Political Economy of East Asia

Course Number: 01:790:313
Instructor: Xian Huang
Class Time: Mon & Thur. 10:55 am-12:15 pm
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Course Overview

This course compares the post-war political, economic, and social development of East Asia with a focus on Japan, South Korea, and Greater China. We focus on the political circumstances, both domestic and international, that have taken each country down the path it has taken, and how these paths now shape the future prospects of each country as well as of East Asia as a region. While we will take international factors and global forces into account, the focus of this course is largely domestic. The first half of the course (before midterm) will focus on the East Asian Development Model and other common themes and challenges shared by countries in East Asia including, but not limited to, industrialization, trade, finance, and regionalism. The second half of the course (after midterm) will focus on country specific cases, looking at the development path each country has taken in the post-war period. Some common themes repeat themselves in each of the country case studies: the role of the state, the interaction between domestic and international factors, the relationship between bureaucrats and politicians, and the development of various institutions. Topics and readings in the second half will be country-specific, taking into consideration unique circumstances that differentiate the experiences of one country from another.

After completing this course, students should

1. be familiar with the intellectual debates surrounding the economic "miracle" and financial crisis in East Asia over the past few decades;
2. gain a better understanding of the different and evolving economic roles played by the state in various East Asian countries during the postwar era;
3. be able to apply the concepts and theories to the study of political economy in East Asia and beyond.

Prerequisites
Students may take this course without prerequisites; however, previous background in the study of comparative politics or political economy, and some knowledge of East Asian countries will be helpful.


For background reading on Comparative East Asia, see the Asian Barometer website: [http://www.asianbarometer.org/newenglish/introduction/](http://www.asianbarometer.org/newenglish/introduction/)

**Requirements and Evaluation**

Lectures and reading are arranged with both topical coverage and chronological sequence. Grades will be based on attendance and class participation (20%), midterm exam (30%), in-class presentation (15%) and final exam (35%).

Each student will select one East Asian country from the list in Part III of the Course Overview (see pg.3) and make an in-class presentation (not exceeding 20 minutes) based on the required readings on political economy of the selected country. The presentation slides should be uploaded to the course web-site on Sakai no later than 5 p.m. on the Friday prior to the class on the selected country.

**Required Texts**


**Recommended Texts**


**Readings**

The textbooks (required and recommended) are available for purchase at the university bookstore; they can be ordered from Amazon.com or Barnes and Noble (bn.com) where less expensive copies are often available; they will also be put on reserve at Douglass Library Undergraduate Reserve. Other readings will be posted on Sakai.

**Academic Integrity**
In accordance with Rutgers University policy on Academic Integrity, you are expected to fully comply with the school’s policies. Please see: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu

**Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require accommodation should review the following statement from the Office of Disability Services (https://ods.rutgers.edu/faculty/syllabus).

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**COURSE OVERVIEW**

**PART I: Introduction, History and Theory**

- Week 1: Introduction to East Asia
- Week 2: History of East Asia
- Week 3: East Asian Economic Miracle
- Week 4: East Asian Developmental States
- Week 5: Asian Economic Crisis

**PART II: Issues of East Asian Political Economy**

- Week 6: Political Economy of East Asian Production and Trade
- Week 7: Political Economy of East Asian Finance and Monetary Relations
- Week 8: Political Economy of East Asian Regionalism

**PART III: Political Economy of East Asian Countries**

- Week 10: Japan
- Week 11: Taiwan
- Week 12: Singapore and Hong Kong
- Week 13: Korea
- Week 14: China
Topics and Readings

(Readings marked with an asterisk are required. Other readings are recommended.)

Part I: Introduction, History and Theory

Week 1 (Sept 7) Introduction to East Asia

* Wan, chapter 1.
* Cai, chapter 1.

Week 2 (Sept 11 & 14) History of East Asia

* Cai, chapter 2 and 3.
* Wan, chapter 3 and 4.

Week 3 (Sept 18 & 21) East Asian Economic Miracle

* Wan, Chapter 5.

Recommended Readings


Week 4 (Sept 25 & 28) East Asian Developmental States


Recommended Readings


Week 5 (Oct 2 & 5) Asian Economic Crisis and East Asian Model Reconsidered
* Wan, Chapter 6.

**Recommended Readings**


**Part II: Issues of East Asian Political Economy**

**Week 6 (Oct 9 & 12) Political Economy of East Asian Production and Trade**

* Wan, Chapter 7 and 8.

**Recommended Readings**


**Week 7 (Oct 16 & 19) Political Economy of East Asian Finance and Monetary Relations**

* Wan, Chapter 9 and 10.

**Recommended Readings**


**Week 8 (Oct 23 & 26) Political Economy of East Asian Regionalism**

* Wan, Chapter 11 and 2.
* Cai, Chapter 8.

**Recommended Readings**


Week 9 (Oct 30 & Nov 2) Midterm review and exam

Part III: Political Economy of East Asian Countries

Week 10 (Nov 6 & 9) Japan

* Cai, Chapter 4.

Recommended Readings


Week 11 (Nov 13) Taiwan

* Cai, Chapter 6.

Recommended Readings


Nov 16: Class cancelled

Week 12 (Nov 20) Singapore and Hong Kong

Nov 23: No Class--Thanksgiving holiday

Week 13 (Nov 27 & 30) Korea

* Cai, Chapter 5.

*Recommended Readings*

Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia*, chapter 7-12.


Week 14 (Dec 4 & 7) China

* Cai, Chapter 7.

*Recommended Readings*


Week 15 (Dec 11 & 14) Final review and exam