

## **Government and Politics in East Asia**

Course Meetings: Mondays/Wednesdays 2:40-4:00pm  
Office Hours: Mondays 4:15-5:45pm, Wednesdays 10:30am-noon, or by appointment

### **Course Description**

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East Asia has increasingly played a great role in global politics. Organized in themes and parallel case studies, this course provides a comprehensive and systematic introduction to the comparative study of the nations of East Asia, with a particular focus on Japan, North Korea, South Korea, China, and Taiwan. The course addresses several topical areas of inquiry: political culture and heritage, democratization, government structure and institutions, political parties and leaders, social movements, and women's political representation and participation. While this course studies East Asia countries, intra-regional issues and issues involving relations with other parts of the world are also examined.

### **Course Goals**

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After successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain major analytical approaches to the study of East Asian politics
- Integrate the roles of political culture and social constructions in understanding the government formation and structure of East Asian countries
- Compare the various forms of political systems in East Asia
- Identify and discuss salient contemporary issues in East Asia
- Analyze the role of gender and social movements in shaping East Asian politics
- Evaluate the impact of East Asian countries on the global economy and world politics

### **Required Texts**

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- Readings on Moodle

### **Course Requirements and Expectations**

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This course will be in a semi-seminar format where lectures will be given in the first half of the class and followed by discussions and various activities. In this course, I will be facilitating an open, respectful, and informed class setting that considers difference in identity, opinion, experience, and analysis as a fertile space for learning. Such an environment takes effort by both students and the instructor.

For students, your responsibilities are:

- **Preparation:** Complete the required readings before coming to class. We go into details of the assigned reading in class – please also bring the readings of the day to class.
- **Participation:** Participation in class is based on participation in class lecture and discussion, as well as group activities. Write down at least one quote, concept, or idea from the reading that is interesting, provoking, and open to interpretation. This might help you prepare for the class as well as for participation.
- **Respect:** Throughout the course, I would like everyone to feel free to share her/his opinion with one another. In order to do so, we must maintain a civil environment, even when we are discussing controversial topics. You are responsible to actively listen to others and treat others' contributions respectfully (from your peers and me), even if you disagree with them or me. I will not tolerate any language or acts of discrimination and intimidation.

I will contribute to this environment by:

- Treating all students with respect.
- Welcoming diverse viewpoints, experiences, and interpretations of the class materials.
- Challenging your thinking, beliefs, and analysis of issues, concepts, and ideas in this class.
- Making sure every student has the opportunity to speak at least once before allowing students to speak multiple times.

## **Course Components**

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### **I. Participation (20%)**

Your participation grade is based on two components: attendance and participation in class.

*You should attend every class. I understand that extenuating circumstances arise that can make this difficult, but please notify me prior to class if you cannot attend. If circumstances make you miss more than 3 classes, you may have overextended yourself and you may fail this course. You do **NOT** need to notify me if you intend to miss class for any reason. Participation is graded on quality, not just quantity. If participation may be an issue for you, please contact me. If you participate often, allow others to also participate and avoid monopolizing the conversation.*

### **II. Group Project: Country Report (20%) and Group Presentation (5%)**

You will select an East Asian country of your choice. Groups will be formed based on individual country preference and write a 4-5 page singled spaced report. Each group will write and present a country report that includes a BRIEF country history, political institution (democracy? federalism? Parliamentary system? Single-member district system?, etc.), current political leader, recent or upcoming election, and/or other topics related to our course, such as women's political representation and social movements. Your report will be due on Moodle by 2:40pm on the day it is due (also the day you will present your country report). Your report cannot be accepted in class, and **five points will be deducted** for every day the assignment is late.

*The report should be 4-5 pages, single spaced. The report should be broken down into different sections with a section heading. Font: Times New Roman; font size: 12.*

### **III. Mid-Term Examination (25%)**

The mid-term exam will be based on the readings, classroom discussions, discussion forum, and multimedia shown in class.

- You will take the exam online on Moodle.
- The exam has a time limit of 1 hour, 20 minutes once you begin the exam.
- You may only submit the exam once.
- The exam will "open" at 6AM. The exam is due by 11:59PM the day of the exam.
- I will distribute a review sheet for the exam.

