

International Affairs 2230

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF *NORTHEAST ASIA*

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COURSE OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION

This course surveys the political, economic, and social evolution of the major countries of Northeast Asia, that is, China, Japan, the two Koreas, and Taiwan. Despite cultural commonalities and a long history of mutual interaction, these states have developed politically and economically on different timetables and through divergent approaches. Today, the region boasts a range of regime types – parliamentary, presidential, semi-presidential, authoritarian, and one-man dictatorship – that differ in the degree to which democratic governance has set root. While Japan is a mature democracy and South Korea and Taiwan are consolidating democracies, China and North Korea remain communist states with limited democratic participation.

By tracing the evolutionary roots of political development in Northeast Asia, we discover an inextricable link to a distinctive growth model that has enabled the region to account for 40 percent of world economic activity. Yet many of the current differences in the political and economic trajectories of states in the region can be linked to the manner in which the respective countries responded to the changes threatened by the intrusion of the Western imperialist powers during the 19th Century. Whereas China chose to *resist* Westernizing change, Japan opted for *reform* to survive, while Korea vainly attempted to *recluse* itself from the onslaught. The consequences of these divergent responses to the Western challenge are evident in some of the diplomatic and domestic problems that currently cast a dark shadow over the region.

CORE AREA/ATTRIBUTES

Successful completion of this course counts toward fulfillment of Georgia Tech's Social Science General Education requirement, the expected learning outcomes of which are explained on the Registrar's Office website (<http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/students/gened.php>).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course grades will be determined by student performance on a combination of individual and group work. The individual work involves a movie critique and two in-class *examinations*, while the group work includes a research design project, oral presentation, and a one-page policy brief. Course grades will be weighted as follows:

- movie critique: 10 percent (a list of recommended movies will be provided)
- two examinations: 50 percent (25 percent each)
- oral presentation (group exercise): 30 percent (includes submission of PPT slides)
- policy brief (group exercise): 10 percent

INSTITUTE POLICIES

Honor Code: Academic honesty is required of all Georgia Tech students by the Institute's honor code, the text of which is found at www.honor.gatech.edu.

Special Accommodations: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a documented disability are required to register with the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) at <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>.

Diversity & Inclusion: The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts – of which the Nunn School is a constituent part – supports the Institute's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in broader society.

LEARNING GOALS

- Students will become more aware of the diversity of cultural, institutional, and ethical systems in Northeast Asia's major countries, that is, China, Japan, the two Koreas, and Taiwan.
- Students will acquire a basic understanding of the forces that have shaped the political, economic, and social development of these Northeast Asian societies.
- Students will apply the comparative method and best practices in *teamwork* to solve a current problem affecting the region.
- Students will defend their critical assessments and problem-solving proposals through compelling, evidence-based, arguments in *written, oral, and audio-visual formats*.

READINGS

The following textbook is required:

Louis D. Hayes, *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*, 1st Edition (Paperback or Kindle). London: Routledge, 2014.

Additional required readings will be posted to Canvas or can be accessed from the Georgia Tech Library's "Journals" portal. Students wishing to pursue a particular topic in more depth are encouraged to consult with the Instructor.

DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week #1: Course Overview

- August 20: Course Overview and Requirements
- August 22: Northeast Asia and Its Importance

Required readings: Hayes, "Introduction"

Week #2: Northeast Asia and the Western Incursion

- August 27: Traditional Northeast Asia
- August 29: Barbarians at the Gate

Required readings: Hayes, Chapters 1, 7, and 13

Week #3: Response to the Western Incursion

- September 3: China's Response – *Resist*
- September 5: Japan's Response – *Reform*

Required readings: Hayes, Chapters 2, 8, 9, and 14

Week #4: Response to the Western Incursion, continued

- September 10: Korea's Response – *Recluse*
- September 12: The East Asian Developmental State

Required readings: Brian Woodall, "The Development of Japan's Developmental State: Stages of Growth and the Social Costs of Energy and Export Promotion Policies," in *East Asian Development Model: 21st Century Perspectives* (Shiping Hua and Ruihua Hu, Editors). London: Routledge, 2015. Pp. 101-120. Uploaded to Canvas.

Movie Critique is due: September 12th

Week #5:

- September 17: Japan, 1868-1945
- September 19: Japan, 1946-present

Required readings: Hayes, Chapters 15, 16, and 17

Week #6:

- September 24: Japan – Current Dilemmas

- September 26: Review for Examination

Required readings: Hayes, Chapter 18; and Brian Woodall, “Japan in 2019: Abe Rule, Trump Shocks, and Mother Nature,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 59 No. 1, January/February 2019, pp. 63-76.

Week #7:

- October 1: Examination #1
- October 3: China, 1842-1948

Required readings: Hayes, Chapters 3 and 4

Week #8:

- October 8: China, 1949-present
- October 10: Taiwan, 1949-present

Required readings: Hayes, Chapter 5 and 6

Fall Recess: October 15

Week #9:

- October 17: China / Taiwan – Current Dilemmas

Required readings: Shaun Breslin, “China in 2018: Presidents, Politics, and Power,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 59 No. 1, January/February 2019, pp. 21-34; and Tsai Chung-Min, “Taiwan in 2018: A Bitter Campaign and an Uncertain Future,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 59 No. 1, January/February 2019, pp. 77-84.

Week #10:

- October 22: Korea, 1905-1949
- October 24: South Korea / North Korea, 1950-present

Required readings: Hayes, Chapters 10, 11, and 12

Week #11:

- October 29: The Two Koreas – Current Dilemmas
- October 31: Consul General talk

Required readings: Uk Heo and Seongyi Yun, “South Korea in 2018: Summit Meetings for the Denuclearization of North Korea” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 59 No. 1, January/February 2019, pp. 54-62; Gi-Wook Shin and Rennie J. Moon, “North Korea in 2018: Kim’s Summit Diplomacy,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 59 No. 1, January/February 2019, pp. 35-43.

Week #12:

- November 5: Consul General Young Jun Kim of the Republic of Korea
- November 7: Consul General talk

Required readings: TBA

Week #13:

- November 12: Problem-based Learning Group Work
- November 14: Review for Examination

Required readings: TBA

Week #14:

- November 19: Examination #2
- November 21: Problem-based Learning Group Work

Required readings: to be decided by group

Week #15:

- November 26: PBL Group Work (virtual group meeting)

Required readings: to be decided by group

Thanksgiving Holiday: November 28

Week #16:

- December 3: Group Presentations

Policy Brief and PowerPoint Slides due: December 10

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Problem-based Learning Group Assignment

Northeast Asia is a region riddled with challenges. Among the various political/security challenges are rising nationalism, territorial disputes, the possibility of a regional arms race, and the dangers of nuclear proliferation. Economic challenges include issues of energy procurement, climate change, and the potential for trade war and/or recession. The host of social challenges include problems of gender inequality, caring for aging populations, and how to handle immigrants.

Your group has been task with: (1) identifying a challenge that involves at least two Northeast Asian countries, (2) dissecting the problem and its sources, (3) assessing the range of possible remedies, and (4) proposing a solution to it. This is a group exercise, and it is expected that all members of the team will participate. Time will be allocated for in-class group work. Your deliverables will be a PowerPoint presentation (approximately 10 minutes in duration) and a policy brief (5 to 7-page summary of your findings and proposed solution).