

INTL 4360: East Asian Political Systems*

Dr. Rongbin Han

Class Time: MWF, 9:10-10:00 (Caldwell Hall 107)

Office Hours: Monday 13:30-14:30 or by Appointment

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:

- Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform* (W. W. & Norton Company, 2003).
- Christopher Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2009). [E-version available at the UGA library]

Suggested books (available in UGA Library):

- Han Park, *North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002).
- Denny Roy, *Taiwan: A Political History* (Cornell University Press, 2003).
- John Kie-Chiang Oh, *Korean Politics: The Quest for Democratization and Economic Development* (Cornell University Press, 1999).

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Final Grade Ranges:

	A 93-100	A- 90-92.99
B+ 87-89.99	B 83-86.99	B- 80-82.99
C+ 77-79.99	C 73-76.99	C- 70-72.99
D 60-69.99	F 0-59.99	

Attendance and Participation (25%) Please read and reflect upon assigned readings and engage in discussion actively. You are also expected to write a mini response paper (two-page, single spaced) on the date you select. The response paper shall (1) effectively summarizing all assigned readings and (2) critically engage and reflect on one or more points you derive from the readings; (3) include one or two discussion questions. Please submit the response paper two days before the date you pick (for example: if you select August 27, you will do the reading on Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan* Chapter 1 and you shall submit the response paper by August 25 midnight). Response paper writers are expected to facilitate discussion on the topics that they have read. Due to the pandemic, **you should definitely not attend the meetings and go to the doctor if you have any symptoms.**

* The syllabus is a general plan for the course; updates and revisions may be necessary. Please inform the instructor if you have a disability that needs classroom accommodations.

Pop Quizzes (15%) Four pop quizzes will be administered online. Your lowest score will be dropped and remaining three will each be 5% of the total grade. You'll receive a notifying email via ELC before each quiz and you will have a one-day window to complete the quiz.

Mid-term (25%) and *Final Exam* (35%) The questions will be based on the readings, lectures and discussion. Detailed instructions will be announced before 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. Should you choose this option, please notify the instructor by November 1 and provide a one-page research plan that specifies your topic, research question, and data sources. The research paper is due December 13, 11am.

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 18 *Welcome! Course Introduction*

Suggested reading: Horace Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema," *American Anthropologist*, 58:3 (1956): 503-507.

August 20 *Traditional Political Order in East Asia*

Kenneth Lieberthal, *Governing China: From Revolution through Reform* (Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc., 2003): 5-19.

John K. Fairbank, "A Preliminary Framework" in John K. Fairbank (ed.), *The Chinese World Order* (Harvard University Press, 1973): 1-14.

Collapse of Traditional Order: Similar Crisis, Different Responses

Week 2

August 23 *The Collapse of Qing Dynasty and The Founding of the Republic*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*: 19-39.

Recommended movie: *The Last Emperor*

August 25 *From ROC to PRC: The Communist Revolution in China*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*: 39-56.

August 27 Discussion: How China fell in modern times and responded to the challenges

Week 3

August 30 *The Tokugawa Polity and Its Crises*

Christopher Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan: A Very Short Introduction*, Chapter 1.

September 1 *The Meiji Restoration*

Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan*, Chapter 2.

Film: *The Meiji Revolution from The Pacific Century*.

September 3 *Japan's Rise and WWII*

Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan*, Chapter 3.

Week 4

September 6 Labor Day—No class

September 8

Movie: *The Last Samurai/ Letters from Iwo Jima* (No meeting)

Also recommended: *The Meiji Revolution documentary or The Last Emperor*

September 10 Discussion: How Japan responded to the challenges of modernization

Different Paths of Development in Post-WWII East Asia

Week 5

September 13 *Re-establishing Political Order in Japan*

Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan*, Chapter 4 (89-100).

* Junnosuke Masumi, "1955 System in Japan and Its Subsequent Development," *Asian Survey*, 28: 3 (March 1988): 286-306.

* [The Constitution of Japan](#) (1947).

