar day you are late. For example, an assessment that received 70% but is two days late will receive a final grade of 60% - i.e. $70\% - 10\% (2 \text{ days late} \times 5\%) = 60\%$.

For work submitted more than ten calendar days after the due date a mark of **zero** will be awarded.

6. What if I need more time to finish my assessment?

You can apply for special consideration if you need more time due to illness, misadventure etc. It is highly recommended that you apply for an extension before the due date passes, if possible.

Special consideration is handled by a centralised bureaucracy. For more information, or to apply for an extension, visit <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

7. I think my grade was too low, what can I do?

The process for appealing grades is available here: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Case Study Paper	25%	16/03/2022 11:59 PM	1, 2
2. Quiz	25%	08/04/2022 11:59 PM	1, 3
3. Research Essay	50%	22/04/2022 11:59 PM	2, 3

Assessment 1: Case Study Paper

Due date: 16/03/2022 11:59 PM

1000 words. Students will receive written feedback, a completed rubric and a numerical grade through Moodle within two weeks of submission.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

The purpose of this case study is to apply and critically assess what we have discussed so far. For the case study, choose **one** of the following topics:

- Free trade agreements (either regional or bilateral)
- Regional development projects (i.e. 'development financing' for infrastructure)

Discuss your chosen topic, and how it applies to **one** Asian country of your choice. Your case study must:

1. Discuss how the topic applies to the chosen country (i.e what are the important facts to consider?)
2. Critically assess the economic-security nexus involved in your chosen topic/country
3. Identify the political actors (i.e. other countries, international organisations) involved, and what their primary interests are (i.e what they want to achieve).
4. Make an assessment of what you think may happen in your case study in the near future (i.e. what might the outcomes be?)

Please ensure you address all the questions above.

This is not a major research paper. Whilst scholarly resources should be used, you are also encouraged

to make use of news articles, official statements, etc.

The word limit is 1000 words, plus or minus 10%.

Assessment 2: Quiz

Due date: 08/04/2022 11:59 PM

short answer quiz - students will receive graded papers back within two weeks of completion.

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

This is a take home exam that will be completed in week 8. The quiz questions will be posted to Moodle on the 4th of April.

Assessment 3: Research Essay

Due date: 22/04/2022 11:59 PM

3000 words. Students will receive written feedback, a completed rubric and a numerical grade through Moodle within two weeks of submission. This is the final assessment of the course

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

The research essay is **3000 words** in length, plus or minus 10%. The essay will test:

1. Your ability to think analytically and critically about the concepts and theories addressed in the course.
2. Your ability to research and develop a critical and thoughtful argument on the essay topic. You are expected to include source from outside of the course's required readings.

Please choose **one** of the following essay topics:

1. Economic statecraft is more effective than either military strength or security alliances in achieving strategic goals in Asia. Do you agree? Critically assess this statement.
2. What are China's primary goals for the Belt and Road Initiative? How successful has the BRI been in achieving these goals for China, and what explains this success or lack of success?
3. Why was economic coercion ineffective in preventing North Korea from developing a nuclear weapon? What strategies, if any, do you believe would have been more successful?
4. Do you believe environmental and/or energy security issues are likely to cause a military dispute (either inter-state or intra-state) in Asia in the near future? Give an example of at least one environmental and/or energy security issue in your answer.
5. How have small South-Pacific states responded to the rise of China? Analyse the foreign policy of one South-Pacific states (e.g. Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, etc) in your answer.
6. What role do free trade agreements play in the economic-security nexus in Asia? Your answer

can include analysis of regional agreements such as RCEP and the CPTPP and/or bilateral agreements.

7. What impact does the emerging rivalry between China and the United States have on Australia? Will Australia be able to maintain good relationship with both the United States and China, and if so, how?

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Worth **50%** of the final grade.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 14 February - 18 February	Seminar	<p>Week 1: 'New security issues' and the economy.</p> <p>What is security? Whose security are we concerned with and why? Why do we need both political and economic lenses to understand international security?</p>
Week 2: 21 February - 25 February	Seminar	<p>Week 2: Politics Meets Economics: Regional Security Through the IPE Lens</p> <p>What are the key IPE concepts that help us understand security in Asia and elsewhere? How do politics and economics intertwine in the concepts of economic statecraft and interdependence? Why are foreign trade, foreign aid, development assistance, economic sanctions, inherently political? What are their goals and how do they work? What is their strategic utility?</p>
Week 3: 28 February - 4 March	Seminar	<p>Week 3: The Politics of Regional Trade Agreements: TPP, CPTPP, RCEP</p> <p>While having a strong economic rationale, TPP, CPTPP, and later RCEP reflect the dynamics of great power rivalry in the Asia-Pacific region. Why did the US withdraw from TPP? Was it simply Trump's idiosyncrasy? Then why does not Biden revive TPP? Why TPP evolved into CPTPP? What is the role of China in the evolution of these FTA formats? What are the implications of RCEP (without the United States) for China's leadership and power balance in the region?</p>
Week 4: 7 March - 11 March	Seminar	<p>Week 4: Grand Regional Development Projects: Infrastructure and International Security</p>

