CPO 3513: Politics in the Far East – China/Japan

Syllabus
University of West Florida
Spring, 2012

Instructor Contact Information
Professor: Jongseok Woo, Ph. D.
Office: Building #50, Room #126
Email: jwoo@uwf.edu
Phone: 850-474-3008
Online Office Hours: Tue/Wed/Thur. 9-12pm

Class Schedule/Location: Online

Course Description:

East Asia features a rich variety of political dynamics, ranging from relatively
long-standing consolidated democracy (Japan), to recent democratic regime transition
(South Korea and Taiwan) to one-party authoritarianism (China), and to one-party
dictatorship (North Korea). In addition to political dynamics, East Asia showcases the
most rapidly growing economies in the world: China as the second largest economy in
the world followed by Japan, and economic miracles by NIEs including S. Korea and
Taiwan. Finally, East Asia also stands out because of its significance in international
security and strategic concerns.

This course is primarily designed to provide advanced students with an
understanding of the forces of continuity and change in domestic political systems in East
Asia. In this class, East Asia is defined as a geographic region containing two major
powers (China and Japan) and three medium-level powers (two Koreas and Taiwan).
The course begins with a critical evaluation of competing theoretical approaches to
understanding political dynamics of the region. In this course, we will compare and
contrast various political, economic, social, and cultural aspects such as modern state-
building, political development and crises, political economy, democratization, civil
society and state-society relations, and institutional arrangements of major East Asian
countries.

Course Topics and Student Learning Outcomes

Main course topics include:
1) Geographical, historical, and cultural backgrounds of East Asia
2) State-building, modernization, and political developments
3) Government structures, elections, and decision-making processes
4) Political economy of East Asia

By the end of the semester, you are expected to:
1) Identify major theoretical perspectives on East Asian domestic political dynamics
2) Critically appraise existing theories’ applicability to the region
3) Classify different paths of political development from state-building to post-democratization
4) Understand political cultures, party systems, and governmental structures
5) Categorize different state-society relations in different institutional settings
6) Assess the utility of the "developmental model" in the region

Online Requirements:
This course is delivered completely online through the e-learning system. You will use your Argus account to login to the course from the Argus login page (https://argus.uwf.edu/cp/home/displaylogin, or https://elearning.uwf.edu/index.cfm?). You are required to have consistent access to the Internet. Taking an online course may be a very different environment for most of you. You are expected to set your own schedules, participate in online class activities at your convenience, and satisfy other course requirements at your own pace. You may want to make sure that that you spend substantial amount of time during the first few weeks to become familiar to the online class format. You are expected to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week for weekly reading assignments, online lessons and discussions on weekly topics.

Special Technology Requirements:
Students are required to have a certain level of word processing skills, email interactions with file attachments, uploading/downloading internet files, as well as utilizing Adobe Acrobat Reader and PowerPoint Viewer.

Required Texts:

Additional readings are posted on E-learning.

Other Sources:
Students are expected to read the Asia-Pacific section of at least one daily newspaper (*New York Times, Washington Post, Financial Times*, etc.)

Course Evaluation

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2-page Research Synopsis (10%): You will write a 2-page synopsis that describes your research paper topic, including a research question, significance of the topic, and a rough research plan. A specific instruction will be posted on elearning.

Due: February 6.

5-page Literature Summary (10%): You will construct a 5-page (single-space) literature summary that will be used in your 15-pp research paper. The summaries include a minimum of 15 different sources (ideally, 5 books and 10 scholarly journal articles).

Due: March 26

15-page Research Paper (20%): You will choose one current political/policy issue in one of the East Asian countries and write an analytical paper. A one-page guideline will be posted on e-learning.

Due: April 30

Two Exams: The exams are made up of one big essay question (40%) and six short identification-type questions (60%). No makeup is allowed except for a legitimate reason with a proven document.

EXAM I (30%): February 23
EXAM II (30%): April 25

There is No Final Exam (Research Paper will replace it).

Academic Integrity:
All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will be punished severely. Failure to provide proper information on words, concepts, and opinions borrowed from other works constitute plagiarism. The author of a plagiarized review essay or exam answer will receive an automatic “F” for the class and will be reported to University authorities. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism, consult University documents and regulations: (http://library.uwf.edu/Research/OnlineTutorials/Plagiarism/)

Assistance: Students who need special accommodations for class attendance and exams need to contact the professor during the first week of the semester. Students with special needs who require specific examination-related or other course-related accommodations should contact Barbara Fitzpatrick, Director of Disabled Student Services (DSS), dss@uwf.edu, (850) 474-2387. DSS will provide the student with a letter for the instructor that will specify any recommended accommodations.

Course Schedule and Reading

I. INTRODUCTION (January 9 – 15)
   1. What/Why is East Asia?
2. Comparative Theories and Methods

Readings:

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDS (Jan. 16 - 22)
   1. China/Taiwan
   2. Japan
   3. Two Koreas

Readings:
Dreyer, Chapters. 1 & 2.
Hayes, Chapter. 1.
Kihl & Moon, Chapter 2. (e-learning)

III. CONSOLIDATED DEMOCRACY: JAPAN (January 23 – February 8)
   1. Modern Political History
   2. Political Culture & System

Readings: Hayes, Chapters. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 (skim Chapter 6).

February 6: 2-Page Research Synopsis Submission

IV. RECENT DEMOCRATIZER I: S. KOREA (February 9 – 19)
   1. Modern Political History
   2. Political Culture & System

Readings: Kihl & Moon, Chapters 3 & 6. (e-learning)

February 23: Exam I

V. RECENT DEMOCRATIZER II: TAIWAN (February 27 – March 7)

Readings: Dreyer, Chapter 3.

VI. ONE-PARTY AUTHORITARIANISM: CHINA (March 8 – April 5)
   1. Modern Political History
   2. From Revolution to Post-Mao
   3. Political Culture & System

Readings: Dreyer, Chapters 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13 (skim Chapters 10-12).

March 26: 5-page Literature Summary

VII. ONE-PARTY DICTATORSHIP: N. KOREA (April 6 - 15)

Readings: Kihl & Moon, Chapter 10. (e-learning)
VIII. POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EAST ASIA (April 16 - 22)

Readings: Dreyer, Chapter 7.
Hayes, Chapter 9.

April 25: Exam II

April 30: Research Paper Submission