September 15 *Taiwan*

Denny Roy, *Taiwan: A Political History* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003), Chapters 3, 4 (76-96), and 5 (105-123; 128-142)

September 17 *The Korean War and Divided Korea*

* Karunakar Gupta, "How Did the Korean War Begin?" *The China Quarterly* 52 (1972): 699-716.
Library of Congress Country Report: North Korea (2009): 37-58.

Week 6

September 20 *Continuing Revolution in China*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*: 59-122

September 22 *"Juche" & "Songun" in North Korea*

Library of Congress Country Report: North Korea (2009): 135-141; 153-172, 183-191, and 196-208.
Recommended: Han S Park, *North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom* (Lynne Rienner, 2002), esp. Chapters 2-4, and 9.

September 24 Discussion: Post WWII political order in East Asia

Week 7

September 27 *The East Asian Miracle*

Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan*, Chapter 4 (pp. 100-106).
* Bruce Cummings, "The Origins and Development of the Northeast Asian Political Economy," *International Organization*, 38: 1 (Winter 1984).
* Paul Krugman, "The Myth of Asia's Miracle," *Foreign Affairs* 73: 6 (Nov/Dec 1994).

September 29 *Democratization of South Korea and Taiwan*

* Masahiro Wakabayashi, "Democratization of the Taiwanese and Korean Political Regimes: A Comparative Study," *The Developing Economies*, 35: 4 (1997): 422-39.
Suggested: # John Kie-Chiang Oh, *Korean Politics*, Chapters 3, 4 and 5; Roy, *Taiwan*, Chapter 6.

October 1 Documentary (Instructor out of town for APSA; no meeting)

Democracy in South Korea (<https://youtu.be/Bamd-GpJvdo>), or The Dynamic Development of Korean Democracy (<https://youtu.be/jUbuykLagps>), or Their Gwangju, Our Gwangju (<https://youtu.be/z6ycdzF1Lso>)

Recommended: Korean Drama: Reply 1997 (2012); Reply 1994 (2013) and Reply 1988 (2015).

Week 8

October 4 Political Transformation in Japan—Dismantling of 1955 System

Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan*, Chapters 4 (pp. 107-123) and 5.

October 6 Political Transformation in South Korea and Taiwan

* Young-Tae Jung, "Democracy and Election after Democratization in South Korea," *CODESRIA Journal: Identity, Culture and Politics*, 10/2, S. 32– 55
* Rachel Premack, "South Korea's Conglomerates," *SAGE business researcher* (August 21, 2017).
* Kharis Templeman, "Politics in the Tsai Ing-wen Era" in Hans Stockton and Yao-Yuan Yeh, eds. *Taiwan: The Development of an Asian Tiger* (Lynne Rienner 2020), 69-96.

October 8 Discussion: Growth, Democratization, and Democratic Rule

Week 9

October 11 Midterm Review and Q&A

October 13 –15 Midterm

Week 10 Reforming China and Authoritarian Resilience

October 18 *China's Economic Reform and Opening Up*

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (The MIT Press, 2007), Chapter 4.

October 20 *Governing China in the Reform Era*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*, Chapters 6 (pp. 171-188) and 7 (pp. 206-240).

October 22 Resilient Authoritarianism?

Lieberthal, *Governing China*, Chapter 5 (123-167).

* Andrew Nathan, "China at the Tipping Point?" *Journal of Democracy*, 24: 1 (2013): 20-25.

* Edward Wong, "As Pollution Worsens in China, Solutions Succumb to Infighting," *New York Times* (March 21, 2013); Andrew Jacobs, "Residents Vote in Chinese Village at Center of Protest," *New York Times* (February 1, 2012); Michael Wines, "Crackdown on Chinese Bloggers Who Fight the Censors with Puns," *New York Times* (May 28, 2012); *The Economist*, "No ordinary Zhou," *The Economist* (August 2, 2014); Wikipedia, "[The 2019 Hong Kong Anti-Extradition Bill Protests.](#)"

Week 11

October 25 Movie (*Blind Shaft* by Li Yang) (Watch on your own; no meeting)

October 27 Discussion—Will China collapse politically?

October 29 Fall break, no class

Hot-Button Issues and Regional Order in East Asia

Week 12 China's Rise and Its Implications

November 1 The China Model and the Belt Road Initiative

* Abby Johnston and Catherine Trautwein, "[What is the China Model?](#)" *PBS Frontline* (May 17, 2019).

