

CAS IR 339 Australia and the Politics of Regional Security in Asia-Pacific

Syllabus

Instructor Name: Dr. Keith Suter

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Contact Hours: Generally, prior to or following classes and strictly by arrangement with coordinator.

Course Dates: Meeting twice weekly

Course Time & Location: BU Sydney Study Abroad campus, see schedule for details

Course Credits: 4 BU credits

Course Description

In CAS IR 339 Australia and the Politics of Regional Security in the Asia-Pacific, students study comparative systems of regional security including Australia and USA (primarily).

This challenges students beyond their comfort zone whilst also refining their knowledge of the US security system. (See course driven questions in description and course objectives in this syllabus document and the short essay expectations which require reflection on comparative political systems. See also scope for comparison of diverse security systems for major assignment).

Whether a student comes from the US or elsewhere, this course introduces elements of International Relations and Security as these apply to global diversity. The course challenges assumptions held by students in relation to security systems around the world, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific Region.

Ultimately a study of comparative regional security systems also extends to gaining knowledge of cultural differences and to societal diversities which enlightens students on the needs for sensitivity towards people from different backgrounds. On successful completion of this course, a student will be able to identify the new security era in Asia Pacific, the options confronting Australia and the US, and will have an understanding of how the region could evolve.

Course Objectives

Course Learning Outcome

On successful completion of this course, a student will be able to identify the new security era in Asia Pacific, the options confronting Australia and the US, and will have an understanding of how the region could evolve.

Question-driven Course Description

This course examines the new era of regional security in the Asia Pacific to understand the public policy implications for Australia and the United States. Students undertaking the course will acquire knowledge to answer the following questions:

- (i) what is the new security era?
- (ii) what are the options confronting Australia and the United States?
- (iii) what are the possible later developments in the region?

Hub Learning Outcomes

BU Hub Units: One unit

Capacity: Diversity, Civic Engagement, Global

Area: Global Citizenship and Intercultural Literacy (GCI)

Program Learning Outcomes

Study Abroad Sydney Program Outcome:

The student will “demonstrate knowledge of Australian culture and society with respect to a combination of the following areas: Australian politics, industry, science and technology, economics, social policy, environmental policy, literature and the arts, film, marketing, advertising, and mass media”.

Instructional Format, Course Pedagogy, and Approach to Learning

For this course, formal lectures, group tutorials and seminar presentations have been organized. A field trip will be undertaken to Canberra.

Attendance at all sessions is compulsory.

A great deal of photocopied material will be distributed during the lectures.

Some political documentaries will also be shown, followed by a discussion of their contents.

Format

Topics covered

1. New Era of Regional Security what is security”: national, regional global and human the drivers of change

2. Asia and the Pacific on the Global Stage rise or return of Asia the Pacific era
3. Australian Foreign and Defence Policy themes in Australian policy
The domestic sources of Australian policy
4. American Foreign and Defence Policy themes in American policy
The domestic sources of American policy
5. Regional Flashpoints particular locations, such as the South China Sea particular themes, such as competition for resources
6. How Could the Region Evolve?
Three different ways of thinking about the future global order or global disorder

Books and Other Course Materials

LIST OF RECOMMENDED TEXTS

The BUSAC Library has two texts in Special Reserve which are good overviews of the field of security studies, and contain chapters on many of the subjects which Dr. Suter covers. You are welcome to scan and email relevant articles to yourself via the library photocopiers. These texts are:

Collins, Alan (2022), *Contemporary Security Studies*, sixth edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon.

In addition, the reading list is as follows and is available on Blackboard:

Acikalin, Suay Nilhan, "Rethinking Actor and Order with Complexity Theory: A New Approach to Diplomacy", *Perceptions*, Autumn-Winter 2022, Vol XXVII No 2, pp. 177-196.

Adger, W. Neil and Juan M Pulhin, "Human Security", in Barros et al. (eds) *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 755-791.

Aldrich, Richard J., "Intelligence", in Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, *Security Studies – An Introduction*, Routledge, London, 2023, pp. 485-501.

