The University of British Columbia

POLITICAL SCIENCE 464B

Topics in International Relations:
Canada and Global Asia

First Term, September 2015
Tuesday: 09:00 to 12:00, Room 156, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

(Version 1: 01/09/15)

Professor
Dr. Paul Evans
Office: Room 365 Institute of Asian Research, C.K Choi Building
Phone: 604-822-2533
E-mail: paul.evans@ubc.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:00 to 13:00 or by appointment

Subject
Asia is a continent and a place. It is also an evolving system of people, production, ideas and institutions that have moved from the periphery to the core of a multi-centric world order in the 21st century. While Canada has three centuries of interaction with an Asia across an ocean, it is now on Canadian doorsteps in unprecedented ways. The choices and actions of governments, citizens and consumers in Asia, as well as trans-national migrants, have global impacts, Canada included. We begin from the premise that we are in the midst of a major shift in global economic and diplomatic power that presents issues for Canadians as important as America’s rise a century ago.

The seminar examines Canada-Asia relations as more than the sum of bilateral relations with individual countries, recognizing that these relationships are always interesting and sometimes important. It raises a broader set of questions about the nature of the global balance of power, the new kinds of interactions that are unfolding, and the responses of Canadian governments and residents to a new agenda that poses major challenges for Canadian attitudes, institutions, interests, security, and values.
Seminar Design
The seminar is designed for senior undergraduates with an interest in both Asia and Canada and curiosity about key issues in the current agenda in Canada-Asia relations. It does not demand extensive background in Asian culture, language, history, society or politics. But it does demand student-driven identification of key issues and questions that define the limits and possibilities of how Canada’s involvement can and should develop in the coming decade.

The first two-thirds of the seminar focus on issues and questions defined by the professor and a series of visitors. Asia is much bigger than China but it is China that is at the centre of an increasingly integrated regional economy and production system. It is also the topic of greatest academic and policy attention in Canada. The Canada-China relations will thus figure prominently in our discussions but students are free to explore bilateral dynamics with other Asian countries in presentations and papers.

We will be drawing extensively on the research and resources of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, established in 1983 by Parliament and based here in Vancouver, a city sometimes described as “the most Asian city in the world outside Asia.”

Assessment
Seminar participation and leadership 35%
Presentation of core idea/project 15%
Final paper or video (due December 15th) 50%

The paper can be individually authored and no longer than 4500 words (inclusive of notes and bibliography) or prepared by a team of two or more in which case the paper can be more elaborate. Videos with text accompaniment are also possible. Topics will be developed in consultation with the instructor.

Academic Misconduct
The university expects all students to conform to the highest standards of academic integrity. It takes plagiarism very seriously, whether direct, indirect, or self-plagiarism. Direct plagiarism is intentionally and completely lifting the words, equations, charts, graphs or artistic material of another author or authors. Indirect plagiarism is failing to cite completely or accurately, and/or copying themes, ideas, or sources the student has not read from another author or authors. Self-plagiarism is recycling papers, documents, equations, and so forth from a document previously submitted by the student without quotation, citation, or attribution of the previous work.

For additional information see http://www.politics.ubc.ca/undergraduate/program-information/plagiarism-and-turnitin.html.

E-Protocol
Students are encouraged to bring lap tops, tablets, PCD’s to class. Ground rules as follows:
• employ electronic means in ways that you feel and can demonstrate contribute to the learning process in the seminar;
• all machines on mute, no headphones or ear buds;
• no video or audio recording of discussions within the seminar without the instructor’s advance approval;
• be prepared to open your screen at any time to other members of the class and the instructor;
• on email contact, normally expect a response within 48 hours. Brevity is prized.

Schedule and Materials

September 8    Introductions

September 15   What, Where and When is Global Asia?

Recommended:

September 22    Defining Canada-Asia Relations


Assignment:
(1) Take the Asia/Canada Quiz, http://asia-canada.ca/pdf/quiz_questions_en.pdf. What would be the right questions to ask about Global Asia/Canada?
(2) How do each of the writings define the boundaries of Canada-Asia relations? What and who are at the heart of the core of their definitions?
(3) Familiarize yourself with activities and resources of the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada. Should we trust what it produces?

**September 29**  
**Human Connections and the Asia Pacific Gateway (Guest: Mr. Yuen Pau Woo)**


Recommended:
For more on the Gateway concept and evolution, see “Gateway Research, Reports and Comment,” APFC, http://www.asiapacific.ca/gateway/research

**October 6**  
**What do Canadians Think About Asia? (Guest: Dr. Nathan Allen)**


Recommended:

**October 13**  
**Field Trip to the Asia Pacific Foundation (Host: Dr. Eva Busza)**  
The session will take place at the APFC’s headquarters, 890 West Pender St., Suite 220. It will begin at 09:00 and conclude at 11:00 allowing time to return to the UBC campus. It will include a question and answer session with the Vice-President and a hands-on tutorial with some of the editorial team who produce the daily New Service.

**October 20**  
**Engaging China: The Economic Agenda**  


**October 27**  
**Engaging China: Politics, Values and Security**  
Paul Evans, *Engaging China: Myth, Aspiration and Strategy in Canadian Policy from Trudeau to Harper* (University of Toronto Press, 2014), especially the Preface and Chs 1, 2 and 5.


**November 3**  
**Canada-Japan**  
Readings TBA.

**November 10**  
**Brainstorming on Questions and Themes for Papers**

**November 17**  
**Formative Project Presentations**

**November 24**  
**December 1**