STATE-SOCIETY RELATIONS IN EAST ASIA

(A WRITING-IN-THE-DISCIPLINE SEMINAR)

Fall 2012

George Washington University

Class meets: Tuesdays, 11:10 a.m.-1 p.m.

2020 K Street, Room 23

Course Description and Learning Objectives

In this course, we will examine the diverse ways in which the state and society affect each other in East Asian nations, and what exactly we mean by “state” and “society.” This course is designed to help you learn to analyze and write about sociopolitical continuity and change in comparative perspective. The course focuses on South Korea and Japan but also compares them with Taiwan, China, and North Korea. After reviewing the history and political institutions that have shaped and been shaped by state-society interactions in South Korea and Japan, we will analyze the strategies and behavior of a range of different governmental and societal actors in East Asia’s main democracies. In the latter part of the course, we will apply these historical and theoretical insights to examine recent debates in East Asia over several different policy issues, including migrant rights, criminal justice, and righting historical wrongs.

This is a writing-in-the-discipline seminar, which aims not only to help you understand the varying ways in which state and societal actors interact in East Asia, but also how to read and write more effectively in the fields of comparative politics and political science more broadly. I will distribute and discuss detailed writing prompts in class, but over the course of the semester you will write a review essay that evaluates two scholars’ arguments, a policy memo that proposes measures to address a particular policy problem, and a research paper. You will complete the research paper in several stages, including a project proposal, rough draft, and final presentation. You should choose your research topic early in the semester. Through seminar discussions, diverse types of writing assignments, peer evaluations, and other group activities, we will work on improving our skills related to selecting a topic, refining a research question, designing a research project, conceptualizing variables, gathering and evaluating evidence, constructing a persuasive argument, responding to potential counterarguments, outlining, developing writing strategies, writing, and revising.

Throughout the semester, you should follow current events in East Asia by regularly reading English-language newspapers from Japan and South Korea and other reputable news media. Examples from current events and policy debates will complement seminar readings and enrich your policy memos. Recommended publications are linked on the course’s Blackboard site.
Course Requirements

Your grade will reflect your class participation and your performance on four writing assignments: a review essay, a research proposal, a policy memo, and a research paper.

1. **Participation and Attendance (15%)**—Do all the readings and be prepared to discuss them each week. You may be asked to submit discussion questions before seminar some weeks. Each week’s seminar will mix lectures, discussion, student presentations, small group exercises, and writing workshops. Absences and tardiness will affect your grade.

2. **Review Essay (20%)**—In 1,500 words (about five pages) compare, contrast, and synthesize the arguments of two of the articles we have read for class so far. Read some of the suggested book reviews for ideas on how to evaluate arguments and the evidence authors muster. We will workshop the essays in class. **Due on Sept. 29 by email.**

3. **Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography (15%)**—Due on Oct. 20 by email, this 5-page proposal will outline your research question, research design, significance, and expected findings. Include an annotated bibliography with one or two sentences explaining the argument and utility of at least 15 sources (scholarly books and articles, primary sources, think tank or government reports etc.). We will simulate a peer review process on the proposals. **You must meet with me to discuss your topic by Oct. 12.**

4. **Policy Memo and Seminar Presentation (20% total)**—In the latter half of the course, we will discuss a series of policy issues with which state actors and societal actors in East Asia are grappling today. In pairs, you will become an expert on a particular issue and lead the class in considering the core problems in that policy area and potential solutions.
   a. **Policy memo (10%)**—Select a policy issue and specific dimension of that problem (i.e., the retirement age within demographic change issues) and write a 600-word (about three pages) memo. Outline the key dilemmas, relevant laws, recent developments, and potential solutions. Using course readings and news clips, briefly assess the facts and a range of policy options in order to make convincing policy recommendations. Then, meet with the other student working on that policy area to plan how you will lead seminar discussion. Memos should be written before your planning meeting, but they are **due in class when you present.**
   b. **Short seminar presentations (10%)**—Present your memos to the class. You may be creative about the format of your presentation. Highlight debates found in the readings, evaluate the research behind the readings, and synthesize the readings.