### **IV. Research Proposal (25%) and Presentation (5%)**

You will write a 7-8 single spaced (Times New Roma, Font size 12 pt) research proposal related to a question of your interest in East Asian politics. Students are free to choose the particular topic. You are required to turn in your research question by November 2 and a bibliography draft by November 15.

Your research proposal must include a basic research question, thesis (your own arguments), literature review, and data and methodology that you think are the best to use to answer your question. This research proposal is not an encyclopedia entry. You must make arguments responding to a question of your choosing and explain ways in which you could "test" whether your arguments could be supported. Your literature review must include at least six scholarly sources (books or articles) in addition to news source or other reputable sources. Most importantly in this research proposal, you will identify the "so what?" to persuade others why your question/work is important.

You may focus on just one country (e.g. Taiwan) or multiple countries in the region (e.g. women's political representation in Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea.) You could compare domestic politics or explore international relations among East Asian countries.

You will also be presenting your paper on the last day of class. The presentation should focus on your argument, expected findings, and implications for East Asian politics, lasting no longer than 1 minutes.

**\*\* Missed Exams or assignments:** *Illness, death in the family, or other traumatic events unfortunately is part of life. A make-up assignment or exam will be given if you contact me within 24 hours and provide documentation.*

## VI. Extra Credit

There will be plenty of extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. Most of these involve attending a lecture, film, etc. on campus. In order to earn extra credit, you will need to upload a short paragraph of your response on Moodle no later than 9am before the next class we meet following the event. The extra credit will be added onto your participation grade. Extra credit opportunities will be announced in class and via News Forum on Moodle. *First extra credit of the semester: upload any image of your favorite East Asian dish or a dish you'd like to try on Moodle before 2:40pm, 9/14.*

*For all the assignments that you need to upload on Moodle, please upload a word document saved in your last name(or group #)\_assignment, for example, Liu\_Bibliography or Group1\_CountryReport Late assignments will be penalized five points each calendar day after the due date and time.*

## Resources

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### PRC

China Daily [www.chinadaily.com.cn](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn)  
People's Daily [english.peopledaily.com.cn/](http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/)  
South China Morning Post [www.scmp.com/](http://www.scmp.com/)

### Japan

Asahi Shimbun <http://www.asahi.com/english/>  
Japan Times <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>  
Japan Today <http://www.japantoday.com/>

### North Korea

Korean Central News Agency [www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm](http://www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm)  
Naenara: <http://naenara.com.kp/en/>

### South Korea

Chosun Ilbo: [english.chosun.com/](http://english.chosun.com/)  
Joong Ang Ilbo: [koreajoongangdaily.joinsmsn.com/](http://koreajoongangdaily.joinsmsn.com/)  
Korea Herald: [www.koreaherald.com/](http://www.koreaherald.com/)

### Taiwan

Taipei Times: [www.taipeitimes.com/](http://www.taipeitimes.com/)  
China Post: [www.chinapost.com.tw/](http://www.chinapost.com.tw/)

### General

BBC (Asia Coverage) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia/>

## Class Grade Scale

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A: 94—100%  
A-: 91—93%  
B+: 87—90%  
B: 83—86%

B-: 80—82%  
C+: 77—79%  
C: 73—76%  
C-: 72-70%

D+: 69-65%  
D: 65-60%  
F: 59% and Below

Grades in this class are based on mastery of the class material. This doesn't just mean attending class and reading the material; it means analyzing and understanding the material—and being able to articulate the material thoughtfully and precisely through assignments, discussion, exams, and essays. At the end of the semester, I do not allow late work or extra credit, "round up," barter, or allow you to do extra work to improve your final grade. There will be, however, plenty of extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

### Email Policy, Computer Policy, and Academic Integrity

You may contact me at [sliu15@smith.edu](mailto:sliu15@smith.edu) at any time, but please note that I do not have Internet access at home, making it a bit difficult for me to check email outside my office. Please give me at least 24 hours to respond to your inquiries.

