

Asia in International Relations

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Requirements: Total 100 points

Assessment criteria	Max. number of points
Presentation/Seminar paper	30
Final test	60
Active attendance	10
Total	100

Description of requirements:

1. **Presentation:** short presentation for max. 25 minutes on selected topic. List of proposed topics is included in the lecture plan below. Presentations are to be sent for review at least 3 days before the scheduled presentation date.

alternatively can be replaced by

Seminar paper: 8-10 pages; topics to be agreed with the lecturer. Must refer well to resources, elaborate topics in an academic manner (intro incl. research question, analysis, conclusion)

Choose either seminar paper or presentation, do not do both!!! If you do not submit a seminar paper or hold a presentation you can not pass the course! Max. **30 points**

2. **Final test:** summary test on major issues related to Asia in IR max. **60 points**
3. **Active attendance:** 1 bonus points for each seminar attended, max. **10 points** for semester, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions

Lecture plan

Week	Date	Lecture topic
1.	14.2.	Introduction to Asia in international relations
2.	21.2.	Middle East in international relations. Arab spring. Turkey and the Gulf states in international relations
3.	28.2.	Israeli-Palestinian conflict
4.	7.3.	Failed states in Asia: Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan in international relations. Iran in international relations
5.	14.3.	Central Asia in international relations
6.	21.3.	India in international relations
7.	28.3.	China in international relations
8.	4.4.	Japan and Korean peninsula in international relations
9.	11.4.	Southeast Asia in international relations
10.	18.4.	<i>No lecture, state holidays</i>
11.	25.4.	Asia and the Great Powers (USA, Russia, EU). International organizations in Asia. Asia and Africa. Asia and Latin America
12.	2.5.	Final test

Presentation topics

Week	Date	Presentations
2.	21.2.	1. Turkey under President Erdogan 2. Position of women in the Middle East
3.	28.2.	3. Jerusalem in Israeli-Palestinian conflict 4. USA and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
4.	7.3.	5. Civil war in Yemen/Syria 6. Irani nuclear program 7. Current situation in Afghanistan
5.	14.3.	8. Russia and Central Asia 9. China and Central Asia
6.	21.3.	10. India under Prime Minister Modi 11. China-Indian relations
7.	28.3.	12. Belt and Road Initiative 13. One China policy 14. One Child policy and its impacts on China
8.	4.4.	15. Japan-Chinese relations 16. South China sea dispute 17. North Korean nuclear program
9.	11.4.	18. Islam in Indonesia 19. ASEAN 20. Singapur in IR 21. Terrorism and security problems in Southeast Asia
10.	18.4.	<i>No classes</i>
11.	25.4.	22. Relation of selected great power to Asia (case study) 23. Asian great powers: sources of power, main obstacles of development (case study)

Seminar paper topics

1. Comparison of China's and India's involvement in Africa (e.g. the issue of oil)
2. Relations between the United States and India
3. Terrorism in Asia
4. Relations of Pakistan with China and the United States
5. Comparison of Pakistan and Bangladesh (as former members of one state)
6. Impact of development in neighboring Afghanistan on Pakistan and regional stability
7. India's involvement in the civil war in Sri Lanka and its resolution
8. India's economic development and its impact on India's position in international relations
9. China's economic development and its impact on China's position in international relations
10. Japan's economic development and its impact on Japan's position in international relations
11. Maoist insurgency in Nepal and its results
12. Analysis of the development aid provided to poor countries of Asia
13. Political dimension of integration in Southeast Asia (ASEAN)
14. Overseas Vietnamese (Vietnamese minorities) in Europe / the Czech Republic
15. Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia / the United States
16. Minorities and migrant workers in Southeast Asia
17. Can Asian countries become truly democratic and respect human rights?
18. Effects of the Cold War in South Asia / Southeast Asia / Northeast Asia
19. Effects of the global economic crisis in Asia
20. Piracy on main sea lanes, its consequences for Asian countries and its solution
21. Organized crime and drugs in Asia (e.g. the Golden Triangle)
22. One China Policy and its consequences (e.g. relations with developing countries; membership of Taiwan in the United Nations etc.)
23. Taiwan: Reunification with China or independence?
24. Relations between Australia and China
25. Achievements and drawbacks of peacekeeping and nation-building operations (e.g. East Timor)
26. Reform of the UN Security Council: Should Japan / India / Indonesia become permanent members?
27. Comparison of Germany and Japan (e.g. their position in international relations, relations with their neighbours, acceptance of their responsibility for WWII etc.)
28. Arguments for/against membership of China in ASEAN
29. Role of China / India / Thailand in Burma (Myanmar) – e.g. comparison of Sudan and Burma
30. Reunification of the Korean Peninsula
31. Effects of UN sanctions / or US sanctions (e.g. sanctions against Myanmar or North Korea)
32. Nuclear states and nuclear weapons in Asia
33. US military bases and US military involvement in Asia
34. Technological and scientific cooperation between the United States and Japan
35. China's military and the effects of its modernization
36. Relations between Russia and Japan (e.g. the issue of Kuril Islands)
37. Japan's official development aid and its analysis
38. Mongolia: the effect of its mineral resources on Mongolia's position in international relations
39. Czechoslovak and Czech relations with Mongolia / Vietnam / Syria
40. Film industry and its connection with country's image and position in the world (e.g. India, South Korea, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan / Borat)

