

Government (GVT) 326
Politics of East Asia
(Fall 2007)

Instructor: Dr. Tae-Hyung Kim

Class Times: TTh 10:00-11:20, DS 248

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Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:30, Th 2:00-4:00 PM or by appointment

Course Description

Throughout the latter half of the twentieth century and the beginning of the new millennium, East Asia has attracted great attention from the rest of the world with its extraordinarily high economic growth, political turmoil and transformations, cultural uniqueness, and the significance of security matters in the area. This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the principal events and interactions in East Asia. Various political, social, and economic aspects of China, Japan, and the two Koreas will be closely examined within the regional context of the past and present, carefully discerning the similarities and differences among those East Asian countries. The course consists of five sections: I Introduction, II Modern History, III Political Systems, IV Economic Development, and V Democracy.

Required Texts

1. Lieberthal. Kenneth, *Governing China: From Revolution Through Reform* (NY, NY: W. W. Norton, 2004 (2nd. Ed.))
2. Hayes, Louis, *Introduction to Japanese Politics* (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 2004 (4th ed.))
3. Kil, Soong Hoom and Chung-in Moon eds., *Understanding Korean Politics: An Introduction* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2001)
4. Oh, Kongdan and Ralph C. Hassig, *North Korea Through Looking Glass* (Washington, D. C.: Brookings Institution Press, 2000)

Course Assignments

Exams: Students will have one midterm exam and one final exam. You will be tested on your understanding of both reading materials and lectures.

Term paper: Each student is required to write a 8-10 page argumentative paper. The paper (typed and double-spaced) will be an analysis of debatable issues in East Asian politics. Paper topics should be approved in advance, and the requirements of the paper will be distributed later during the course.

Quiz: Students will have one quiz about the history and geography of East Asia.

Readings: Students need to read the course materials to understand the class and actively participate in discussion during class. Besides the course materials, students are also encouraged to read regularly and widely in prominent newspapers (*New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *CNN*, *BBC*, etc.) weekly or other foreign affairs publications (e. g. *Foreign Affairs*, *The Economist*, etc.) on East Asia. Many English version local newspapers and journals (<http://www.asahi.com/english/>, <http://times.hankooki.com/>, <http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/index.htm> to name a few) are also easily accessible through internet. Dependent upon how well students are prepared for the current politics of this region, I will reserve a right to include it in the exams. I also strongly recommend that students to ask questions during the class, stop by my office, and send me e-mail to ask questions.

Class Participation: Because the lecture will not cover the same material as the reading, it is essential for students to attend class regularly. Students are also encouraged to vigorously participate in discussions. I will also reserve the right to give pop quizzes if it appears that attendance or participation is slacking off. **Sleeping, chatting with classmates, reading the newspaper during class period, letting your cell-phones ring, putting away your things before I finish the class, and leaving the classroom in the middle of the class without telling me in advance are very disrespectful to not only the instructor but also to your fellow students. So don't do it, or you will have to bear the consequences: It will be reflected on your attendance and participation grade!**

Late Assignments and Exam Make-Ups

Your paper is due at the beginning of the class period on the announced due date. A late paper will have its grade reduced by 10 points for each 24 hour period it is late (not accepted more than 5 days late). Lateness will be excused only upon written confirmation of exceptional hardship, and only if you had no opportunity to communicate with me prior to the due date. As for exams, missed exams will be allowed to be made up only upon written confirmation of sudden, exceptional hardship, and only if you had no opportunity to communicate this to me prior to the exam.

Communication

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of talking to me. If you are having problems with anything, please come see me. I want you to succeed in the course, and will be more than happy to help you to do so, but I can't help you if I don't know that you are struggling.

Grading

10% Attendance and Participation
30% Midterm Exam
30% Final Exam
5% Quiz
25% Term Paper

Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D	60-69.9
F	0-59.9

Ethical Policy

Both cheating and plagiarism are very serious crimes and are dealt with harshly by the college. According to the college rules, “in an instance where there has been a violation of the principles of academic honesty, the instructor may choose to follow one or more of a number of possible alternatives including but not limited to: (1) automatic failure of the work; (2) automatic failure of the entire course; (3) recommending expulsion from the degree program; or (4) recommending expulsion from the College.”

Student Learning Objectives

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to, orally and in writing:

A. Primary Competency: *Contextual Competency*

1. analyze the major events and cultural background that have shaped the states in East Asia today.
2. evaluate how and why different factors influenced the East Asian nations to respond differently to the Western juggernaut.
3. compare and contrast the similarities and differences of politics and economy between the countries in this region and the U.S.
4. compare and contrast the distinct political, economic, social, and cultural characteristics of each country in the region and analyze why they have developed so differently from each other.
5. analyze the points of conflicts and cooperation among the states by identifying their dynamic interaction in the historical and geopolitical contexts.

B. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

6. analyze the causes, processes, and results of revolution(s), interstate wars, economic development (or decline), democratization (or lack thereof), social movements, etc.
7. utilize analytical skills to critically evaluate current events that are happening in the region such as the North Korean nuclear crisis and develop policy implications to the events.

C. Civic Responsibility

8. describe the impact that diverse aspects of ancient and modern civilizations in another part of the world and its effect on US culture.

9. describe how knowledge of East Asia will enable the students to interact with the global community.

Class Schedule

I. Introduction to East Asia

9/4: Welcome to East Asia

9/6: Overall History of East Asia (Pre-Modern)

9/11: East Asian Political Thought

II. Pathways to Modernization: Modern History of East Asia

9/13: Confrontation with the West—**Video** *Pacific Century* Part 4: Writers and Revolutionaries

1. China

9/18, 20: Lieberthal Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4

2. Japan

9/25: Hayes Ch. 1, 2

9/27: **Video--***Pacific Century* Part 6: Inside Japan, Inc.

3. South Korea and 4. North Korea

10/2: Kil and Chung Ch. 3; Oh and Hassig Ch. 1 **Paper Topic Due**

10/4: **Quiz on History and Geography** and Relationships between the Two Koreas

10/9: No Class - Fall Break

III. Political Systems and Performances

1. China

10/11: Lieberthal Ch. 6, 7

10/16: Review for Midterm Exam

10/18: Midterm Exam

2. Japan

10/23, 25: Hayes Ch. 3, 4, 5, 6

3. South Korea

10/30, 11/1: Kil and Chung Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7

4. North Korea

11/6: Oh and Hassig, Ch. 2, 4, 5

IV. Economic Development

1. China

11/8: Lieberthal Ch. 8

2. Japan

11/13: Ch. 8, 9

11/15: **No Class --- Conference Participation**

3. South Korea

11/20: Kil and Chung Ch. 8 **Term Paper Due (11/20)**

11/23: No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday

4. North Korea

11/27: Oh and Hassig Ch. 3

V. Questions for Democracy

1. China and North Korea

11/29: Lieberthal Ch. 10 and Oh and Hassig Ch. 6

2. South Korea

12/4: **Video--***Pacific Century* Part 8: The Fight for Democracy

12/6: Review for Final Exam

Final Exam (TBA)

Evaluation of Student Learning

Learning Objectives	Assignments	Percent of Grade
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Attendance and Participation	10%
1	Quiz on History and Geography	5%
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Midterm Exam	25%
1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Final Exam	30%
1 – 7	Term Paper	30%

Note that objectives 1-5 address the primary competency. At least 50% of each student's grade will be determined by their performance on assignments, which assess objectives related to the primary competency