Only on rare occasions will laptops, tablets, or mobile phones be used in class. However, you will not need them most of the time, so please turn off your electronic devices or put them away. While open laptops and other similar devices may be used for note-taking and reading texts, I would rather have you listening to one another with attention. I'm as addicted to social media as anyone, but please do your email/Facebook/Twitter, etc. in your own time. Taking notes by hand has been scientifically proven to help you retain information and perform better in class. Link to the study <http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away>

Students will uphold Smith College's Academic Honor Code (<https://www.smith.edu/sao/handbook/socialconduct/honorcode.php>). Any suspected violation will be reported to the Dean of Students/and or the Honor Board.

### Class Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change. Ample notice will be given.

\*Readings on Moodle

Dates	Topic	In-class Activity and Readings
<b>INTRODUCTION TO THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF EAST ASIA</b>		
Sept 12	Introduction	Discussion of class expectations, assignments, exam, and reading schedule
Sept 14	Why Should We Study East Asia?	<p>*Mahbubani, Kishore. July 24, 2005. "The Asian Century., Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, <a href="http://www.mahbubani.net/articles/FAS-24Jul05-KishoreMahbubani.pdf">http://www.mahbubani.net/articles/FAS-24Jul05-KishoreMahbubani.pdf</a></p> <p>*Kurlantzick, Joshua. September 2008. "So Far, It Just Isn't Looking Like Asia's Century." Washington Post. <a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/05/AR2008090502657.html?utm_term=.41529a8d2d22">http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/05/AR2008090502657.html?utm_term=.41529a8d2d22</a></p> <p>*Drysdale, Peter. May 7, 2012. "Asia's Geo-Political Future." East Asia Forum. <a href="http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/05/07/asias-geo-political-future/">http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2012/05/07/asias-geo-political-future/</a></p> <p>*Lee, John. 2010. "The Future is Already Here." <i>The Diplomat</i>. <a href="http://apac2020.thediplomat.com/feature/the-future-is-already-here/">http://apac2020.thediplomat.com/feature/the-future-is-already-here/</a></p>
<b>POLITICAL REGIMES</b>		
Sept 19	Transition to Democracy: Case of South Korea	<p>Kim, Sunhyuk. "State and civil society in South Korea's democratic consolidation: is the battle really over?." <i>Asian Survey</i> 37.12 (1997): 1135-1144.</p> <p>*Chaibong, Hahm. 2008. "South Korea's Miraculous Democracy." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 19(3): 128-142.</p>

Sept 21	Transition to Democracy: Case of Taiwan	<p>*Rich, Timothy S. 2009. "Can Democratic Consolidation Make a Country Less Secure? The Case of Taiwan." <i>Journal of Contemporary Eastern Asia</i>. 8(1): 1-14.</p> <p>*Hung, Chen-Ling. "Media control and democratic transition: Ongoing threat to press freedom in Taiwan." <i>China Media Research</i> 9.2 (2013): 83-94.</p>
Sept 26	Non-Transition to Democracy: Case of North Korea	<p><b>Country Report: North Korea due due at 2:40pm on Moodle; student presentation will occur in class.</b></p> <p>*Eberstadt, Nicholas. 2004. "The Persistence of North Korea." <i>Policy Review</i>. 23-48.</p> <p>*Lankov, Andrei. 2011. "Kim Il-Sung: Disastrous Founder of Communist N. Korea." <a href="http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/08/117_92972.html">http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/08/117_92972.html</a></p>
Sept 28	Film in class	<i>Korea: Stories from a Still Divided Country</i>
Oct 3	Non-Transition to Democracy: Case of PRC	<p><b>Country Report: PRC due at 2:40pm on Moodle; student presentation will occur in class.</b></p> <p>*Gallagher, Mary E. 2002. "Reform and Openness: Why China's Economic Reforms Have Delayed Democracy?" <i>World Politics</i>, 54:338-72.</p> <p>*King, Gary, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E. Roberts. "How censorship in China allows government criticism but silences collective expression." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 107.02 (2013): 326-343.</p>
Oct 5	Mountain Day	Happy Mountain Day!
Oct 10	Autumn Recess	No class
Oct 12	Film in Class	<i>Please Vote for me!</i>
<b>POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS</b>		
Oct 17	Critiques of Democracy in Asia	<p>*Zakaria, Fareed. 1994. "Culture is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 73 (March/April): 109-126.</p> <p>*Jung, Kim Dae. 1994. "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 73 (Nov/Dec): 189-194.</p> <p>*Reilly, Benjamin. 2007. "Democratization and Electoral Reform in the Asia-Pacific Region: Is There an 'Asian Model' of Democracy." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 40(11): 1350-1371.</p>
Oct 19	Political Systems and Parties: Cases of Japan and Taiwan	<p><b>Country Report: Japan due at 2:40pm on Moodle; student presentation will occur in class.</b></p> <p><b>You will only need to read ONE of the following articles to which you will be assigned during the previous class.</b></p> <p>*Reed, Steven R., Ethan Scheiner, and Micahel F. Thies. 2009. "New Ballgame in Politics." (October): 8-9 Hitoshi Tanaka. 2009. "Japan under the DPJ." <i>East Asia Insights</i> 4(3): 1-4</p> <p>*Krauss, Ellis and Robert Pekkanen. 2010. "The Rise and Fall of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party," <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69: 5-15.</p> <p>*Schubert, Gunter. 2004. "Taiwan's Political Parties and National Identity: The Rise of an Overarching Consensus," <i>Asian Survey</i>, 44 (4): 534-554.</p>

