

Course Outline

Course number	RBE307			
Course title	Asia Policy Studies I			
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)			
Total hours	80			
Lecture hours	16			
Seminar and other hours	16			
Course level	Bachelor's			
Prerequisites	Successful completing of year 1			
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	x Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco Theo van den Hout	LL.M (Leiden)	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHER

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Tjaco Theo van den Hout	LL.M (Leiden)	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The first of a set of two courses covering the main countries of Asia, this course focuses on China and its multi-dimensional impact on the countries of Southeast Asia. It starts by explaining China's fixation on returning their country to its former greatness, restoring the Chinese version of its place in the world as they had always known it. It consequently explores how China currently strives to occupy "its rightful place as a great power". To that end, President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had been launched promising to spend over one trillion dollars for new ports, railways, fibre-optic cables, power plants, and other connections - touching more than one hundred and thirty countries and expanding even into the Arctic, cyberspace, and outer space. Southeast Asia stands uniquely exposed to this waxing power of the new China. Three of its nations border China and five are directly impacted by its claims over the South China Sea. Using frameworks from the fields of international relations and comparative politics the course explains how domestic politics in these eight Asian nations are shaping their varying external responses and behaviours.

Teaching is based on the modern (American law school) version of the “Socratic method” — blurring the distinction between lectures and seminars. As a consequence it is highly interactive with ample opportunity for classroom discussion and stimulating critical thinking.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

With regard to the knowledge, skills and competencies that students will acquire from this course, the following are the main objectives:

Knowledge:

1. Knowledge of the place and role of China in Asia and the world.
2. Knowledge of the main characteristics of China including its influence on the countries of Southeast Asia
3. Knowledge of the (nature of the) geopolitical and geo-economic competition between China and the United States

Skills:

4. Ability to grasp the multi-faceted nature of the shift of power from the West to the East and indicate which domestic factors and trends in particular are influencing China’s positions vis-à-vis the countries of Southeast Asia

Competencies:

5. By combining the knowledge and skills listed above, students will have acquired a deeper understanding of the factors that have led to a shift of power from the West to the East enabling them to appreciate not only the strengths but also weaknesses of China’s newly acquired role in the world order in the wake of COVID 19.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In light of the nature of this course class attendance is, in principle, mandatory. Class preparation is assured by continuously monitoring online submissions of homework assignments in preparation for the next lecture. Class participation is measured by calling on individual students in class to address a particular issue covered in the reading material or previously covered in class. Whether in class or online, the approach is the same.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	China then and now	6
2	Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)	10
3	China and Southeast Asia	10
4	China and the U.S.	4

COURSE PLAN – SESSIONS

Session	Session subjects and readings	Lecture/ Seminar
1	Introduction to the course; course requirements; overview of material	L/S
2	Read: <i>Super Power Interrupted</i> : Michael Schuman, Ch 9	L/S
3	Read: Schuman, Ch. 10	L/S
4	Read: Schuman, Ch 11	L/S
5	Read: <i>In the Dragon's Shadow</i> , Sebastiaan Strangio, Ch. 1-2	L/S
6	Read Strangio, Ch. 3-4	L/S
7	Read, <i>Rivers of Iron - Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia</i> , David M. Lampton, Ch 1-2	L/S
8	Read, Lampton, Ch 3-4	L/S
9	Read, Lampton, Ch 5-6	L/S
10	Read: <i>The Emperor's New Road : China and the Project of the Century</i> , Jonathan E. Hillman, Ch 1-2	L/S
11	Read: Hillman, Ch 3-4	L/S
12	Read: <i>Under Beijing's Shadow</i> , Murray Hiebert, Ch. 1-2	L/S
13	Read: <i>Under Beijing's Shadow</i> , Murray Hiebert, Ch. 3-4	L/S
14	Read: <i>Where Great Powers Meet</i> , David Shambaugh, Ch. 1-2	L/S
15	Read: <i>Where Great Powers Meet</i> , David Shambaugh, Ch. 3-4	L/S
16	Recap and preparation for exam	L/S

COURSE RESULTS

By completing the study course and successfully passing the exam, student will be able to:

Learning outcomes	Evaluation criteria		
	(40-69%)	(70-89%)	(90-100%)
Knowledge	Student knows and understands the basic content of the course	Student knows and understands content of the course at an above average level	Student knows and understands content of the course at an exceptionally high level
Skills	Student is able to write and participate in classroom discussions about topics in the course at an average level	Student is able to write and participate in classroom discussions about topics in the course at an above average level	Student is able to write and participate in classroom discussions about topics in the course at an exceptionally high level
Competences	Student can apply his knowledge and skills at an average level	Student can apply his knowledge and skills at an above average level	Student can apply his knowledge and skills at an exceptionally high level

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Home assignments	20%
Class participation	20%
Final exam	60%

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

Grading criteria	Learning outcomes					
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
Home assignments	x	x	x	x	x	
Class participation	x	x	x	x	x	
Final exam	x	x	x	x	x	

COURSE LITERATURE

Compulsory literature

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
1	Sebastian Strangio, 28 September 2020, <i>In the Dragon's Shadow</i> , Yale University Press
2	Murray Hiebert, 15 October 2020, <i>Under Beijing's Shadow</i> , Center for Strategic and International Studies
3	David Shambaugh, 11 February 2021, <i>Where Great Powers Meet</i> , Oxford University Press
4	Donald K. Emmerson, 30 August 2020, <i>The Deer and the Dragon: Southeast Asia and China in the 21st Century</i> , Asia/Pacific Research Center, Institute of International Studies
5	David M. Lampton <i>et alia</i> , 13 October 2020, <i>Rivers of Iron - Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia</i> , University of California Press
6	Jonathan E. Hillman, 10 November 2020, <i>The Emperor's New Road : China and the Project of the Century</i> , Yale University Press
7	Michael Schuman, June 2020, <i>Super Power Interrupted: The Chinese History of the World</i> , Public Affairs

Additional literature and sources

No.	Author, year, title, publisher
1	(Links to) Articles to be published on the course page