

INTL 4360: East Asian Political Systems*

Dr. Rongbin Han

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:35-10:50 (Baldwin Hall 322)

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30-12:30 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 (20%) Please attend class regularly. Please read and reflect upon assigned readings and the response paper before the class. Please engage in discussion and other classroom activities actively. Other forms of participation are also encouraged.

Response Paper (10%) Please 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 two days before your selected date (for example: if you pick August 27, you will do the reading on Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan* Chapter 1 and you shall submit the response by August 25 midnight). Response paper writers are also expected to facilitate discussion.

* 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 throughout the semester. Your lowest score will be dropped and the remaining three will each be 5% of the total grade.

Mid-term (20%) 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, *you have the option to write a research paper instead of taking the 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. 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 paper is due *the same time as the final*.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu/>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.
- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>).
- If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.
- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

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.

Additional Ground Rules and Resources:

- On preferred names/pronouns. “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.”
- 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.”

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1

August 17 *Welcome! Course Introduction*

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

Collapse of Traditional Order: Similar Crisis, Different Responses

Week 2

August 22 *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.

August 24 *The Collapse of Qing Dynasty and The Founding of the Republic*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*: 19-39.

Recommended movie: *The Last Emperor*

Week 3

August 29 *From ROC to PRC: The Communist Revolution in China*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*: 39-56.

August 31 Instructor out of town; Watch Movie *To Live on your own.*

Week 4

September 5 *The Tokugawa Polity and Its Crises*

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

September 7 *The Meiji Restoration*

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

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

Week 5

September 12 *Japan's Rise and WWII*

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

September 14

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

Also recommended: *The Meiji Revolution* documentary

Different Paths of Development in Post-WWII East Asia

Week 6

September 19 *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 21 *Taiwan*

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

Week 7

September 26 *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.

September 28 *Continuing Revolution in China*

Lieberthal, *Governing China*: 59-122

Week 8

October 3 *"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.

October 5 *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).

Week 9

October 10 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 12 Midterm

Week 10

October 17 Political Transformation in Japan—Dismantling of 1955 System

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

October 19 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.

Week 11 Reforming China and Authoritarian Resilience

October 24 China's Economic Reform and Opening Up

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

October 26 Governing China in the Reform Era

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

Hot-Button Issues and Regional Order in East Asia

Week 12 China's Rise and Its Implications

October 31 Resilient Authoritarianism?

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

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

* 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](#)." Wikipedia, "2022 COVID-19 protests in China"

November 2 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.

* Council on Foreign Relations, "[Timeline: U.S. Relations with China 1949–2023](#)," (esp. since 2008).

* 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.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of PRC, "China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis," February 24, 2023.

Week 13

November 7 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 9 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.
- * Andrew Yeo, "[South Korea-Japan Rapprochement Creates New Opportunities in the Indo-Pacific](#)," Brookings, March 17, 2023.
- * 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.

Week 14

November 14 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," Brookings Institute (May 13, 2020).

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

November 16 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).
 - Gawon Bae and Brad Lendon, "[Putin thanks North Korea for supporting Ukraine war as Pyongyang displays its nukes in parade](#)," CNN, July 28, 2023.
- 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](#).

Week 15

November 21 Film: Wolf Warrior 2 (2017)—Watch the movie on your own

November 23 Thanksgiving break, no class

Week 16

November 28 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.

November 30 Discussion: The future of East Asia and the World (after Covid)

Final Exam – December 12 (8:00-11:00); Research paper also due by 11:00!