Political Science 2475.10: International Relations of East Asia (CRN: 24298)
The George Washington University
Spring 2013 (Tues and Thurs 11:10-12:25)

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Course Description

This course is an undergraduate class, combining lecture and discussion, on the international relations of East Asia. It will cover the following topics:

- Historical evolution of international relations of the region.
- Regional security dynamics in the context of power transitions and potential flash points.
- Problem of historical memory and the process and prospects of regional reconciliation.
- Politics of regional economic interdependence.
- East Asian regional order and global governance.

Course Requirements

- The course has the following requirements:
- Regular attendance of lectures and completion of assigned readings.
- Mid-term examination on February 19 (Tuesday).
- Policy brief (no more than 3000 words in length). One-paragraph definition of the policy problem to be addressed due on February 26 (Tuesday). Articulation of policy options and list of key sources due on March 28 (Thursday). Final policy briefs due on April 29 (Monday).
- Final examination. Course grades will be calculated in the following manner:
  o Mid-term examination 25%
  o Policy brief 40%
  o Final examination 35%

Course Readings: Required readings will be made available to students through Blackboard.

Learning Assessment and Objectives

- Understand the key structural transformations of the East Asian international system and the forces that brought about these transformations.
- Develop the conceptual and theoretical tools for analyzing the dynamics of East Asian international relations.
- Link domestic politics and international factors to explain the foreign policies of the major powers in East Asia.
• Learn how to define critical policy problems in East Asia, identify viable policy alternatives, and articulate a clear and persuasive argument on behalf of a recommended policy.

Class Policies

• Attendance will be taken at each class with a sign-up sheet. Students who have more than 3 unexcused absences will have their final course grades penalized by one grade notch for every 3 absences. Students who come to the classroom more than 10 minutes late will be considered absent from that class.
• No use of cell phones or texting during the class period.
• The use of computers will not be permitted in class because access to the internet can be distracting to you and to other students.
• Make-up examinations will be allowed if the student notifies the instructor before the examination with a valid and verified excuse.
• This class will follow the university policy regarding religious holidays. Students should notify the instructor during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance.

Academic Integrity

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

Support for Students Outside the Classroom

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/
Lectures and Required Readings

Jan 15: Introduction

Jan 17: Contending Analytical and Theoretical Perspectives

I. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE EAST ASIAN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Jan 22 & 24: Decline of the Sino-Centric Order to the Pacific War

Jan 29 & Jan 31: Post-World War II and Cold War Eras

Feb 5, 7 & 12: Post-Cold War Power Transition and the US-Japan-China Triangle

Feb 14: Discussion of Policy Brief Assignment and Research Resources
February 19 (Tuesday): Mid-term Examination

II. REGIONAL SECURITY DYNAMICS

Feb. 21, 26 & 28: Korea and Taiwan as Potential Flashpoints


Mar 5: US-China Strategic Interaction


Mar 7: Maritime Security in the South China & East China Seas


Mar 12 & 14 Spring Break –No Class

III. HISTORICAL MEMORY AND RECONCILIATION

Mar 19 & 21: Comparing East Asia and Europe

Mar. 26: The Yasukuni Shrine Issue


Mar. 28: The Comfort Women Issue


Apr. 2: Do Political Regimes Matter?: Japan-China versus Japan-South Korea

- Yinan He, “Remembering and Forgetting the War,” History & Memory Vol. 19, No. 2 (Fall/Winter 2007), pp. 43-74.

IV: POLITICS OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE

Apr. 4: The East Asian Economic “Miracle”


Apr. 9: Impact of Regional and Global Financial Crises

- Ming Wan, The Political Economy of East Asia, ch. 6, pp. 171-198.

Apr. 11: Regional Trade & Investment Liberalization


Apr. 16: Will Economic Interdependence Lead to Conflict or Cooperation?

Global Asia, Summer 2011, pp. 24-29.


Apr. 18: Climate Change and the Environment


V. CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

Apr. 23 & 25: International Order in the Asian Century