

**Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies**

**School of International Studies**

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| Course/Programme: | <b>Ph.D.</b>                                |
| Course Title:     | <b>Asia-Pacific Multilateralism (SA660)</b> |
| Course Type:      | <b>Optional</b>                             |
| Course Teacher:   | <b>Dr. Jaikhlong Basumatary</b>             |
| Credits :         | <b>04</b>                                   |
| Contact Hours:    | <b>04 (four hours/week)</b>                 |

**Course Description:**

This course titled, “Asia-Pacific Multilateralism” is designed to introduce scholars to the realm of different powers increasingly coming together in the erstwhile Asia-Pacific region, which has now come to be known as the Indo-Pacific region. (This course originally designed for M.Phil programme by Prof. GVC Naidu, who retired in 2018 will be submitted to the School for title change from “Asia-Pacific Multilateralism” to “Indo-Pacific Multilateralism” with revisions to better accommodate the issues concerning multilateralism in the Indo-Pacific region.) Since multilateralism constitutes an important subject in the political dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, the course will be offered to the scholars of the centre with the existing title but will be taught keeping in mind the evolved status of the erstwhile Asia-Pacific region.

This course will examine increasing interdependence in the Indo-Pacific region. The emergence of complex issues in the Indo-Pacific region coupled with strong belief in the benefits of multilateral cooperation has led to dynamic developments in the practice of multilateralism in the Indo-Pacific region. The coordination of national policies through multilateral set-up in the Indo-Pacific region will be explored. The course is designed for those interested in pursuing Ph.D. programme at Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies (SIS/JNU) and requires students to attend and actively participate in class each week.

**Course Objectives**

- To understand and apply concepts to explain and assess multilateralism as well as the main drivers for increasing coming together in the erstwhile Asia-Pacific (now Indo-Pacific).
- To further stimulate interest and curiosity in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Learning Outcomes

### **Scholars who successfully complete this course will be able to:**

- Demonstrate proficiency in multilateralism in international politics.
- Explain issues that are driving multilateralism in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Describe the complex interdependence playing out in the Indo-Pacific.
- Illustrate the ways in which the Indo-Pacific region is shaping contemporary international politics.
- Interpret links between national interest and convergences among actors in the Indo-Pacific.
- Critically analyse published studies on the region.
- Recognise the major powers in the region and evaluate the dimensions and efficacy of their power in the Indo-Pacific.
- Demonstrate proficiency in objectively assessing and interpreting the political dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region.

## Evaluation Method

- Class Participation & Assignments – 25%
- Mid-Semester Assessment (Term Paper/Book Review) – 25%
- End Semester Exam – 50%

## Course Content

### **1. Theoretical Debate on Multilateralism**

- Broad theoretical arguments of various schools of thought on multilateralism
- Multilateral norms and institutions

### **2. Multilateralism in the Asia-Pacific**

- Background to the genesis of Asia-Pacific multilateralism – economic as well as security. Though the Cold War experience is briefly discussed, much of the emphasis would be on the post-Cold War era.

### **3. ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Multilateralism**

- ASEAN's own experience as a sub-regional multilateral framework
- ASEAN's key role as the rallying point and as a driving force behind regional multilateralism.

### **4. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)**

- The origins and evolution of APEC over the years; its achievements and shortcomings.

### **5. Asia-Pacific Security Multilateralism**

- Brief discussion on issues in Asia-Pacific security
- ASEAN Regional Forum – ARF and Asia Pacific regional security

- ARF's strengths and weaknesses
- ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM)
- ADMM-Plus

#### **6. ASEAN Plus Three (APT) and East Asia Summit (EAS)**

- APT as a mechanism to promote economic cooperation
- APT's Chiang Mai Initiative
- The politics of EAS and its role in 'community building'.

#### **7. Asia-Pacific Economic Multilateralism**

- Emerging Asia-Pacific economic order
- Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
- Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

#### **8. Other Regional Frameworks**

- BIMSTEC and Ganga-Mekong Cooperation
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

#### **9. India and Asia-Pacific Multilateralism**

- India's evolving attitude towards Asia Pacific multilateral mechanisms

#### **10. Regional Multilateralism and Security – An Assessment**

##### Select Readings

- Patman, Robert G; Kollner Patrick (et.al) (eds.) (2022), *From Asia-Pacific to Indo-Pacific: Diplomacy in a Contested Region*, Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan
- Wirth, Christian and Jenne, Nicole (2022), "Filling the Void: The Asia-Pacific Problem of Order and Emerging Indo-Pacific Regional Multilateralism", *Contemporary Security Policy*, 43 (2): 213-242
- Grare, Frederic (2020), "Exploring Indo-Pacific Convergences: The Australia-France-India Trilateral Dialogue", *Washington Quarterly*, 43 (4): 155-170
- Ruggie, John Gerard (1992), "Multilateralism: The Anatomy of an Institute", *International Organization*, 46 (3): 561-598
- Acharya, Amitav, "ASEAN and Asia-Pacific Multilateralism: Managing Regional Security", in Amitav Acharya and Richard Stubbs (eds.) (1995), *New Challenges for ASEAN: Emerging Policy Issues*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia.
- Acharya, Amitav (1999), "Realism, Institutionalism and the Asian Economic Crisis", *Contemporary Southeast Asia*, 21(1)
- Aggarwal, Vinod and Kwei, Elaine, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC): Transregionalism with a new Cause?" in Hanggi, Ralf Roloff and Jurgan Ruland (eds.) (2006), *Interregionalism and International Relations*, London: Routledge

- Ash, Robert, “China’s Regional Economic and the Asian Region: Building Interdependent Linkages”, in David Shambaugh (ed.) (2005) *Power Shift: China and Asia’s New Dynamics*, Berkley: University of California Press
- Balakrishanan, K. S. (1998), *Asian-Pacific Security and the ASEAN Regional Forum: Lessons for the GCC*, Dubai: The Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies Research
- Berger, Thomas (2000) “Set for Stability? Prospects for Conflict and Cooperation in East Asia”, *Review of International Studies*, 26 (3)
- Dent, Christopher M (2003), *Asia-Pacific Economic and Security Cooperation: New Regional Agenda*, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan
- Desker, Barry (2004), “In defence of FTAs: From Purity to Pragmatism in East Asia”, *The Pacific Review*, 17 (1)
- Dupont, Alan (1998), *Future of the ASEAN Regional Forum: An Australian View*, Canberra: Australian National University
- East Asia Study Group (2002), *Final Report of East Asia Study Group*
- East Asia Vision Group, *Towards an East Asian Community: Region of Peace, Prosperity and Progress*
- Hemmer, Christopher and Katzenstein, Peter (2002), “Why there is no NATO in Asia? Collective Identity, Regionalism and Origins of Multilateralism”, *International Organization*, 56 (3)
- Emmers, Ralf (2003), *Cooperative Security and the Balance of Power in ASEAN and the ARF*, London: Routledge Curzon