

AAAS 380L. DEMOCRACY IN EAST ASIA
Binghamton University, Fall 2010

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Tuesday and Thursday 6:00-7:25
Classroom: LN 1120
Office hours: Thu 2-4pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is democracy? Why do some countries become democracy while others do not? Who are the protagonists and antagonists of democratization? How different democratic systems work? Why does Japan have a prime minister, while Korea has a president? Why Taiwan has a stable party system, while Korean parties fluctuate from one election to another? Will China eventually democratize? What is the role of civil society in bringing about and strengthening democracy? These are the questions that will be explored in this course by reading and discussing about the comparative experiences of democratic transition and democratic politics in East Asia. The primary focus will be placed on four East Asian countries (Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China), but the course readings and discussion will be drawn from broad theoretical and comparative perspectives.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students are expected to achieve the following:

- (1) To understand the basic concepts of democracy and democratic politics
- (2) To learn the contemporary history of democratization and democratic politics in East Asian countries
- (3) To critically examine the strengths and weaknesses of each democratic system in East Asian countries

COURSE MATERIALS

Required book: Yin-Wah Chu and Siu-Lun Wong (eds), *East Asia's New Democracies* (Routledge 2010)

Other readings are available on Blackboard (Course Reserves)

GRADING AND EVALUATION

1. Attendance and discussion participation: 10%

Regular attendance is a must for this class. If students have inevitable reasons for their absence, they have to inform the professor in advance. In case of absences, students are required to provide legitimate reasons and supporting documentation.

Students who miss more than 4 classes will automatically fail in this course.

2. Response paper: 10%

Each student signs up for one session to post his/her comments on the readings on Blackboard. The comments should be at least one-page long and posted 24 hours before the class time. The response paper should address the following:

- What is the main argument in the reading?
- What examples or cases are used?
- How does the reading relate to our understanding of democracy in general or democratic politics in East Asia in particular?

3. Case studies and presentation: 30%

Four to five students team up for a case study group. Students in the same group do a division of labor and each student conducts independent research to write a section in the case study report. The group should prepare an outline and consult with the professor. The report should be in font 12, double-spaced and not exceed 15 pages in total and submitted on the presentation day. The report will be individually evaluated while the presentation part will be collectively graded. A list of topics for case studies is provided below and the presentation dates appear in the course schedule.

4. Mid-term exam (in-class): 20%

Mid-term exam will assess students' understanding of the key concepts and arguments discussed in the lecture and assigned readings. Oct 7 (Thu)

5. Final exam (take-home): 30%

Three essay questions will be distributed on Nov 23. Students choose to write TWO essays addressing these questions in 6-7 pages to be submitted by Dec 9.

Topics for case studies:

- What do the results of recent elections indicate about democracy in East Asia?
- Why have opposition parties been so weak in Japan?
- How do we evaluate authoritarian leaders like South Korea's PARK Chung Hee and Taiwan' CHANG Kai-shek?
- What was the significance of the Kwangju Incident for South Korea's democratization?
- What was the significance of the Tiananmen Square Incident for China's political change?
- What was the US foreign policy toward East Asia regarding democracy and human rights?
- Why an affluent country like Singapore does not democratize?
- Why a democratic country like India has so many people under poverty?
- What does the clash between the Red shirts and the Yellow Shirts in Thailand tell about the country's democracy?

Late submissions

Assignments that fail to meet the deadlines will result in losing one third of a letter grade for every 24-hour tardiness from the original due date.

Special events

There will be a couple of occasions (invited talks, presentations, or conferences) that students are encouraged to participate for extra credits.

Incomplete

No incomplete will be granted in this course unless the student provides evidence of emergencies such as family bereavement or medical treatment.

Grade scale

A: Above 94	B+: 87-90	C+: 77-80	D: Below 70
A-: 91-93	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	F: Below 60
	B-: 81-83	C-: 71-73	

CLASS ETHICS

Plagiarism (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/instruct/plagfaculty.htm>) is defined as presenting the work of another person as one's own work (including papers, words, ideas, information, computer code, data, evidence organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else taken from the internet, books, periodicals, or other sources). It includes:

- Quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing without acknowledgement, even a few phrases
- Failing to acknowledge the source of either a major idea or ordering principle central to one's own paper
- Relying on another person's data, evidence, or critical method without credit or permission
- Submitting another person's work as one's own
- Using unacknowledged research sources gathered by someone else.

→To avoid plagiarism, students should learn how to do the proper citation for the sources they will be using for their research. Students may choose whichever citation format that suits their writing needs, but I recommend that they stay with one format and fully familiarize themselves with the specifics.

