The geographical region we call “Asia” is home to more than half the world’s population and several of the world’s fastest-growing economies. It is both source of and destination for increasingly torrential flows of people, goods, ideas, cultures and capital, and already plays a key role in the global political arena. This course provides an interdisciplinary introduction to some of the problems and issues affecting peoples and institutions of contemporary Asia as seen through films, essays, novels, news reports, and other primary source documents—as well as academic texts. We look to Asia’s past as well as to its future, tracing the social and political impact of such phenomena as colonialism, revolution, nationalism, development, and globalization, asking how they intersect with changing ideas about tradition and modernity, religion, gender, family, popular culture, and the environment.

**Required Texts:**

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: making feminist sense of international politics* (updated edn, 2014)


**Assessment Details with weights:**

1. Take home assessment 30% (end August)
2. Class test 30% (end September)
3. End semester 40% (as per AUD academic calendar)