Alhajjar, Elie and Kevin Lee, 2022, "The US Cyber Threat Landscape", *Proceedings of the 21st European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security*, pp. 18-24.

Angeli, Federica and Andrea Montefusco, "Sensemaking and learning during the Covid-19

pandemic: a complex adaptive systems perspective on policy decision-making”, *World Development*, 136 (2020), pp. 1-4.

Baumann, Robert F., “Russians are busy hammering out their ‘ideology of the future’”, *Military Review*, Sept-Oct 2023, pp. 73-86.

Bednar, Jenna, et al, “The Fractured Superpower: Federalism is Remaking U.S. Democracy and Foreign Policy”, *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2022, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/fractured-superpower-federalism-remaking-us-democracy-foreign-policy> accessed 8 November 2023.

Bisley, Nick, “Australia’s Indo-Pacific Strategy: From Optimism to Hard Balancing”, *Asia Policy*, Seattle, Vol 18, Iss 3, Jul 2023, pp. 2-6.

Calderwood, Kathleen, “Anthony Albanese’s visit to China included a ‘very positive’ meeting with Xi Jinping and a refusal to budge on some issues”, *ABC News*, 7 Nov 2023, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-11-07/the-key-takeaways-from-albanese-s-visit-to-china/103073390> accessed 8 November 2023.

Cheepensook, K. “ASEAN in the South China Sea conflict, 2012–2018: A lesson in conflict transformation from normative power Europe”, *International Economics and Economic Policy* (2020) 17:747–764

Djalal, Dino Patti, “ASEAN responses to AUKUS security dynamic”, *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, October-December 2021, pp. 16-18.

Doring, Thomas and Birgit Aigner-Walder, “The Limits to Growth – 50 Years Ago and Today”, *Intereconomics*, 2022, 57(3), pp. 187-191.

Dunley, Richard, “The end of the ‘lucky country’? Understanding the failure of the AUKUS policy debate”, *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 77:3, 317-324.

Feffer, John, “From the Unsustainable Here to the Sustainable There”, *Foreign Policy In Focus*, 2023, Washington, January 18.

Gill, Bates, “Explaining the Troubled Australia-China Relationship: A Perspective from Australia”, *The China Review*, Vol. 23, No, 1, February 2023, pp. 243-275.

Gjorv, Gunhild Hoogensen, “Human Security”, in Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon, pp. 251-267.

Harris, Jerry, “Our Future: Ecosocialism or Ecofascism”, *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies*, Vol. 17, Iss 2, 2022, pp. 35-47.

Ichikawa, Tomiko, “Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine and Security in the Indo-Pacific”, *National Security*, New Delhi, Vol 5, Iss 3, 2022, pp. 290-304.

Jensen, Michael A., “Realisms”, in Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon, pp. 17-35.

John, Jasmine Gnanam, "Securitization of Climate Change in International Politics with a Focus on Climate-Induced Displacement", *The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses*, Vol. 15, Issue 2, 2023, pp. 15-27.

Kopke, Soren, "Interrogating the Links Between Climate Change, Food Crises and Social Stability", *Earth*, 3, 2022, pp. 577-589.

Lee, Peter K. and Andrew Carr, "Australia's Great-Power Threat Perceptions and Leadership Responses", *Asia Policy*, Vol. 17, No. 4, Oct 2022, pp. 77-99.

Liu, Feng and Kai He, "China's Bilateral Relations, Order Transition, and the Indo-Pacific Dynamics", *The China Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Feb 2023, pp. 11-43.

Mastro, Oriana Skylar, "Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific", *Asia Policy*, Seattle, Vol. 17, Iss. 4, Oct 2022, pp. 8-18.

Navari, Cornelia, "Liberalisms", in Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon, pp. 36-51.

Patman, Robert G., "The defence dilemma facing NZ's next government: stay independent or join 'pillar 2' of AUKUS?", *The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/the-defence-dilemma-facing-nzs-next-government-stay-independent-or-join-pillar-2-of-aukus-212090> accessed 8 Nov 2023.

Persaud, Randolph B, "Human Security", in Collins, Alan (2022), *Contemporary Security Studies*, sixth edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 144-158.

