



**School of Public &
International Affairs**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

INTL 4360
EAST ASIAN POLITICS

Term: Fall 2022
17 August – 14 December 2022
MWF 8:00AM – 8:50AM
Candler Hall 115

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Office: Candler Hall 202
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This is an upper-level undergraduate course that goes into depth on the politics of East Asia's composite states. The region of focus is constituted of the following political entities: Japan, North Korea (DPRK), South Korea (ROK), Mongolia, mainland China (PRC), Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan (ROC). East Asia is one of, if not, the most crucial region of the world in the twenty-first century. It has two of the world's three largest economies, nearly a quarter of the world's population, five of the six largest metropolitan areas, and global financial centers in Hong Kong, Tokyo, Shanghai, Beijing, and Seoul. Every day, many of us are using smartphones assembled in China, driving Japanese-brand automobiles, watching South Korean televisions, and working on Taiwanese-made laptops. Yet despite East Asia being at the center of global economics, it is also littered with social and economic challenges, political sensitivities, and flashpoints capable of generating into full-scale armed conflict, including the perennial threat of nuclear war. Any crisis sparked in East Asia would have tremendous for the entire world (i.e. COVID-19). Upon completion of this course, students should be able to understand the historical legacies in East Asian politics, analyze current East Asian politics through a theoretical lens, explain the impact of transnational issues originating from East Asia, and compare and contrast the politics of East Asian states. Students are assessed via exams, critical reading discussions, participation and attendance, and a research paper.

Student Learning Outcomes

The course will help students understand policies and policy orientations of selected countries in East Asia. Why do nations choose particular policies in response to certain challenges? What are the policy determinants in both the domestic and foreign policy arenas? Why do different political systems employ different strategies toward addressing similar problems? The course will help students answer these and other questions.

Course Materials

There will be no purchased textbook in this course. Instead, students will use eLC to access all reading materials.

Course Structure

The course will focus on providing an atmosphere for active engagement. Generally, classes will be divided between interactive lectures and group discussions. In this class, the student will play a more active role by contributing their thoughts, analysis, and questions.

Communication

I reply to student emails when I receive them to confirm that they got through. **If I do not reply to your email within 48 hours, that means I did not receive it.**

Please ensure your question is not already addressed in this syllabus before emailing me.

Assessment

Research Paper (20%)

The research paper is the culmination of a student's study in this course. Research papers are on a topic relating to: (1) a comparative study of a political issue in two or more East Asian states; (2) relations among two or more East Asian states; or (3) relations between one or more East Asian states and an outside power (U.S., Russia, etc.) or region. The research paper is designed to give students an opportunity to study a case in depth, on their own initiative, and come up with a unique, well-considered, and convincing argument. The research paper is graded on synthesis of class information, clarity, and critical thinking. Students will be asked to informally share the contents of their research paper with the class at the end of the term. Further details are forthcoming. Late work is not accepted.

Reading Discussions (20%)

As a way for the class to engage together with the readings, online Reading Discussions will be completed weekly. Students are tasked to write three critical statements or questions about the reading, and two responses to your colleagues' statements/questions, for a total of at least five comments in total due on Thursdays by 23:59. The following are some examples of critical responses you could write: questioning the author's analysis or research, adding a personal experience that would (in your opinion) make the statement more complete or applicable to the class, pointing out how it relates to other academic material, agreeing or disagreeing with a colleague and why you are doing so, and/or critiquing arguments. I want to see evidence students have thought deeply about the author's arguments. The first Reading Discussion is due by 23:59 on Thursday, August 25, 2022. Late comments will not receive a grade.

Exams (40% = 2 @ 20% ea.)

The two exams cover material in both lectures and readings, and include only short essay questions. Exams are taken during class meetings. Early and Make-up exams will not be considered, except with university-approved documentation (it must clearly indicate the student was not capable of sitting the exam specifically at the scheduled time). **Vacations and extracurricular activities are not valid reasons for requesting an early or make-up exam. Don't ask!**

Class Contribution (20%)

Contribution = attendance ($\frac{1}{2}$) + participation ($\frac{1}{2}$).

