

Introduction to Politics in East Asia

GOV 314 (#38823); ANS 301 (#31729)

Spring 2011

TTH 9:30-11:00 am, PAR 201

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TH: 1:00-2:00

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BAT 1.118

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TH: 11:00-12:30

Course Description:

This lower-division survey course introduces students to the politics and political systems of leading countries in East and Southeast Asia—by all accounts the most economically significant region in the world. We cover China and Japan in the most depth, with shorter units on Korea, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia.

For each country, we explore key political institutions and processes as well as relevant social and economic themes—all from historical and comparative perspectives. As the semester unfolds, students will acquire insights into many of the issues and questions that have intrigued scholars of East Asian politics, including East Asian models of economic development, regional paths to democracy and the legacies of strong states, and the nature of state-society relations. By the end of the semester, students will have acquired the background knowledge not only to interpret current events in East Asia, but also to pursue more in-depth scholarly study of this critically important part of the world.

Prerequisites:

This course requires no prior coursework in either political science or East Asian Studies.

Texts:

1. William Joseph, ed., *Politics in China: An Introduction* (Oxford, 2010)
2. Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 2nd edition (Norton, 2005)
3. Frances McCall Rosenbluth and Michael F. Thies, *Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring* (Princeton, 2010)

Additional readings, including occasional newspaper articles on current events relating to the region, will be posted under Documents on the Blackboard site for the course.

Requirements:

1. Map tests (one for each country/region; administered during second class of each unit): 10%
2. Quizzes on readings (approximately 6 will be administered; lowest score will be dropped from student's overall quiz score): 15%
3. 2 in-class midterm exams: (15% + 25%) 40% total
4. Final Exam (Saturday, May 14, 7:00-10:00 pm): 35%
5. An optional short research paper (6-8 pages, due in class on May 5). For students who choose this option, the paper will be worth 15% and the final exam 20% of their semester grade. Students *must* clear their research topics with the instructor(s) by April 14, or papers will not be accepted.

Class Rules and Guidelines:

1. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and the instructor for further information. See also <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>
2. While this course includes no attendance grade, successful completion of the quizzes requires you to attend all classes and to arrive for each class on time.
3. All lectures, readings, films, and newspaper articles distributed during the course of the semester will be subject to examination.
4. You are responsible for keeping up with e-mail correspondence with the instructors and the TA, as well as notices and other postings on the Blackboard site for this course.
5. All assignments must be completed on schedule. *Only students with officially documented military or medical excuses can be exempted from this rule.* Late writing assignments will be penalized 5% per day.
6. PowerPoint presentations will provide you with rough outlines of basic concepts and themes. To do well in the course, students must take detailed notes during lectures and class discussions. *Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will not be posted on the web.*
7. Students guilty of academic dishonesty (ex., cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper) will receive a "0" for the assignment in question. No exceptions. Students should refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php.
8. You *must* take the final exam during the time-slot designated by the university. For this course, the exam date is Saturday, May 14, from 7:00-10:00 pm.
9. Texting/cell phone usage is not permitted in this class. If you are seen texting during a lecture, *you will be asked to stop.* Laptops are permitted in class, but as a

courtesy to the instructor and the rest of the class, *please refrain from using your laptop for purposes other than note taking.*

10. Please arrive for class on time. If you must miss a class, arrive late, or leave early, *you must inform the instructors in advance.*

Grading Policy: The grades for each assignment will be posted under “My Grades” on the Blackboard site for this course. (Blackboard can be accessed via courses.utexas.edu) The following is a list of letter grades and their corresponding percentages:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	.67	60-63
F	0	59 & below

Lecture Schedule

Jan. 18: Introduction to the Course

No readings

Jan. 20: Why Study East Asia?

“Into the Unknown: A Special Report on Japan.” *The Economist*, November 20, 2010.

“Friend or Foe?: A Special Report on China’s Place in the World.” *The Economist*, December 4, 2010.

Jan. 25, 27, Feb. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 & 17: Japan

This unit explores the political history of postwar Japan with an emphasis on the following concepts/themes: 1) democratization and the Allied Occupation of Japan; 2) the Japanese parliamentary system; 3) the impact of electoral rules on political behavior; 4) the Japanese model of capitalism (the “Developmental State” and industrial policy); 5) interest groups and social movements; and 6) the processes of political and economic reform.

Readings (from Rosenbluth and Thies, *Japan Transformed*) and due dates:

Jan 25: Chs. 1-3, and John W. Dower, “Occupied Japan and the Cold War in Asia,” in *Japan in War & Peace: Selected Essays* (NY: The New Press, 1993).
 Feb. 3: Ch. 4
 Feb. 10: Ch. 5
 Feb. 15: Chs. 6-7

Feb. 22: 1st In-Class Midterm Exam

Feb. 24, Mar. 1, 3, 8, 10, 22, 24, & 29*: China

Our unit on China begins with an historical overview of Chinese politics since 1945 and a general introduction to post-1949 political structures. We will then move on to discuss: 1) the politics of reform since 1978; and 2) issues and tensions across a number of areas, including rural politics, urban politics, as well as as possibly one more specialized questions.

Readings (all from Joseph, ed., *Politics in China*) and due dates:

Feb 24: Joseph, “Studying Chinese Politics.”
 Mar 1: Schoppa, “From Empire to People’s Republic,” & Teiwes, “Mao Zedong in Power.”
 Mar 8: Li, “China’s Communist Party-State.”
 Mar 22: Gilley, “Deng Xiaoping and his Successors.”
 Mar 24: Kennedy, “Rural Politics.”
 Mar 29: Hurst, “Urban Politics.”

*** Mar. 15 & 17: Spring Break –no classes**

Mar. 31: 2nd In-Class Midterm Exam (cumulative)

Apr. 5: Taiwan

This class offers a general introduction to Taiwanese politics, intended to supplement both the Chinese and Korean units.

Reading: Rigger, “Taiwan,” in *Politics in China*.

Apr. 7, 12, 14 & 19: North and South Korea

This section explores the history and politics of the Korean peninsula from the Japanese colonial period and the Korean War through South Korea’s transition from authoritarian to democratic politics. Along the way, we examine the causes and implications of the peninsula’s division along the 38th parallel, South Korea’s “economic miracle,” and the international significance of North Korea’s military dictatorship.

Readings and due dates: from Cumings, *Korea’s Place in the Sun*.

Apr. 12: Chs. 3, 4 & 5.

Apr. 14: Chs. 6 & 7.

Apr. 19: Ch. 8.

Apr. 21, 26, 28 & May 3: Southeast Asia (Indonesia and Malaysia)

This unit will cover the basics of Colonial politics and legacies, independence and basic political structures, as well as current political and social issues in these two Southeast Asian countries.

Readings and due dates:

Apr. 21: Owen (ed.) *Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, pp.123-146, 296-310.

Apr. 26: Chalmers *Indonesia: An Introduction to Contemporary Traditions*
pp. 22-25, 84-87, 162-168, 189-206, 217-243, 251-276.

May 3: *Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia*, pp.312-321; Meredith Weiss, *Protest and Possibilities*, chapters 4 & 5 (selections).

May 5: Review and Discussion