

Political Science 127: East Asia and the Future

Spring 2016

MW 10:20 AM-11:30 AM
Comenius Hall 114

Instructor: Yayoi Kato, Ph.D.

Office: Comenius 205

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to East Asia's politics, economy, and international relations and explores major issues in the contemporary East Asia. East Asian countries covered in this class are the Peoples' Republic of China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, and the United States. The United States is not an East Asian nation but it exercises significant influence in the region and is considered a major actor in East Asia. This course is divided into two parts. In the first part, we familiarize ourselves with East Asian countries' history, culture, economy and political systems. In the second part, we move to the discussions of international relations in the region and regional dynamics. We examine major security issues dominating the region such as China's rise, North Korea's nuclear provocations, and the growing Japan-China, US-China frictions. How would these issues play out in the future? Can East Asia establish a stable regional order? Or is the region heading toward more conflicts and instability? We explore these questions examining academic materials with a variety of perspectives, primary source publications, newspaper articles, and documentary films. Considerable attention is given to the understanding of current events and issues. The instructor encourages you to develop curiosity in what is going on in East Asia and to think critically how East Asia politics affect your life and future.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE

You are required to take midterm and final exams that consist of short essay questions and identifications. You are also required to write a 5-7 page research essay due at the end of the semester (April 25). The instructor asks you to submit one page research topic statement by the mid-semester and encourages you to work on your paper earlier. Class participation grade includes your attendance, positive contributions to class discussions, and your performance of short quizzes and homework occasionally assigned. Final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Class attendance and participation 15%

Midterm exam 25%

Research topic statement 5%

Term paper 20%

Final exam 35%

REQUIRED BOOKS

- Zhiquan Zhu ed., *New Dynamics in East Asian Politics: Security, Political Economy, and Society*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2012. ISBN 978-1441166210.
- Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia*. Fourth Edition, Westview Press, 2013. ISBN 978-0813346670.
- Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*. Oxford University Press, 2014. ******Don't purchase this book: The book is available as a Moravian ebook through the Reeves Library.***

The first two books are available for purchase in the bookstore. Additional readings are posted in Blackboard or available on line (through the links on the syllabus).

CLASS RULES

1. Please turn off your cell phones when you enter the classroom.
2. Please don't be late for class. If you are late for attendance call at the beginning of class, you do not get a credit for the attendance of that class.
3. Leaving classroom during class sessions is discouraged except for medical and other emergencies. Please stay in classroom for 70 minutes.
4. You are expected to read all assigned readings before each class and to submit assignments on time.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All Students should be aware of their obligations under the Academic Honesty Policy published in the Moravian College Student Handbook. Please see:
<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>.

STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS*

*Subject to revision and update during the semester.

1. (Jan. 18, 20) Introduction and warming up: What is East Asia?

Reading:

*New Dynamics, Introduction (pp.1-8).

*Pacific Century, pp. 5-9.

2. (Jan. 25, 27) Historical background 1: Chinese Empire and Samurai Japan

Reading:

*Pacific Century, Ch. 1 (pp.9-44).

3. (Feb. 1, 3) Historical background 2: Japan's imperialism and China's communist revolution

Reading:

*Pacific Century, Chs. 3-4.

4. (Feb. 8, 10) East Asia's economic miracle: Japan and the "four tigers"

Readings:

*Pacific Century, Chs. 6-7.

*New Dynamics, Ch. 7

5. (Feb. 15, 17) China's economic growth: What are the secrets of success?

Reading:

*Congressional Research Service, "China's economic rise," available at:

<https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL33534.pdf> (Read pp. 1-16).

6. (Feb. 22, 24) Political systems: How many democratic states in East Asia?

Readings:

*Chs. 11 and 15.

7. (Feb. 29) Review for midterm exam

March 2: Midterm exam (class hours, closed book)

Enjoy spring break!

8. (March 14, 16) North Korea: Failed Stalinist utopia?

Research topic statement assigned

Reading:

*New Dynamics, Ch. 12.

*Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*. Skim entire book. Available as Moravian ebook through the Reeves Library.

9. (March 21, 23) Japan's decline and relations with neighbors

March 21, Research topic statement due in class

Readings:

*New Dynamics, Ch. 3.

* "Japan and South Korea Settle Dispute over Wartime 'Comfort Women,'" NY Times, Dec. 28, 2015. Available at: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/29/world/asia/comfort-women-south-korea-japan.html?_r=0

10. (March 28, 30) China's rise and East Asia's security

Reading:

*New Dynamics, Ch. 1 and Ch. 13.

11. (April 4, 6) Changing role of the United States in Asia

Readings:

*New Dynamics, Ch. 2.

* Jeffrey A. Bader, *Obama and China's Rise*, Ch. 1 (in Blackboard)

12. (April 11, 13) US-China relations and rivalry in Asia

Readings:

*Excellent summary of US-China relations since 1949, by the Council on Foreign Relations, available at: <http://www.cfr.org/china/us-relations-china-1949---present/p17698>

*John J. Mearsheimer, "The Gathering Storm: China's Challenge to US Power in Asia." *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*, Vol. 3, 2010, 381–396 (in Blackboard or available online at <http://cjp.oxfordjournals.org/content/3/4/381.full>).

13. (April 18, 20) East Asia's future: How all these issues play out?

Readings:

* "Strategic Uncertainty and the Regional Security Order in East Asia." *E-International Relations*, Nov 24, 2015. Available at: <http://www.e-ir.info/2015/11/24/strategic-uncertainty-and-the-regional-security-order-in-east-asia/>

* "A New Type of Major Power Relationship?" by Cheng Li. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, September 26, 2014 (in Blackboard).

14. (April, 25) Discussion of Research Paper

Research paper due in class

(April, 27) Review for final exam

Final exam: Wednesday, May 4 at 11:30AM