41. Water and Central Asia
42. Security implications of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
43. Taliban / Al Qaida and consequences of their activities in Asia
44. Oil and its effects on Persian Gulf countries and their position in international relations
45. U.S. relations with Israel and implications for U.S. foreign policy
46. Russian Jews in Israel and implications for relations between Russia and Israel
47. Palestinian state: its establishment and consequences of its existence
48. Consequences of U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003
49. Should there be a foreign military intervention to resolve the situation in Syria?
50. Iran as a regional power: strengths and weaknesses
51. Any topic agreed with me
52. Comparison of China's and India's involvement in Africa (e.g. the issue of oil)
53. Relations between the United States and India
54. Terrorism in Asia
55. Relations of Pakistan with China and the United States
56. Comparison of Pakistan and Bangladesh (as former members of one state)
57. Impact of development in neighbouring Afghanistan on Pakistan and regional stability
58. India's involvement in the civil war in Sri Lanka and its resolution
59. India's economic development and its impact on India's position in international relations
60. China's economic development and its impact on China's position in international relations
61. Japan's economic development and its impact on Japan's position in international relations
62. Maoist insurgency in Nepal and its results
63. Analysis of the development aid provided to poor countries of Asia
64. Political dimension of integration in Southeast Asia (ASEAN)
65. Overseas Vietnamese (Vietnamese minorities) in Europe / the Czech Republic
66. Overseas Chinese in Southeast Asia / the United States
67. Minorities and migrant workers in Southeast Asia
68. Can Asian countries become truly democratic and respect human rights?
69. Effects of the Cold War in South Asia / Southeast Asia / Northeast Asia
70. Effects of the global economic crisis in Asia
71. Piracy on main sea lanes, its consequences for Asian countries and its solution
72. Organized crime and drugs in Asia (e.g. the Golden Triangle)
73. One China Policy and its consequences (e.g. relations with developing countries; membership of Taiwan in the United Nations etc.)
74. Taiwan: Reunification with China or independence? (e.g. comparison with Kosovo or Tibet)
75. Relations between Australia and China
76. Achievements and drawbacks of peacekeeping and nation-building operations (e.g. East Timor)
77. Reform of the UN Security Council: Should Japan / India / Indonesia become permanent members?
78. Comparison of Germany and Japan (e.g. their position in international relations, relations with their neighbours, acceptance of their responsibility for WWII etc.)
79. Arguments for/against membership of China in ASEAN
80. Role of China / India / Thailand in Burma (Myanmar) – e.g. comparison of Sudan and Burma
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84. US military bases and US military involvement in Asia
85. Technological and scientific cooperation between the United States and Japan
86. China's military and the effects of its modernization
87. Relations between Russia and Japan (e.g. the issue of Kuril Islands)
88. Japan's official development aid and its analysis
89. Mongolia: the effect of its mineral resources on Mongolia's position in international relations
90. Czechoslovak and Czech relations with Mongolia / Vietnam / Syria
91. Film industry and its connection with country's image and position in the world (e.g. India, South Korea, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan / Borat)
92. Water and Central Asia
93. Security implications of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
94. Taliban / Al Qaida and consequences of their activities in Asia
95. Oil and its effects on Persian Gulf countries and their position in international relations
96. U.S. relations with Israel and implications for U.S. foreign policy
97. Russian Jews in Israel and implications for relations between Russia and Israel
98. Palestinian state: its establishment and consequences of its existence
99. Consequences of U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003
100. Should there be a foreign military intervention to resolve the situation in Syria?
101. Iran as a regional power: strengths and weaknesses

You can also choose your own topic – please discuss the topic with me in advance. You do not have to inform me about your selected topic from the list above, unless you need to consult the topic.

