

SOC 380 THE STATE AND LABOR IN EAST ASIA

Binghamton University

Fall 2007

MWF 9:40-10:40

SL 310

Office hours: Monday 11am-12pm
or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce a different angle to the understanding of East Asian political economy by examining issues related with labor and workers' lives. Countries in East Asia, such as Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China, have often been portrayed as "miracle" economies with rapidly rising income levels. However, little has been discussed on the people who actually "manufacture" this remarkable growth. In this course, we will discuss and analyze the economic and political conditions that have defined the lives of workers. Due to the central role of the government in the course of economic and political development in East Asia, a special focus will be placed on the actions of the state in shaping the labor relations in these economies. We will also explore how the processes of political democratization and economic globalization in recent decades are altering labor conditions, particularly labor migration and gender divisions.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required books

Ikuro Kume, *Disparaged Success: Labor Politics in Postwar Japan*

(Cornell University Press, 1998)

Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation*

(Cornell University Press, 2001)

Mary Gallagher, *Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China*

(Princeton University Press, 2005)

Other readings are available on Blackboard (Course Reserves)

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Participation: 10%	Do the assigned readings, come to class, participate in class discussion, and ask questions.
Comments and discussion questions: 10%	Each student signs up for <u>one session</u> and prepares a short response memo (<u>one page</u>) and discussion questions (<u>at least three</u>) on the assigned readings. Both the response memo and discussion questions should to be posted on Blackboard <u>24 hours before the class</u> .
Presentation & outline: 20%	Each student chooses a specific topic to be developed later into a research paper. Each student prepares an outline to be presented in class. The outline should be submitted in a <u>written form (2-3 pages)</u> on the presentation day and will be returned to students with my comments.
Two tests: 30%	There will be two tests to evaluate students' understanding of the key concepts and arguments discussed in lectures and assigned readings. <u>Test 1 on Oct 15 (in-class)</u> <u>Test 2 on Dec 5 (take-home)</u>
Final paper: 30%	The final paper should address an interesting research question pertaining to labor in East Asia, as broadly defined. <u>10 page-long, double-spaced.</u> <u>Final paper due on Dec 7 with 2 extra points</u> or <u>Dec 12 with no extra point.</u>

Absence

Regular attendance is a must for this class. If students have inevitable reasons for their absence, they have to inform the professor in advance.

Incomplete

No incomplete will be granted in this course unless the student provides evidence of family

or medical emergencies.

Laptops

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.

Plagiarism (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/instruct/plagfaculty.htm>)

Do not plagiarize. Period!

Plagiarism 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).

→Any detection of plagiarism will result in a failing grade and a report to the University administration

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
8/27-8/31	Introduction -Sign-up for response memos	<i>Why labor in East Asia?</i> Read: Woo-Cumings “Chalmers Johnson...” p.1-31	Discussion on the developmental state and labor
9/3-9/7	NO CLASS	<i>EOI and the developmental state</i> Read: Deyo p.33-50	Read: Cheng and Chu “State-Business Relations...” p.31-49
9/10-9/14	<i>Labor in Japan</i> Read: Pempel et al “Corporatism without Labor?” p.243-267	Read: Kume p.1-19	NO CLASS
9/17-9/21	Read: Kume p.49-72	Read: Kume p.73-106	NO CLASS
9/24-9/28	Read: Kume p. 182-213	Read: Kume p.214-232	Presentation on Japan
10/1-10/5	<i>Labor in Korea</i> Read: Koo p.1-22	Read: Koo p.23-45	*Conference on Asian Labor (Extra credit)
10/8-10/12	Read: Koo p.46-68	Read: Koo p.126-152	Presentation on Korea
10/15-10/19	Exam 1	<i>Labor in Taiwan</i> Read: Chu “Democracy and Organized Labor...” p.495-506	Read: Chu “Democracy and Organized Labor...” p.506-510
10/22-10/26	Read: Cheng and Wong “Taiwan Labor Movement...” p.30-56	Read: Y. Lee “Varieties of Labor Politics...”p.721-740	Presentation on Taiwan
10/29-11/2	<i>Labor in China</i> Read: Gallagher p.9-29	Read: Gallagher p.62-75	Read: Gallagher p.76-96
11/5-11/9	Read: Gallagher p.98-132	Read: Ch. Lee “The Unmaking of...”	Presentation on China

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
11/12-11/16	<i>Globalization, gender, and labor</i> Read: Cingranelli “...”	Read: Overbeek “Neoliberalism and ...” p.74-90	Read: Weathers “...” p.156-177
11/19-11/23	Presentation	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
11/26-11/30	Read: Brinton “Married Women’s Labor...” p.1-19	Read: Brinton “Married Women’s Labor...” p.19-37	Presentation
12/3-12/7	Read: Oishi “Women in Motion” p.145-169	Exam 2	Wrap-up

*** I am organizing a conference on Asian labor on October 5 and 6.

Students are expected to participate in the conference (at least the Friday panels) and choose one paper to write a response memo (one page) for an extra credit. Detailed information about the conference can be found at

<http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~ykleee/AsianLabor/>