		*Batto, Nathan F. "Was Taiwan's Electoral Reform Good for Women? SNTV, MMM, Gender Quotas, and Female Representation." <i>Issues and Studies</i> 50.2 (2014): 39.
Oct 24	Political Systems and Parties: Cases of North and South Korea	*Steinberg, David I. and Myung Shin. 2006. "Tensions in South Korean Political Parties in Transition: From Entourage to Ideology?" <i>Asian Survey</i> 46(4):517-537 *Kwon, Hyeok Yong. 2010. "Economic Perceptions and electoral choice in South Korea: the case of the 2007 presidential election," <i>The Pacific Review</i> 23(2):183-201. *McDonald, Mark. 2011. "Questions About Kim Jong Un's Rise in North Korea." <i>New York Times</i> . <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/08/world/asia/08kim.html?pagewanted=all">http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/08/world/asia/08kim.html?pagewanted=all</a> .
Oct 26	Political Systems: Case of PRC	*Nathan, Andrew. 2003. "Authoritarian Resilience". <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 14(1): 6-17. *Chen, An. 2007. "The Failure of Organizational Control: Changing Party Power in the Chinese Countryside," <i>Politics &amp; Society</i> , vol. 35, no.1: 145-179.
<b>MIDTERM AND RESEARCH SESSION</b>		
Oct 31	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	You will be taking the midterm exam following the instructions provided in this syllabus on Moodle at a location of your preference.
Nov 2	Research Session	<b>Your research question for the research proposal due by 2:40pm on 11/2 on Moodle.</b>  Neilson Library Research Session
<b>SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN EAST ASIA</b>		
Nov 7	It Happened in Tiananmen Square	*Hung, Wu. "Tiananmen Square: a political history of monuments." <i>Representations</i> 35 (1991): 84-117. *Roth, Richard. 2009. "There Was No "Tiananmen Square Massacre." <i>CBS News</i> <a href="http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503543_162-5061672-503543.html">http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503543_162-5061672-503543.html</a>
Nov 9	Film in Class	<b>Your working bibliography for the research proposal due by 2:40pm on 11/9 on Moodle.</b>  <i>The Gate of Heavenly Peace</i>
Nov 14	Social Movements: Then	*Ho, M. S. 2003. The politics of anti-nuclear protest in Taiwan: a case of party-dependent movement (1980–2000). <i>Modern Asian Studies</i> , 37(03), 683-708. *Glassman, J., Park, B. G., & Choi, Y. J. 2008. Failed internationalism and social movement decline: the cases of South Korea and Thailand. <i>Critical Asian Studies</i> , 4(3), 339-372.
Nov 16	Social Movements: Now	*Rowen, I. 2015. Inside Taiwan's Sunflower Movement: Twenty-Four Days in a Student-Occupied Parliament, and the Future of the Region. <i>The Journal of Asian Studies</i> , 74(01), 5-21. *Iyengar, Rishi. Hong Kong's Umbrella Revolutionaries Are Slowly Coming Back to the Streets." April 14, 2015. <a href="http://time.com/3814943/occupy-hong-kong-china-umbrella-revolution-democracy/">http://time.com/3814943/occupy-hong-kong-china-umbrella-revolution-democracy/</a>
<b>GENDER IN EAST ASIA</b>		
Nov 21	Women and Revolution in China and Taiwan	*Tétreault, Mary Ann, ed. <i>Women and revolution in Africa, Asia, and the new world</i> . Univ of South Carolina Press, 1994. Chapter 7: "Women and Revolution in South and North Korea"

