LECTURE 1: POL210

• My details: Joakim Eidenfalk,

• Consultation Hours: Monday 10.30-11.30
  and Thursday 12.00-13.30

  Email: joakim@uow.edu.au

  Phone: 4221 4606

• A few things about the subject

  o Assessments

  o “EU of the Week”

    ▪ The Guardian, EU-website, SMH,
    EUobserver etc
Today’s topic – regionalism

- Cooperation
- Treaty, organizations
- Can be bilateral, regional, international, universal

- Political and economic cooperation
  - NATO, SEATO, ANZUS, OAS, G77

- Regionalism a challenge to state sovereignty?

- Other types of cooperation
• ASEAN

  - Formed in 1967 to encourage peace and security. Non-communist at first.

  - 5 member states at first, now 10

  - Similarities and tensions between member states

  - Large peasantry, all industrialising nations

  - Common history of colonial rule

  - Similar commodities (rubber, palm oil)

  - Towards a Free Trade Area today, close to be complete

  - ASEAN different today, now includes a communist state (Vietnam)
• APEC

  ▪ First conference in 1993
  ▪ Main force behind trade liberalisation in Asia-Pacific
  ▪ Annual summits allows for trade talks but also for side talks on other issues between heads of state.
  ▪ Now 21 member economies
  ▪ Timetable to remove all trade blocs within APEC by 2020

• Pacific Island Forum

  ▪ Pacific regionalism, emphasis on the Pacific Way.
  
  ○ Now consists of all independent Pacific states, including Australia
• The European Union
  o Started with 6 member states (ECSC), now 27
  o Began with cooperation of coal and steel production. Now moved from sectors to supranational law – a supra-state structure
  o EU driven partly by own internal dynamics, partly by the member states
  o EU now a major economic power with about 40% of the world production in 1999

• Various types of regional organizations
  o Continent based
  o Sub-regional
  o Regional
  o Supra-regional
- Why do states cooperate?
  - Mutual benefits, coinciding interests
  - Economic activity and increased trade leads to:
    - Increased security
    - Increased understanding
    - A decrease in tension
    - Sense of shared history/a shared community
    - Allows management of common problems
    - Provides economic integration and liberalisation of trade
    - Political cohesion
    - Allows for suppression of piracy, drug smuggling, international financial crime, kidnapping