



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2025

### 6,310: Asia-Pacific Security

ECTS credits: 4

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

decentral - Presentation, Analog, Group work group grade (60%)

Examination time: Term time

decentral - Written work, Digital, Individual work individual grade (40%)

Examination time: Term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,310,1.00 Asia-Pacific Security](#) -- English -- [Hänggi Heinrich Stephan](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. Familiarity with the basics of International Relations (IR) theory will be an advantage.

#### Learning objectives

By the end of this course students will have:

- acquired a comprehensive and structured understanding of key security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region;
- demonstrated an ability to properly apply their gained conceptual and empirical knowledge to a specific security challenge in the Asia-Pacific region.

#### Course content

International security today is becoming ever more indivisible - what happens in one region increasingly impacts on others. This is especially true in the Asia-Pacific region, which has emerged as the world's economic and geopolitical centre of gravity.

Above all, the Asia-Pacific has become the central theatre in the competition between the United States and China to shape the course of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Asia-Pacific is also home to regional security flashpoints that could have global ramifications, including the Korean Peninsula, the Taiwan Strait, and the South China Sea. Furthermore, the Asia-Pacific countries are increasingly confronted with new security challenges emerging from a host of transnational threats such as climate change. At the same time, economic interdependence among regional states remains high, and there are multiple efforts to build regional institutions aimed at mitigating conflicts and increasing the benefits of inter-state cooperation.

Drawing on International Relations (IR) theory, this course provides an introduction to the security environment of the Asia-Pacific, with an emphasis on East Asia (Northeast and Southeast Asia), covering both traditional and non-traditional dimensions of security, and examining both the areas of conflict and the differing approaches to regional cooperation. The central thematic question is whether the Asia-Pacific region is heading towards greater cooperation, or conflict.

By exploring diverse security issues (such as the multidimensional rise of China, the United States' rebalancing to the region, territorial and maritime boundary disputes, the nuclear threat posed by North Korea, the economic-security nexus, transnational security threats, and competing visions for the regional security order, among others), and reading and hearing from security experts from the region, students gain a broad overview of the Asia-Pacific security context and an in-depth understanding of a specific regional security challenge.



## Course structure and indications of the learning and teaching design

We will meet weekly for 4 hours each in the first half of the semester. The course combines different formats:

- lectures on conceptual underpinnings and key issues of Asia-Pacific security delivered by the lecturer
- online guest lectures by external experts from the Asia-Pacific region sharing their perspectives on the course theme
- presentations on specific Asia-Pacific security challenges by students (in groups - allowed group sizes will be determined at the first meeting)
- break-out group and plenary discussions in class

## Course literature

Mandatory reading and recommended texts will be available via StudyNet.

Although there is no compulsory textbook for this course, students may wish to use the following books for preparatory reading:

- Peou, Sorpong (2021), *Peace and Security in Indo-Pacific Asia. IR Perspectives in Context*, London: Routledge (especially the Introduction; also useful: chapters 1, 2, 5, and 6).
- Wallis, Joanne, and Andrew Carr, eds. (2016), *Asia-Pacific Security. An Introduction*, Georgetown: Georgetown University Press (especially the Introduction; also useful: chapters 1, 2, and 11).

## Additional course information

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## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/2)

##### Examination modalities

Examination type	Presentation
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Oral examination
Examination mode	Analog
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	On Campus
Grading type	Group work group grade
Weighting	60%
Duration	--

##### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

##### Remark

Group presentation in class

##### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision



Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

## Supplementary aids

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## 2. Examination sub part (2/2)

### Examination modalities

Examination type	Written work
Responsible for organisation	decentral
Examination form	Written work
Examination mode	Digital
Time of examination	Term time
Examination execution	Asynchronous
Examination location	Off Campus
Grading type	Individual work individual grade
Weighting	40%
Duration	--

### Examination languages

Question language: English  
Answer language: English

### Remark

Individual essay

### Examination-aid rule

Free aids provision

Basically, students are free to choose aids. Any restrictions are defined by the faculty members in charge of the examination under supplementary aids.

## Supplementary aids

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## Examination content

The individual essay assesses the degree to which the participant has acquired a comprehensive and structured understanding of key security challenges in the Asia-Pacific region. For relevant topics see mandatory reading and presentation slides of all lectures. For detailed guidance see StudyNet.

The group presentation in class assesses the degree to which students have demonstrated an ability to properly apply their gained conceptual and empirical knowledge to a specific security challenge in the Asia-Pacific region. Topics for presentations will be assigned to groups of students at the first meeting. For detailed guidance see StudyNet.

## Examination relevant literature

1. Presentation slides of all lectures (see StudyNet) - for all participants.
2. Mandatory reading (see StudyNet) - for all participants.



3. Introductory reading on each topic proposed for presentation in class (see StudyNet) and further relevant literature as required - for members of the group in question.

All material (except what students have to research themselves) will be available on StudyNet before the course ends.

## Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 13 (Monday, 25 March 2025) are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 23 January 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 17 March 2025);
- Examination information (supplementary aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 14 (Monday, 31 March 2025);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before ending with de-registration period in CW 15 (Monday, 07 April 2025).