Rasheed, Athaulla A., "Small Island Developing States and climate securitization in international politics: Towards a comprehensive conception", *Island Studies Journal*, 18 (1), 2023, pp. 161-185.

Santikajaya, Awidya, "Walking the middle path: The characteristics of Indonesia's rise", *International Journal*, vol. 71 (4) 2016, pp. 563-586.

Wilkins, Thomas, "Minilateral groupings as an alternative to multilateralism in an era of strategic competition", *Pacific Forum CSIS Issues and Insights*, Honolulu, Vol. 23, Iss SR3, Mar 2023, pp. 35-40.

Zhou, Fangyin, "China-Australia Relations and China's Policy Choices toward Australia: A Chinese Perspective", in *The China Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1, February 2023, pp. 213-242.

Internet:

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC): www.abc.net.au/iview

Australian Institute for International Affairs:

www.internationalaffairs.org.au

Australian Strategic Policy Institute: www.aspi.org.au

Centre for Independent Studies: www.cis.org.au
Inside Story, Swinburne Institute for Social Research: www.inside.org.au
Kurzweil Accelerating Intelligence www.kurzweilai.net
Lowy Institute www.lowyinstitute.org
Special Broadcasting Service (SBS): www.sbs.com.au
The Conversation www.theconversation.com/au
The City of Sydney has an excellent Library network (with branches near BU) and so students are encouraged the use that network.

The above list should be considered by no means exhaustive and merely represents a cross-section of available material. Students are encouraged to extend their research and reading range to meet the needs of their own topics of exploration.

Courseware

Readings and other materials will be posted on Blackboard at learn.bu.edu

Resources/Support/How to Succeed in This Course:

There is the opportunity of students meeting professors face-to-face either ahead of or following class times; students can also make contact for longer meeting times via email or submit questions via email.

The most effective way to succeed in this course is to keep reading along the time line of required readings.

Being prepared for each scheduled class will mean students gain more from lectures and interactive class discussions. Time management is crucial to such success, as is an open and enquiring mind.

There is also ample material on the BU learn site for students to expand their contextual knowledge of set texts and the BU Sydney library has books and visual material for research.

Assignments and Grading

Assignment topics for both presentations, and short and long papers, are determined anew each semester by the contemporary regional security environment.

Assessment Weighting and due date:

1. Research Paper 40%

A research paper of between 2500-3000 words on a topic chosen from the list supplied.

2. The 1945 Potsdam Conference 15%

The Potsdam Conference was convened to agree on the post-World War II global order. Students will each assume the roles of the Big Three leaders to discuss such matters as: what were the main points of agreement at Potsdam? How did the Allies differ in their perception of events?

What were Stalin’s objectives? Did the US get fooled by Stalin and so “lose” eastern Europe? What was the UK’s role at Potsdam? What were the strengths and weaknesses of each of the Big Three? What role (if any) did the Trinity nuclear test play at Potsdam? How could the Potsdam negotiations have gone differently? What were the long-term consequences of Potsdam? Leading up to October 1, each student will present a summary of the life of the Big Three leader they will represent on October 1.

3. Mid-course Short Paper 15%

A Short Paper, of about 1,000 words to be submitted.

4. Final Examination 25%

A two-hour, two question open-book examination will be held. There will be a limited choice of questions, which will be based on the lecture topics.

5. Participation 5%

All absences must be supported by documentation.

Criteria For Grading

Assignments and Grading

Criteria Weightings for written assessments	Weighting
Relevance of answer to question	20%
Effective use/ relevance of evidence	20%
Development of argument	10%
Extent of Research	10%
Clarity of writing	10%
Appropriate tone	5%
Grammar, punctuation, spelling, syntax, word choice, proof-reading	5%
Referencing (in-text/ footnotes)	5%
Bibliography	5%

Final Grades

All Grades out of 100 Points			
Grade	Max	Avg	Min
F	59.4	50	0.0
D	69.4	65	59.5
C-	72.4	72	69.5
C	76.4	75	72.5
C+	79.4	78	76.5
B-	82.4	82	79.5
B	86.4	85	82.5
B+	89.4	88	86.5
A-	93.4	92	89.5
A	100	96	93.5

Assessment Descriptions

Participation in Classes

That students participate in class is significant to the calculation of their grade in this element of the assessment outlined for this course. The degree to which they do so *proficiently* will determine the value of their score, just as in the other elements of course work evaluation.

