This sample unit outline is provided by CHC for prospective and current students to assist with unit selection.

Elements of this outline which may change with subsequent offerings of the unit include Content, Required Texts, Recommended Readings and details of the Assessment Tasks.

Students who are currently enrolled in this unit should obtain the outline for the relevant semester from the unit lecturer.
Unit Name | Australia, Asia and the Pacific  
---|---  
Unit Code | HT260  
Awards | Bachelor of Education (Middle Years) - History minor  
Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - History teaching area  
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) - History major/minor  
This unit is able to be undertaken towards other CHC awards according to course rules and the meeting of prerequisite requirements, as applicable.  
Core/Elective | Elective  
Prerequisite | 20 credit points of 100-level HT units  
Mode | Internal  
Delivery/Contact hrs | Class contact 33 hours  
Engagement with unit materials 44 hours  
Assignment preparation 63 hours  
Total 140 hours  
Unit Rationale | Recent decades have seen an increasing trend in Australian political and economic circles to look to the Asia-Pacific region as the source of future prosperity. This tendency marks a significant change from the Euro-centric focus which dominated Australia’s external relations before World War II. It also reflects the rapid economic growth and increasing prosperity which has characterized not only the traditional powers (Japan and China), but also the “Young Dragons” of South East Asia.  
The move to increased political, economic, religious, social and cultural links with Asia does pose particular problems for many Australians, however, who perceive significant differences between Western and Eastern ways of thinking and who are aware of an uneasy history of relationships with Asia. The “Yellow Peril” has been a recurring concern of Australian foreign policy, while World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars have seen Australian involvement in conflicts in Asia. The study of Australia’s relationships with Asia is thus of particular relevance to contemporary political debate. Students will engage in discussion of the role of Christian perspectives and practices regarding Australia’s relations with Asia and the Pacific.  
This unit begins with a historical survey of Australia’s relationships with the Asia-Pacific region before 1945 and then focuses attention on the period since World War II when Australia’s foreign policy turned increasingly towards this region. Important themes include Australia’s relationship with the USA, its reaction to Communism, involvement in regional economic and defence alliances, its bilateral relationships with specific Asia-Pacific nations and response to specific foreign policy problems, such as East Timor and Cambodia. In this way, the unit will highlight the advantages to be gained and the challenges to be overcome as Australia seeks to consolidate its future as an Asia-Pacific power.  
Learning Outcomes:  
On completion of this unit, students will have provided evidence that they have:  
1. Discussed the history of Australia’s relationships with and attitudes to the Asia-Pacific region.  
2. Brought historical perspectives to bear on issues of contemporary debate in relation to the Asia-Pacific region.  
3. Analysed the causes and consequences of Australia’s involvements in Asian conflicts.  
4. Evaluated foreign policy considerations underlying the various regional alliances and bilateral relationships.  
5. Applied historical understandings to contemporary debate over Australia’s relationships with the Asia-Pacific region.  
6. Applied an appropriate level of critical and methodological rigour to the study of Australian foreign policy.  
7. Written at an appropriate tertiary standard (with special attention to correct grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, usage, sentence structure, logical relations, style, referencing and presentation).
### Content:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Historical survey of Australia’s relationships with and attitudes to the Asia-Pacific region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>The Second World War and the changing focus of Australian foreign policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Australian responses to decolonisation and the Communist threat in Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>The changing balance of economic power in the Asia-Pacific region</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Regional economic and defensive alliances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Australia’s bilateral relationships with Asia-Pacific nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Australia’s quest for regional power status in the Asia-Pacific region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Set Text Requirements:


### Recommended Readings:

- Schultz, J (ed.) 2007, *In the Neighbourhood*, Griffith University, South Brisbane.

### Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Item</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Week Due</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation and Paper (2000 words)</td>
<td>Australia’s relationships with and attitudes to the Asia-Pacific region.</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (3000 words)</td>
<td>Reasons for Australia’s changing relationships in the region, including Christian perspectives on issues raised in the paper.</td>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This unit highlights the increasing involvement Australia has had in Asia and the Pacific since 1945, and the historical changes of attitude it has had towards regional economic and defence alliances. It also examines the future of Australia - its advantages and its challenges - as it seeks to take on a more pro-active role in the region.