		<p>What drives grand regional development projects such as China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), India's "Act East Policy", and Japan's infrastructure aid? What are the implications for regional security? How does politics and economics dovetail in these projects? Are they driven by domestic-level or international circumstances?</p>
<p>Week 5: 14 March - 18 March</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p>Week 5: Debt-trap Diplomacy and China's Client States</p> <p>What is now called "debt-trap diplomacy" has been used in relation to Chinese state-backed lending policies to other countries in Asia and beyond and also to India's loans. It implies predatory lending practices in which poor countries would be overwhelmed with unsustainable loans and forced to cede strategic leverage to the lender. In Asia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines have been observed to become an object of debt-trap diplomacy in one form or another. What is the essence of debt-trap diplomacy? Does it exist at all, or is it simply a propaganda campaign? How does it work and what are the consequences for individual states in Asia and Asian regionalism more broadly?</p>
<p>Week 6: 21 March - 25 March</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p>Week 6 (non-teaching week)</p> <p>Reading week. No classes.</p>
<p>Week 7: 28 March - 1 April</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p>Week 7: Economic Coercion in Asia: Interdependence, Assistance, Aid, and Sanctions</p> <p>How are such techniques as assistance, aid, and sanctions used as a mechanism of economic coercion in Asia? Does economic coercion work? If yes, then when and how? If no, then why? Can sanctions change the course of action of North Korea? Can economic pressure on South Korea change its relations with the United States? How do larger powers use economic coercion to realise political goals and affect the behaviour of small and middle powers?</p>
<p>Week 8: 4 April - 8 April</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p>Week 8: Sovereignty for Purchase? – China-Taiwan Competition in the South-Pacific</p> <p>Aid to South-Pacific Island nations has become a</p>

		<p>diplomatic battle for sovereignty recognition between China and Taiwan. Each country attempts to win the minds and hearts of the small South-Pacific states to get their support within international organisations when it comes to sovereignty recognition. China provides aid to persuade island states not to recognise Taiwan, whereas the primary goal of Taiwan's aid is to achieve the opposite – to secure diplomatic recognition. What are the implications of this struggle to the South-Pacific Island nations? How are economics and politics interlinked in this foreign policy endeavour?</p>
<p>Week 9: 11 April - 15 April</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p>Week 9: Energy Security Nexuses in Asia</p> <p>What is energy diplomacy and how it is executed in the Asia-Pacific region? How is energy trade related to energy security? Why do great powers invest billions in hydrocarbons despite the impending shift to clean energy? Is such a shift feasible? If yes, how soon? What drives China-Russia pipeline diplomacy – economic considerations or geopolitical risks? How is energy security related to the South China Sea dispute?</p>
<p>Week 10: 18 April - 22 April</p>	<p>Seminar</p>	<p>Week 10: Between a Rock and a Hard Place: China-US political-economic competition and Australia's interests.</p> <p>How can Australia maximize its economic and strategic interests in the context of intensifying great power rivalry, specifically the growing confrontation and trade wars between China and the United States? Does Canberra have to choose between extensive economic cooperation with China and security cooperation with the United States? Can Canberra sustain this "division of labour" when closer economic links to China do not undermine security guarantees of the United States? Can other nations in the Asia-Pacific region replace China as Australia's largest economic partner? Is economic decoupling between China and Australia possible? What can and should the United States offer Australia economically to reduce Canberra's dependence on China?</p>

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All relevant course information and required readings are available on the Moodle site for this course. Please regularly check for updates, announcements, and other relevant course related information on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Information about additional readings and resources is also made available on the Moodle site for this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback, both formal and informal, is welcome and valued, and will be considered seriously for the continued improvement of this course. Students will be asked to give formal feedback towards the end of the semester through UNSW's MyExperience survey process. Students are also strongly encouraged to give feedback (formal or informal) on learning and teaching activities throughout the course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library has [the ELISE tool](#) available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study. Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines>

Image Credit

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