		Yeoh, Brenda SA, Peggy Teo, and Shirlena Huang, eds. <i>Gender politics in the Asia-Pacific region</i> . Routledge, 2005.  Chapter 4: "The politics of resistance: Working-class women in rural Taiwan"
Nov 23	Thanksgiving	Have fun!
Nov 28	Film in class	<i>China From the Inside: Women of the Country</i>
Nov 30	Women's Political Representation in East Asia	Iwanaga, Kazuki. <i>Women's political participation and representation in Asia: obstacles and challenges</i> . No. 2. NIAS Press, 2008. Chapter 2: "Asia's Women Politicians at the Top: Roaring Tigresses"  Chapter 5: "Women's Political Representation in Japan"  Chapter 6: "South Korean Women's Political Status and Future Challenges"
Dec 5	Women as Agents of Change	Iwanaga, Kazuki. <i>Women's political participation and representation in Asia: obstacles and challenges</i> . No. 2. NIAS Press, 2008. Chapter 4: "Women as Agents of Change in Legislation in Taiwan"  Chapter 12: "Gender Quotas in Politics: Empowerment from Above"
<b>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>		
Dec 7	Unification or Independence	<b>Taiwan/PRC</b> *The Economist. August 6, 2009. "Reunification By Trade? A Plethora of Free-Trade Deals is Driving Taiwan Closer to China." <a href="http://www.economist.com/node/14191252">http://www.economist.com/node/14191252</a>  *Lowther, William. November 11, 2011. "Time for Taiwan-China Unification Not Ripe: Academic." <i>Taipei Times</i> . <a href="http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2011/11/11/2003518019">http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2011/11/11/2003518019</a>  *Yang-Yao. April 15, 2012. "Big Majority Oppose Unification: Poll." <i>Taipei Times</i> <a href="http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2012/04/15/2003530364">http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2012/04/15/2003530364</a>  <b>North/South Korea</b> *Yeol, Kim So. August 17, 2010. "Unification Tax Sure to Annoy North Korea". <i>Daily NK</i> . <a href="http://www.dailynk.com/english/read.php?cataId=nk00400&amp;num=6701">http://www.dailynk.com/english/read.php?cataId=nk00400&amp;num=6701</a>  *Lankov, Andrei. May 3, 2010. "Unification-It Will Be Hard, It Will Be Good, and It Will Happen." <a href="http://english.kookmin.ac.kr/site/news/press/8?pn=6">http://english.kookmin.ac.kr/site/news/press/8?pn=6</a>  *Robert Kelly. April 9, 2011. "Comparing North Korea to East Germany." <i>East Asia Forum</i> . <a href="http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2011/04/09/comparing-north-korea-to-east-germany/">http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2011/04/09/comparing-north-korea-to-east-germany/</a>
Dec 12	Asia in the Eyes of the Contemporary West	*Drezner, Daniel W. Bad Debts: Assessing China's Financial Influence in Great Power Politics. <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 34, No. 2 (Fall 2009), pp. 7-45  *Kim, Soo Yeon, Daniel Deudney, James Goldgeier, Steffen Kern, Hanns W. Maull, and Iskander Rehman. 2011. <i>Global Shift: How the West Should Respond to the Rise of China</i> . Washington, DC: Transatlantic Academy. <a href="http://www.transatlanticacademy.org/publications/global-shift-capstone-report-released">http://www.transatlanticacademy.org/publications/global-shift-capstone-report-released</a>
Dec 14	Student Presentations	<b>Your research proposal due at 2:40pm on 12/14 on Moodle; student presentation will occur due class.</b>