* Emily Crawford, "[Made in China 2015: The Industrial Plan that China Doesn't Want Anyone Talking About.](#)" *PBS Frontline* (May 7, 2019).

* Catherine Trautwein, "[All Roads Lead to China: The Belt and Road Initiative, Explained.](#)" *PBS Frontline* (June 26, 2019).

* Xi Jinping, "[Speech at a Ceremony Marking the Centenary of the Communist Party of China.](#)" *Xinhua Net*, July 1, 2021.

* Jessica Weiss, "[Does China actively promote its way of governing—and do other countries listen?](#)" *Monkey Cage*, July 14, 2021.

November 3 *China Rise and Its Regional/Global Impact*

* John J. Mearsheimer, "China's Unpeaceful Rise," *Current History*, 105: 690 (April 2006): 160-162.

* Zheng Bijian, "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status," *Foreign Affairs*, 84: 5 (2005): 18-24.

* Wikipedia, "[China–United States trade war.](#)"

* Council on Foreign Relations, "[Timeline: U.S. Relations with China 1949–2020.](#)" (esp. since 2008)

November 5 Debate on U.S.-China Relations: Is War Evitable?

Week 13

November 8 *South China Sea Dispute*

* Zhiguo Gao and Bing Bing Jia, "The Nine-Dash Line in the South China Sea: History, Status and Implications," *The American Journal of International Law* 107:98 (2013): 98-123.

* Michael Yahuda, "China's New Assertiveness in the South China Sea," *Journal of Contemporary China* 22:81(2013): 446-459.

November 10 Troubling Bi-lateral Relations

- * Paul J. Smith, "China-Japan Relations and the Future Geopolitics of East Asia," *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, 35: 4 (2009): 230-256.
- * Krista E. Wiegand, "The South Korean–Japanese security relationship and the Dokdo/Takeshima islets dispute," *The Pacific Review* 28:3 (2015): 347-366.
- * David Cohen, "[Japan and Taiwan's Senkakus Play](#)," *The Diplomat*, April 13, 2013.
- * Russell Goldman, "India-China Border Dispute," *New York Times*, June 17, 2020.

November 12 Discussion: Regional disputes in East Asia and the changing global order

Week 14

November 15 Cross-Strait Relations and Taiwan's Future

- * Yinan He, "Identity Politics and Foreign Policy: Taiwan's Relations with China and Japan, 1895-2012," *Political Science Quarterly* 129: 3(2014): 469-500.
- * Ryan Hass, "Order from Chaos: Taiwan's Tsai Ing-wen enters second term with a strong political mandate, but no room for complacency," Brookings Institute (May 13, 2020).

Recommended: PBS Documentary: [Tug Of War: The Story of Taiwan](#).

November 17 North Korea and North Korean Nuclear Crisis

- * Jong Kun Choi and Jong-Yun Bae, "Security implications of a nuclear North Korea: Crisis stability and imperatives for engagement," *Korea Observer* 47:4 (2016): 807-827.

* Choe Sang-Hun, "[North Korea Perfects Its Diplomatic Game: Brinkmanship](#)," *New York Times* (April 2, 2009).

Suggested reading: Evan Osnos, "[How Xi and Trump Can Make Real Progress on North Korea](#)," *The New Yorker* (July 7, 2017).

Recommended: National Geographic Documentary: [The Great Game \(Full Episode\) | Inside North Korea](#).

November 19 Discussion: Next Conflict in East Asia?

Week 15

November 22 Film: *Wolf Warrior 2* (2017)—Watch the movie on your own

November 24 & 26 Thanksgiving break, no class

Week 16

November 29 *Regionalization and Regionalism*

- * Andrew I Yeo, "Overlapping regionalism in East Asia: determinants and potential effects," *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 18:2 (2018), 161–191.

December 1 (no meeting)

Self-Study: The Impact of COVID

December 3 Discussion: The future of East Asia and the World (after Covid)

Week 17

December 6: Final Review

December 7: Q&A (Online)

Final Exam – December 13 (8:00-11:00); Research paper also due by 11:00 December 13!