



Universidad
de Navarra

International Relations in Asia (Doble RRII/Der/His)

Guía docente 2025-26

INTRODUCTION

Course Description:

Asian International Relations has almost come a full circle from being on the margins of global politics to being the hotbed of global geopolitics. Asia is today home to 60% of the world population and the Asian GDP is more than the rest of the world combined, with China being the world's second largest, Japan being the 3rd largest and India being the fifth largest economies in the world. China, India, Pakistan and North Korea are also nuclear powers. The emergence of the concept of the "Indo-Pacific" is testimony to this evolution. The intensifying US-China rivalry has also brought the attention back to Asia. However, the structure of global governance and multilateral institutions are still not reflective of the new role of Asia. The course seeks to trace the evolution of this Asian journey from the first half of the twentieth century to the beginning of the twenty-first century. Through this process the course seeks to deconstruct the definition and understanding of "Asia". Another objective is to understand the role of colonialism, nationalism, religion and great- power rivalry in shaping the past and current dynamics of Asia. Finally, the course seeks to bring attention to the global power shift in the making and the resistance to it. The larger goal is to identify the motivating factors of international relations in Asia and to situate them in the various theoretical schools of IR. A major attraction of the course includes the onsite module, where the students benefit immensely from visiting Asia and getting a first hand experience of Asian International Relations.

- **Degree:** Double Degree in International Relations and Law/History
- **Module:** International Relations of Asia
- **ECTS:**6
- **Year:**Second Year, Second Semester
- **Type of Course:** Obligatorio(Compulsory)
- **Instructor:** Dr. Shahana Thankachan
- **Language:** English
- **Lecture Schedule:** Tuesday, 17:30-19:30,AMI-P0-Aula 05

COMPETENCIAS

CB2	Que los estudiantes sepan aplicar sus conocimientos a su trabajo o vocación de una forma profesional y posean las competencias que suelen demostrarse por medio de la elaboración y defensa de argumentos y la resolución de problemas dentro de su área de estudio
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CB3	Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética
CB4	Que los estudiantes puedan transmitir información, ideas, problemas y soluciones a un público tanto especializado como no especializado
CG01	Analizar, valorar y razonar las diferentes situaciones internacionales a la luz de los conocimientos adquiridos.
CG04	Usar el inglés con propiedad según la terminología científica y académica propia de la Relaciones internacionales.
CG08	Manejar con destreza las nuevas tecnologías de la información y comunicación aplicándolas a las relaciones internacionales.
CE01	Conocer los conceptos y técnicas aplicadas al análisis de los actores y relaciones internacionales.
CE02	Analizar la naturaleza y características de las relaciones entre los actores internacionales y particularmente entre los Estados de Asia.
CE05	Conocer y comprender las teorías y concepciones de las relaciones internacionales en perspectiva histórica.
CE08	Conocer y comprender la situación política, social, económica y geoestratégica de Asia
CE09	Comprender la estructura, competencias y funcionamiento de las instituciones y organizaciones internacionales de Asia.



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CE14	Conocer y analizar la cooperación internacional como elemento fundamental en la reducción de las desigualdades y la pobreza, conociendo los mecanismos para la implementación de la ayuda al desarrollo.
CE16	Analizar los diferentes conflictos internacionales, sus causas, desarrollo y efectos sobre los países y la sociedad internacional.
CE17	Analizar los problemas jurídicos y sociales que se derivan de las relaciones internacionales en todos los ámbitos con base en el conocimiento adecuado de los principios y normas de Derecho internacional.
CE18	Analizar las realidades internacionales (económica, social y política) como método de prevención de focos de conflicto.

PROGRAM

[Syllabus and Bibliography IR ASIA 25-26.pdf](#)

ACTIVIDADES FORMATIVAS

I. CLASSROOM TEACHING ACTIVITIES

1. **Lectures:** Most classes will include lectures given by the Professor using the blackboard, powerpoint slides, videos and audio clips. The slides will be posted on ADI before each class. The students are required to engage with the lectures and participate in class.
2. **Seminars:** (They Include)
 1. Lectures on current topics by the Professor or by a guest lecturer who might be a practitioner or expert of the field.