5. **Final Research Paper (30% total)**
   a. **Final presentation (10%)**—A discussant will present your paper and then we will all discuss your draft in seminar. **Full draft due a week before your presentation.**
   b. **Final paper (20%)**—This 25-page paper is a chance for you to develop your interest in a particular policy area or arena of state-society relations. Present evidence to support your thesis. Late papers will be penalized by 1/3 of a grade per day late. **Final version due on Dec. 11 (by email and in my box, by 4 p.m.).**
Required Readings
All readings are on Blackboard. Please print and bring all texts with you to seminar each week.

Blackboard
Using your GWid, you should access the Blackboard site for the course as soon as possible. The syllabus, required readings, and many other resources will be available on it.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
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 Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/. Please also speak with me before the end of the second week of classes. All discussions will be kept confidential.

Academic Integrity
Do your own work. You must properly cite all the sources upon which you draw. Plagiarizing others’ work is dishonest and will be handled as a serious offense. I will adhere to the GW Code of Academic Integrity, which 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 rest of the Code, see http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html. For an explanation of plagiarism and tips on how to avoid it, see http://libguides.gwu.edu/content.php?pid=56080&sid=410568. We will discuss issues related to plagiarism in the course. Please consult me if you have any questions.

Course Policies
Attendance and Participation: This seminar will only succeed—and be beneficial for you—if you come to every seminar prepared to participate actively. Your participation will contribute to your final grade in the course, and your fellow students will expect thoughtful comments from you (just as you should expect good feedback from them). High-quality participation entails completing all readings and assignments on time, bringing the readings and thoughtful questions with you to class, listening to your classmates, and adding your ideas to our discussions. Remember to be respectful when you offer constructive criticism on one another’s writing.

Laptops: In order to facilitate intellectual exchange and stimulating discussion in seminar, you may not use your laptops in class. Please speak to me if you have any concerns about this policy.

Mobile Devices Etc.: Please turn all cell phones and other mobile devices off and keep them stowed for the duration of each seminar.

Formatting Written Work: Submit all written work in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced with one-inch margins and page numbers.

Grade disputes: All grade disputes must be submitted to me in writing.

Questions via Email: Please feel free to email me at any time. However, if you have substantive or lengthy questions related to the course—and I encourage these!—come see me in office hours.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 28—Introduction and Discussion of Course Themes

September 4—Studying State-Society Relations


September 11—Historical Context and the Strong (Developmental) State Model


September 18—Civil Society


September 25—Social Movements and Contention


Sunhyuk Kim, “Civil Society and Contentious Democracy in South Korea,” paper prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC (September 2-5, 2010).

Optional Examples of Review Essays


Michelle L. Dion, “[Book review on organized labor],” Perspectives on Politics 9, no. 3 (September 2011): 736-739.

William Hurst, “[Book review on Chinese middle class],” Perspectives on Politics 9, no. 4 (December 2011): 960-961.


Deva Woodley, “[Book review on social movements],” Perspectives on Politics 10, no. 1 (March 2012): 201-204.

⇒ Sept. 29th—review essays due by email
October 2—The Media and a Workshop on Review Essays


October 9—Environmental Pollution and Policy Change


⇒ By Oct. 12th—meet with Prof. Arrington to discuss your research paper topic

October 16—The State, the Family, and Demographic Changes


→ Oct. 20th—research proposals due by email

October 23—Workshop Research Proposals

(no readings assigned)

October 30—Foreigners, Migrants, and Refugees


November 6—Criminal Justice


**November 13—Righting Past Wrongs**


⇒ Nov. 13th—full drafts of papers presented on Nov. 20 due by email

**November 20—Presentations of Research Papers**

*Introduction of each paper by discussant, response from author, and open discussion*

⇒ Nov. 20th—full drafts of papers presented on Nov. 27 due by email

**November 27—Presentations of Research Papers and Wrap-Up**

*Introduction of each paper by discussant, response from author, and open discussion*

⇒ Dec. 11th—final research papers due by email and hard copy (by 4 p.m.)