Attendance (10%)

Attendance is taken at each class meeting, and assessed in a binary: absent = 0, present = 10. In order to be counted present, students must:

1. join the class on time, and remain in class until dismissed.
2. avoid all use of electronic devices throughout the entirety of the class, except in the case of notetaking.

Participation (10%)

Usually on Fridays, students will ask critical questions, and respond to questions throughout the class based upon that week's lectures and readings. For each session, the participation grade is assessed on a scale from 10 to 0 based upon the quality and quantity of student engagement in the discussions. A student who attends, but does not ask or respond to questions in the class meeting will earn a 0 of 10 for participation.

Absences (and Participation) can be excused only under the following circumstances:

1. A university-sanctioned event (proper UGA letterhead will be needed as documentation)
2. Illness (with medical documentation)
3. Compelling life event (e.g. religious holiday, wedding, or funeral, the latter two cases also require documentation).

Once you have submitted an excusal request, the instructor will either approve or decline your request. Excusal requests will not be accepted any later than one week (seven days) from when the absence took place. If approved, the excused absence cancels out the event in the total grade, and is not counted as “present.” The same principle applies to participation as well.

Please note that out of respect to students who are habitually punctual, and to prepare everyone for the “real world,” **I make every effort to start class precisely on time.** For this course, budget extra preparation time in order to be present by the start time.

Assessment	Graded Points	Percent of Final Grade
Research Paper	100	20%
Reading Discussions (weekly)	10, ea.	20%
Midterm Exam	100	20%
Final Exam	100	20%
Class Contribution (attendance and participation)	10, ea.	20%
Total		100%

Grading Scale		
Grades	Percentage	Performance
Grade = A	100 - 92.0%	Excellent
Grade = A-	91.9 - 90.0%	Excellent
Grade = B+	89.9 - 88.0%	Good
Grade = B	87.9 - 82.0%	Good
Grade = B-	81.9 - 80.0%	Good

Grading Scale (cont.)		
Grades	Percentage	Performance
Grade = C+	79.9 - 78.0%	Satisfactory
Grade = C	77.9 - 72.0%	Satisfactory
Grade = C-	71.9 - 70.0%	Satisfactory
Grade = D	69.9 - 60.0%	Poor
Grade = F	59.9 - 0%	Fail

Respectful Participation

We will all work to be great citizens in this course. Here are just a few ways in which this will be achieved (and more may be added as we evolve in our expectations of each other:

- We will be respectful in our language and active engagement with each other and the ideas presented by others. Both personally and professionally, I value open discourses across the political spectrum. If at any time, you feel that myself or others are not encouraging you to express your well-informed political opinions, please feel free to approach me so we can make sure to allow for this.
- We will all work to ensure that our contributions to the class discussion work to improve (rather than detract from) the quality of the course. Active engagement is prized, but we will not tolerate discourse that means to quiet, rather than encourage, others to contribute as well.
- Students will be encouraged to use technology in the classroom for the explicit purpose of engaging more fully with the course materials.

Academic Honesty

Students must commit to the UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

The minimum penalty for any type of plagiarism or cheating will be an "F" on the assignment. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off one's own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for plagiarism destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. Please review what the UGA Academic Honesty Policy says about plagiarism below:

Plagiarism is using another's work as your own without correct citations. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- i. Directly quoting another's written or spoken words without quotation marks.
- ii. Paraphrasing without attribution.
- iii. Presenting someone else's original idea or theory as your own original work without attribution.
- iv. Using statistics, images, or data without recognizing who compiled them.
- v. Turning in work that another wrote as your own work.
- vi. Self-Plagiarism: Submitting an assignment for credit that has already been submitted, unless the current instructor authorizes its use prior to submission.

The bottom line:

- If it's not your writing, thought, creation, or composition, cite it.
- If it is your previous work, make sure you are allowed to use it.
- If you had someone create or do this work on your behalf (paid or not), then it's contract cheating.

As an instructor dedicated to academic integrity, I pledge that I always pursue the maximum penalty within the bounds of the university's code of disciplinary measures regarding students who engage in academic dishonesty with no exceptions.

Copyright on Course Materials

All handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, exams, and in-class materials. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Prohibition on Recording Lectures

In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course.
- Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.

- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they will not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.

Grade Appeals

Students who believe they have received an inaccurate grade should prepare a formally appeal. The appeal should consist of a typed email that identifies the problem and presents concrete reasoning to substantiate why the exam or assignment should be re-evaluated. Note that a request for re-evaluation means that I will examine your entire work for a second time and *may* lower your grade upon closer review. Grade appeals will not be accepted any later than one week (seven days) from when the grade was returned to the student.

Syllabus

I will NOT respond to simple questions via email that can be answered by consulting the syllabus. This course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Commitment to Diversity

This course welcomes individuals from any racial, ethnic, religious, age, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, and nationality. In the spirit of this vital commitment, in this course each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to all discussions. Everyone is expected to respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by fellow students and the instructor, and will engage in reasoned discussion that refrains from derogatory comments about other people, culture, groups, or viewpoints.

Preferred Address

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I am eager to address you by your preferred name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records.

Accessibility Note

If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center by the first week of class. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting <http://drc.uga.edu>.

Other Class Policies

Your final grade is **NOT** subject to negotiation. Simply "needing" a better grade in no way entitles you to one. If you plan to graduate this spring, or if you need an exceptionally good grade from this course for whatever reason, the only possible way of receiving this is to work hard. The grade you *earn* is the grade you will receive. **The sole factor that matters in determining your grade is your performance in the course.** Awarding a student a better grade than the student deserves based on his or her official course performance is a violation of my professional ethics. Moreover, it is a crime deceiving your government and tax-paying fellow citizens.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Boxed indicates it will be a discussion-based class.

Date	Topic	Readings
Week 1: Aug 17 & 19	Introduction	<input type="checkbox"/> carefully read through your syllabus! <input type="checkbox"/> Lim, pp. 1-13 <input type="checkbox"/> Geography of East Asia PPT
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 2: Aug 22, 24, 26	East Asian Order in the Post-Cold War Era	<input type="checkbox"/> Barr, Ch. 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Yahuda, Ch. 3
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 3: Aug 29, 31, Sep 2	Japan's Political History	<input type="checkbox"/> Hayes, Ch. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> TBA
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 4: Sep 7 & 9	Japan's Political Economy	<input type="checkbox"/> Hayes, Ch. 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Dooley article
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 5: Sep 12, 14, 16	Japan's Defense and Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Hayes, Ch. 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Teo, Ch. 6
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 6: Sep 19, 21, 23	South Korean Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> KLW, Chs. 2-4 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Economist</i> articles (2)
	Research Proposal due Fri Sep 23 @ 8:00AM	
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 7: Sep 26, 28, 30	North Korean Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> KLW, Chs. 6 and 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Park, excerpts <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Economist</i> article
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 8: Oct 3, 5, 7	***MIDTERM EXAM*** Oct 7 (Friday)	
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 9: Oct 10, 12, 14	Mongolian Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> TBA
Date	Topic	Readings

Week 10: Oct 17, 19, 21	Taiwanese Politics	<input type="checkbox"/> Holroyd, Ch. 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Yahuda, Ch. 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Tang article
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 11: Oct 24, 26, 31	China's Economic Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Collins & O'Brien, Chs. 1-2, 5
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 12: Nov 2, 4, 7	Social Policy in China	<input type="checkbox"/> Collins and O'Brien, Chs. 3-4 <input type="checkbox"/> Sharma article
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 13: Nov 9, 11, 14	The Hong Kong Question Research Paper due Fri Nov 14 @ 8:00AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Holroyd, Ch. 6
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 14: Nov 16, 18, 21	East Asia and the US	<input type="checkbox"/> TBA
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 15: Nov 28, 30, Dec 2	Research Paper Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> peers' papers
Date	Topic	Readings
Week 16: Dec 5, 6	Research Paper Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/> peers' papers
Dec 9 (F)	***FINAL EXAM*** 8:00AM – 11:00AM	

NOTE: All dates and times in this syllabus and class schedule reflect the current time in Athens, Georgia (EDT until November 6, EST thereafter). **Time-related misunderstandings are not valid justifications for absences or late submissions.**