Cheating in exams

Students are expected to have only exam sheets and pens on the table when they are taking exams. Cell phones and laptops should be turned off.

!!! Any detection of plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade and a report to the University administration.

Electronic devices

Cell phones should be turned off during class.

Laptops can be used in class but no web browsing is allowed. If it is found, points will be deducted from class attendance and participation.

Contacting the professor

If students feel overwhelmed by the course materials or encounter other personal difficulties that may affect their performance in class, they should immediately contact the professor and seek consultation EARLY in the semester. I will be happy to offer any additional guidance that might be needed for each student.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug 31: **Introduction and overview of the course**

Sep 2: **Watch a film** (Professor at conference)

Sep 7 and 9: **No class.** Labor Day and Rosh Hashanah

Sep 14: **What is democracy?**

ⓂPhilippe Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, “What Democracy Is...and Is Not” (*The Global Resurgence of Democracy*, 1996)

ⓂDavid Collier and Steven Levitsky, “Democracy with Adjectives” (*World Politics*, 1997)

Sep 16: **Democratic institutions 1: Presidentialism versus parliamentarism**

ⓂMatthew Soberg Shugart and John Carey, “Basic Choices in Democratic Regime Types” (*Presidents and Assemblies*, 1992)

Sep 21: **Democratic institutions 2: Elections and political parties**

ⓂDonald Horowitz, “A Primer for Decision Makers” (*Electoral Systems and Democracy*, 2006)

ⓂRichard Gunther and Larry Diamond, “Types and Functions of Parties” (*Political Parties and Democracy*, 2001)

Sep 23: **Presentation 1** on recent elections in East Asia

Sep 28: **Democratic institutions 3: Civil society**

ⓂLarry Diamond, “Civil Society” (*Developing Democracy*, 1999)

Sep 30: **Democratic transition**

®Valerie Bunce, “Comparative Democratization” (*Comparative Political Studies*, Aug/Sep 2000)

®Junhan Lee, “Primary Causes of Asian Democratization” (*Asian Survey*, Nov/Dec 2002)

Oct 5: Democracy and culture: the Asian values debate

®Amartya Sen, “Democracy as a Universal Value” (*The Global Divergence of Democracies*, 2001)

®Fareed Zakaria, “Culture Is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew” (*Foreign Affairs*, Mar/Apr 1994)

Oct 7: Mid-term exam

Oct 12: Japan: the Iron triangle

®Louis Hayes, Chapter 3 and 4 (*Introduction to Japanese Politics*, 2005)

Oct 14: Presentation 2 on opposition parties in Japan

Oct 19: Japan's civil society: Members without advocates

®Robert Pekkanen, “After the Developmental State: Civil Society in Japan” (*Journal of East Asian Studies* 4, 2004)

Oct 21: Korea: Developmental authoritarianism

®Soong Hoom Kil, “Development of Korean Politics” (*Understanding Korean Politics*, 2001)

Oct 26: Presentation 3 on the Kwangju Incident

Oct 28: **Korea: Dynamic democracy**

ⓂSunhyuk Kim, “Civil Society in Democratizing Korea” (*Korea’s Democratization*, 2003)

Nov 2: **The US and democracy in East Asia**

ⓂTextbook Chapter 4 by Bruce Cumings

Presentation 4 on the US involvement in East Asia

Nov 4: **Taiwan: One-party authoritarianism**

Ⓜ Denny Roy, “Martial Law and Kuomintang Domination” (*Taiwan, A Political History*, 2003)

Nov 9: **Taiwan: Political party-driven democratization**

ⓂTextbook Chapter 3 by Hsiao and Ho

Presentation 5 on authoritarian leaders

Nov 11: **Watch a film**

Nov 16: **China: Economic rise and political decentralization**

ⓂGoldman and MacFarquhar, “Dynamic Economy, Declining Party-State,” (*The Paradox of China’s Post-Mao Reforms*, 1999)

ⓂTextbook Chapter 2 by Howell

Nov 18: **Presentation 6** on the Tiananmen Incident

Nov 23: **China: Village elections and popular protest**

ⓂRichard Levy, “Village Elections, Transparency, and Anticorruption” (*Grassroots*

Political Reform in Contemporary China, 2007)

©Ching Kwan Lee, “Is Labor a Political Force in China?” (*Grassroots Political Reform in Contemporary China, 2007)*

Final exam questions distributed

Nov 25: No class, Thanksgiving

Nov 30: Democracy and equality: Presentation 7 on India

Dec 2: Democracy and affluence: Presentation 8 on Singapore

Dec 7: Democracy and poverty

©Textbook Chapter 7 by Hewison

Presentation 9 on Thailand

Dec 9: Last class. Final exams due.