Final written test:

Example of questions

1. Describe **India** as an actor in international relations, its current problems, position and role in the region. What do you see as its weaknesses and strengths when it comes to its position in international relations?
2. Describe **India** and its foreign policy, its relations with neighbours and major powers (China, US, Russia, EU). Do you expect significant changes in India's position in international relations? Please explain.
3. Describe **Indonesia** as an actor in international relations, its current problems, position and role in the region. What do you see as its weaknesses and strengths when it comes to its position in international relations?
4. Describe **Indonesia** and its foreign policy, its relations with neighbours and major powers (China, US, Russia, EU). Do you expect significant changes in Indonesia's position in international relations? Please explain.
5. Describe **Japan** as an actor in international relations, its current problems, position and role in the region. What do you see as its weaknesses and strengths when it comes to its position in international relations?
6. Describe **Japan** and its foreign policy, its relations with neighbours and major powers (China, US, Russia, EU). Do you expect significant changes in Japan's position in international relations? Please explain.

7. Describe **China** as an actor in international relations, its current problems, position and role in the region. What do you see as its weaknesses and strengths when it comes to its position in international relations?
8. Describe **China** and its foreign policy, its relations with neighbours and major powers (US, Russia, EU). Do you expect significant changes in China's position in international relations? Please explain.
9. Describe **Iran** as an actor in international relations, its current problems, position and role in the region. What do you see as its weaknesses and strengths when it comes to its position in international relations?
10. Describe **Iran** and its foreign policy, its relations with neighbours and major powers (China, US, Russia, EU). Do you expect significant changes in Iran's position in international relations? Please explain.
11. Describe **Turkey** as an actor in international relations, its current problems, position and role in the region. What do you see as its weaknesses and strengths when it comes to its position in international relations?
12. Describe **Turkey** and its foreign policy, its relations with neighbours and major powers (China, US, Russia, EU). Do you expect significant changes in Turkey's position in international relations? Please explain.
13. Describe the interests of the **United States** in Asia and its relations with Asian countries. Provide at least three of its strong points and three of its weak points when it comes to the position of the United States in Asia.
14. Describe the interests of **Russia** in Asia and its relations with Asian countries. Provide at least three of its strong points and three of its weak points when it comes to the position of Russia in Asia.
15. Describe the interests of **China** in Asia and its relations with Asian countries. Provide at least three of its strong points and three of its weak points when it comes to the position of China in Asia.
16. Describe the interests of **European countries** (the European Union and EU member states) in Asia, their relations with Asian countries and their role in Asia's history. Provide at least three of its strong points and three of its weak points when it comes to the position of the European Union in Asia.
17. What are the specifics and main problems of **South Asia**? Provide at least five different determinants/topics influencing the relations of external powers with South Asia.
18. What are the specifics and main problems of **Southeast Asia**? Provide at least five different determinants/topics influencing the relations of external powers with Southeast Asia.
19. What are the specifics and main problems of **Northeast Asia**? Provide at least five different determinants/topics influencing the relations of external powers with Northeast Asia.
20. What are the specifics and main problems of **Central Asia**? Provide at least five different determinants/topics influencing the relations of external powers with Central Asia.
21. What are the specifics and main problems of **Western Asia**? Provide at least five different determinants/topics influencing the relations of external powers with Western Asia.

Literature

1. BRESLIN, Shaun. Handbook of China's International Relations (Routledge International Handbooks), 2015, ISBN 9781857438017
2. HAVLOVÁ, Radka (eds.). Untangling the Mayhem: Crises and Prospects of the Middle East, 2018, ISBN 9783631740927
3. HINNEBUSCH, Raymond. The international politics of the Middle East, 2015, ISBN 9780719053467
4. HUA, Shiping. Routledge Handbook of Politics in Asia, 2018, ISBN 9781317238737
5. CHANG, Teh-Kuang and Angelin CHANG. Routledge Handbook of Asia in World Politics, 2017, ISBN 9781317404262
6. Conflict Barometer, Heidelberg Institute for Conflict Resolution, www.hiik.de
7. The Uppsala Conflict Data Program, ucdp.uu.se

News sources

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2. <http://www.carnegieendowment.org>
3. <http://www.nbr.org>
4. <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english2010>
5. <http://english.aljazeera.net>
6. <http://www.hindustantimes.com/>