INTL 4360: East Asian Political Systems*

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Department of International Affairs

Class Time: TR, 8:00 - 9:15 (Caldwell Hall 203)
Office Hours: Tuesdays 13:30-14:30pm or by appointment (322 Candler Hall)

** See the instructor if you have a disability that needs classroom accommodations. **

Course Description and Objectives
This course introduces students to the dynamics of East Asian political systems, including China, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea and North Korea. We will trace critical historical trajectories of these systems, focusing on political evolution, economic development, and social transformation. We will survey important contemporary issues in these regimes before situating them in the regional context to examine the rivalry and cooperation among them. There are three primary goals: (1) to familiarize students with basic facts of East Asian political systems, (2) to present important theories and methods that have been applied to analyze East Asian societies, and (3) to help students develop analytical skills that are essential to understand political phenomena in and beyond East Asia.

Required Books (available in UGA Bookstore and reserved in Library):
• Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Suggested books (available in UGA Bookstore and reserved in Library):
• Han Park, North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002).
• Denny Roy, Taiwan: A Political History (Cornell University Press, 2003).

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria
Final Grade Ranges:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86.99</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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Attendance (10%) One absence is allowed for any reason. Additional absences will only be excused with legitimate reasons and documentation (ex. doctor’s note). Please report to the instructor if you are late. Failing to do so may result in absence in record not disputable. No electronic device is allowed except note taking.

* The syllabus is a general plan for the course; updates and revisions may be necessary.
Participation (25%) You are required to read and reflect upon assigned readings before coming to class. You are expected to engage in class discussion actively. You will also do two mini presentations on selected dates. You shall present the most important points in the readings in your own words and clarify them with original examples if necessary. The presentation shall be strictly 15 minutes or shorter as a group.

Pop Quizzes (15%) Four pop quizzes will be administrated on selected dates. Your lowest score will be dropped and remaining three will each be 5% of the total grade.

Mid-term (20%) and Final Exam (30%) The exams will be based on the reading material, lectures and discussion. Detailed instructions will be announced before the exams. No make-up exams except under the circumstances of serious illness or family emergency and only with proper documentation. Please contact the instructor in advance if you need some special assistance to take the exams.

For the final exam, you have the option to write a research paper instead of taking the final exam. You will select your topics with the instructor's guidance. Only two restrictions on selection of topics: (1) It must involve one or more political systems in East Asia; (2) It must be empirical rather than normative. The end product shall be a 15-page paper. If you choose this option, please report to the instructor before November 8th, with a brief outline that includes your research topic, question, and potential data sources. Grading of the paper is similar to that of essay questions in exams. In both cases, you have to answer the question properly and sufficiently. The major difference is, if you opt to write a paper, you can pick your own question. You are expected to make an argument and try to convince readers with your analysis. Additional attention shall be paid to organization of the paper, the coherence of the analysis and the elaboration of your argument. You also have to cite sources properly and try your best to get rid of grammatical errors as you have more time and more preparation for the paper.

***** Important Dates *****

October 4th  Midterm Exam
November 1st  Report to Instructor if you choose to do a research project instead of taking final
December 13th  Final Exam (8:00-11:00) and Research Paper due

Grade Dispute:
If you have any questions about your exam grade, you shall report to the instructor within one week from the time you receive the grade. You need to present a written appeal explaining why you think your grade should be changed. Please also bear in mind that disputing grade may end up with higher, lower or no change in your grade.

Academic Honesty:
As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1
August 11 (Thursday) Welcome! Course Introduction
No required reading.
Suggested reading:

Collapse of Traditional Order: Similar Crisis, Different Responses

Week 2 Traditional Order and the Collapse of China
August 16 (Tuesday) Traditional Political Order in East Asia

August 18 (Thursday) The Collapse of Qing Dynasty and The Founding of the Republic

Week 3 The Rise of Japan
August 23 (Tuesday) The Tokugawa Polity and Its Crises
# Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present (Oxford University Press, 2008), Chapters 1 and 4.

August 25 (Thursday) Meiji Restoration
# Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present (Oxford University Press, 2008), Chapters 5, 6 and 8.
Film: The Meiji Revolution from The Pacific Century.

Week 4 Japan’s Path to War and China’s Path to Communism
August 30 (Tuesday) Japan’s Rise and the Pacific War
# Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present (Oxford University Press, 2008), Chapters 10, 11, and 12.

September 1 (Thursday) China: The Communist Rise to Power

Post-WWII Order in East Asia

Week 5 Political System in Post-War Japan
September 6 (Tuesday) Establishing Order in Japan
September 8 (Thursday) *Democracy without Competition in Japan?*  
*Suggested reading:*  

Week 6 Divided China  
September 13 (Tuesday) *Consolidating Communist Rule in Mainland*  

September 15 (Thursday) *Taiwan*  
*Suggested readings:*  
# Denny Roy, *Taiwan: A Political History*, Chapter 5 (105-123; 128-142).

Week 7 The Korean War and the Divided Korea  
September 20 (Tuesday) *The Korean War*  
# Karunakar Gupta, "How Did the Korean War Begin?" *The China Quarterly* 52 (October-December 1972), pp. 699-716.
*Suggested Reading:*  

September 22 (Thursday) *Divided Korea*  

Week 8 Economic Miracle and Political Development: Japan, South Korea and Taiwan  
September 27 (Tuesday) *The East Asian Miracle*  
*Suggested readings:*  

September 29 (Thursday) *Democratization of South Korea and Taiwan*  
*Suggested readings:*  
Week 9
October 4 (Tuesday) – Exam Review
October 6 (Thursday) – Midterm

Week 10 The Socialist Camp: China and North Korea
October 11 (Tuesday) Mao Zedong and Cultural Revolution

October 13 (Thursday) “Juche” & “Songun” in North Korea
# Library of Congress Country Report: North Korea (2009 version), Chapters 3 (pp. 135-141; 153-172) and 4 (pp. 183-191, 196-208).
Suggested reading:
# Han S Park, North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom (Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002), particularly Chapters 2-4, and 9.

Week 11 China’s Reform and Opening Up
October 18 (Tuesday) Economic Reform and Opening Up
Suggested readings:

October 20 (Thursday) In Class Movie (Blind Shaft by Li Yang)

Week 12 Contemporary Chinese Political System and Its Challenges
October 25 (Tuesday) Governing China
# Kenneth Lieberthal, Governing China: From Revolution through Reform (Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc., 2003), Chapters 6 (pp. 171-188) and 7 (pp. 206-240).

October 27 (Thursday) Resilient Authoritarianism?
Suggested readings (search the title and you shall find them):
Hot-Button Issues and Regional Order in East Asia

Week 13

November 1 (Tuesday) Political Transition in Japan, Taiwan and South Korea
Suggested readings:

November 3 (Thursday) North Korean Nuclear Crisis
Suggested reading:

Week 14 Troubling Bi-lateral Relations

November 8 (Tuesday) Sino-Japanese Relations
Suggested readings:
On Diaoyu (Senkaku) Islands:

November 10 (Thursday) Cross-Strait Relations and Taiwan’s Future
Week 15 China’s Rise

November 15 (Tuesday) *China Rise and Its Regional/Global Impact*


*Suggested readings:*

November 17 (Thursday) *South China Sea Dispute*

Week 16 Thanksgiving, No Class

Week 17 International Order in East Asia

November 29 (Tuesday) *Regionalization and Regionalism*


December 1 (Thursday) The future of East Asia?

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Final Exam – December 13th (8:00-11:00)

Note: If you opt to write the research paper, please hand it in before the final exam ends, i.e. before 11:00am on this very date!