2. Group presentations on a topic related to the subject. The students have to choose from a list of topics provided by the Professor. Students will be divided into groups of 5-6, and are required to conduct a thorough investigation of their topic and make presentation before the class in a format of their choosing. Each presentation will be followed by a discussion.
 3. Responses to students questions by the Professor and classmates.
 4. Discussion of the pre-assigned reading at the end of every class.
3. **Evaluation:** Exams to assess the successful accomplishment of the objectives.

II. PERSONAL WORK

1. The students have to devote regular study hours outside of the lectures to gain the maximum from the subject.
2. The students are compulsorily required to come prepared to class having read the pre-assigned reading in order to fully understand the lecture. The students should also be able to display their understanding of the reading and the lecture through their engagement with the instructor and other classmates during the lecture.
3. The students are required to study the powerpoint slides provided by the instructor, take notes during the lecture to use it for study, and also study the compulsory readings assigned for the subject.
4. The students also have to conduct research and prepare a group presentation.

III. Credits/hours distribution of the activities. 6 ECTS= 150 h (25 h/ECTS)

1. Lectures	1.6 ECTS	40 h	(26.7 %)
2. Seminars	0.6 ECTS	16 h	(10.7 %)
3. Evaluation	0.16 ECTS	4 h	(2.6 %)

Total classroom activities	2.4 ECTS	59 h	(40 %)
4. Personal work	3.6 ECTS	90 h	(60 %)

Total	6 ECTS	150 h
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ASSESSMENT

The campus module of the subject will carry 50% of the grade and will be 3 ECTS. The On-site module of the course will also carry 50% of the grade and will be 3 ECTS.



The following are the components of the evaluation for the Campus Module of the subject.

FINAL EXAM	50%
MID-TERM EXAM	20%
GROUP PRESENTATIONS	20%
CLASS PARTICIPATION, DEBATE AND DISCUSSIONS	10%

Class Participation and Debates: 10%

The students will be assessed for active participation and engagement in the classroom. The participation and performance of the students in the debates and discussions initiated by the professor at the end of every class will also be assessed. Students will also be judged for class preparation and regular reading of course material.

Mid-Term Exam: 20%

A partial exam will be conducted in the middle of the semester. Please refer to the chronogram to check the date. The student is required to study everything taught in the course until the date of the exam. The exam will include multiple-choice questions .

Group Presentations: 20%

The students will be given a chance to display their knowledge, research and presentation prowess through group presentations. The students can choose a topic from a list of broad topics provided by the instructor. The class will be divided into different groups but each student is required to speak in every group. The details of the group presentations will be provided in class by the instructor. The presentations will be judged for the teamwork, research, literature covered, critical analysis, creativity and originality.

Final Written Exam: 50%

The final exam will consist of a series of questions in which the student must demonstrate the acquisition of factual and theoretical knowledge and conceptual clarity acquired from the content taught in class. The written exam will include long essays and multiple choice questions. The students must study the slides the professor provided and the compulsory readings for each topic. The students need to study the entire content of the course, including the part covered in the partial exam.

ON-SITE EXAM: The exam will include Multiple Choice questions and will be held at the end of the On-site programme in Asia. The exam will account for 50% of the total grade for the subject.

Pass Percentage: To pass the subject, the student has to secure a minimum GPA of 5 in the campus and on-site module combined, that is, 50% of the total grade.



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Criteria to pass the course

- Students whose final grade is 5 points or more will pass the course.
- Students whose final grade is below 5 points will not pass the course and will be graded as *Suspenso*.
- Students who do not take the final exam will not pass the course and will be graded as *No presentado*.

Exams review

- Students will be able to review the exams in an interview with the professor, after publication of the grades, in a day and place that will be indicated.

CONVOCATORIA EXTRAORDINARIA

- If the students fail to attain a GPA of 5, and does not pass the subject, they will get another chance to write a single exam in June. This exam will be worth 100% of the total grade of the subject. If the student does not pass this exam either, they will have to retake the subject the next academic year.

OFFICE HOURS

Dr. Shahana Thankachan(sthankachan@unav.es)

- Despacho 1721, Edificio- Biblioteca Central Planta 1
- Horario de tutoría: Monday to Thursday, 15:30-16:30

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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