(Please see Community and Policies section for details).

Written Assignments

All written work must be submitted punctually on dates specified. Failure to submit written work will be viewed as a failure to meet the requirements specified for the completion of this course. The coordinator is required to adhere to Program policy that no written work will be accepted later than the specified time for submission, in fairness to those students whose work is submitted punctually. Please see the academic director of the program if you have genuine and document supported reasons.

(Please see Community and Policies section for details).

Essays without a Bibliography (No matter how fantastic) cannot gain a grade higher than B+.

Examination

A compulsory two-hour examination has been scheduled. Details of the examination date, time and rules will be published separately.

Resources/Support/How to Succeed in This Course:

Professors are notified of students with documented disabilities or special needs ahead of first classes and offer assistance to these students in line with BU policy, which is also BU Sydney policy.

Community of Learning: Class and University Policies

Course Matters

Attendance at all classes is mandatory.

Any absence for medical reasons or other misadventure must be supported by a medical certificate or a letter offering a satisfactory explanation. Strict penalties apply, on a pro rata basis, for any unapproved absence. Missing one class without reason would attract as much as a 10% penalty.

Statement on Plagiarism

All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be "... expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean".

Late Work

In general, there will be no extensions granted for any coursework. The exception is where there are clear and acceptable reasons for late submission. In this case a written statement outlining any serious illness or misadventure together with supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificates) must be provided or a strict penalty of 5% per day will apply.

Outline of Class Meetings: Date, Topic, Readings Due, Assignments Due

Introduction to other class members; What is "security": national, regional, global and human

Required Readings:

Adger, W. Neil and Juan M Pulhin, "Human Security", in Barros et al. (eds) *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, pp. 755-791.

Gjorv, Gunhild Hoogensen, "Human Security", in Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon, pp. 251-267.

Persaud, R.B. 2022, 'Human Security', in Collins, A., *Contemporary Security Studies*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, pp. 145-156.

The drivers of change

Required Readings:

Bisley, Nick, "Australia's Indo-Pacific Strategy: From Optimism to Hard Balancing", *Asia Policy*, Seattle, Vol 18, Iss 3, Jul 2023, pp. 2-6.

Lee, Peter K. and Andrew Carr, "Australia's Great-Power Threat Perceptions and Leadership Responses", *Asia Policy*, Vol. 17, No. 4, Oct 2022, pp. 77-99.

Liu, Feng and Kai He, "China's Bilateral Relations, Order Transition, and the Indo-Pacific Dynamics", *The China Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1, Feb 2023, pp. 11-43.

Mastro, Oriana Skylar, "Deterrence in the Indo-Pacific", *Asia Policy*, Seattle, Vol. 17, Iss. 4, Oct 2022, pp. 8-18.

The domestic sources of Australian policy

Required Readings:

Djalal, Dino Patti, "ASEAN responses to AUKUS security dynamic", *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, October-December 2021, pp. 16-18.

Dunley, Richard, "The end of the 'lucky country'? Understanding the failure of the AUKUS policy debate", *Australian Journal of International Affairs*, 77:3, 317-324.

Patman, Robert G., "The defence dilemma facing NZ's next government: stay independent or join 'pillar 2' of AUKUS?", *The Conversation*, <https://theconversation.com/the-defence-dilemma-facing-nzs-next-government-stay-independent-or-join-pillar-2-of-aucus-212090> accessed 8 Nov 2023.

Themes in American policy

Required Readings:

Jensen, Michael A., "Realisms", in Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon, pp. 17-35.

Navari, Cornelia, "Liberalisms", in Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald (2023), *Contemporary Security Studies: An Introduction*, Routledge Press, Oxon, pp. 36-51.

Wilkins, Thomas, "Minilateral groupings as an alternative to multilateralism in an era of strategic competition", *Pacific Forum CSIS Issues and Insights*, Honolulu, Vol. 23, Iss SR3, Mar 2023, pp. 35-40.

The domestic sources of American policy

Required Readings:

Bednar, Jenna, et al, "The Fractured Superpower: Federalism is Remaking U.S. Democracy and Foreign Policy", *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2022, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/fractured-superpower-federalism-remaking-us-democracy-foreign-policy> accessed 8 November 2022.

Regional Flashpoints, Particular Locations

Required Readings:

Cheepensook, K. "ASEAN in the South China Sea conflict, 2012–2018: A lesson in conflict transformation from normative power Europe", *International Economics and Economic Policy* (2020) 17:747–764

Ichikawa, Tomiko, "Russia's Invasion of Ukraine and Security in the Indo-Pacific", *National Security*, New Delhi, Vol 5, Iss 3, 2022, pp. 290-304.

NSW Parliament House Field Trip

Particular themes, such as the environment and competition for resources

Required Readings:

John, Jasmine Gnanam, "Securitization of Climate Change in International Politics with a Focus on Climate-Induced Displacement", *The International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses*, Vol. 15, Issue 2, 2023, pp. 15-27.

Kopke, Soren, "Interrogating the Links Between Climate Change, Food Crises and Social Stability", *Earth*, 3, 2022, pp. 577-589.

Rasheed, Athaulla A., "Small Island Developing States and climate securitization in international politics: Towards a comprehensive conception", *Island Studies Journal*, 18 (1), 2023, pp. 161-185.

Three ways of thinking about the future

Required Readings:

Acikalin, Suay Nilhan, "Rethinking Actor and Order with Complexity Theory: A New Approach to Diplomacy", *Perceptions*, Autumn-Winter 2022, Vol XXVII No 2, pp. 177-196.

Alhajjar, Elie and Kevin Lee, 2022, "The US Cyber Threat Landscape", *Proceedings of the 21st European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security*, pp. 18-24.

Angeli, Federica and Andrea Montefusco, "Sensemaking and learning during the Covid-19 pandemic: a complex adaptive systems perspective on policy decision-making", *World Development*, 136 (2020), pp. 1-4.

Baumann, Robert F., "Russians are busy hammering out their 'ideology of the future'", *Military Review*, Sept-Oct 2023, pp. 73-86.

Doring, Thomas and Birgit Aigner-Walder, "The Limits to Growth – 50 Years Ago and Today", *Intereconomics*, 2022, 57(3), pp. 187-191.

Feffer, John, "From the Unsustainable Here to the Sustainable There", *Foreign Policy In Focus*, 2023, Washington, January 18.

Harris, Jerry, "Our Future: Ecosocialism or Ecofascism", *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies*, Vol. 17, Iss 2, 2022, pp. 35-47.

Short Papers to be submitted by 8pm, Monday September 16 2024

How Could the Region Evolve - #1?

Required Readings:

Calderwood, Kathleen, "Anthony Albanese's visit to China included a 'very positive' meeting with Xi Jinping and a refusal to budge on some issues", *ABC News*, 7 Nov 2023, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-11-07/the-key-takeaways-from-albanese-s-visit-to->

[china/103073390](#) accessed 8 November 2023.

Gill, Bates, "Explaining the Troubled Australia-China Relationship: A Perspective from Australia", *The China Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1, February 2023, pp. 243-275.

Zhou, Fangyin, "China-Australia Relations and China's Policy Choices toward Australia: A Chinese Perspective", in *The China Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1, February 2023, pp. 213-242.

How Could the Region Evolve - #2?

Required Readings:

Santikajaya, Awidya, "Walking the middle path: The characteristics of Indonesia's rise", *International Journal*, vol. 71 (4) 2016, pp. 563-586.

Role of Intelligence Agencies

Required Readings:

Aldrich, Richard J., "Intelligence", in Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, *Security Studies – An Introduction*, Routledge, London, 2023, pp. 485-501.

Course Summing Up

1945 Potsdam Conference