

POLS 680 —Topics in Asian Politics: Comparative Politics of East Asia

Fall 2018

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Department of Political Science

Seminar: Monday 9:30-12:00 pm

Office Hours: Tue and Thurs 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment

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Course Description

This course is a graduate-level seminar designed to explore regional politics in East Asia. We focus on Japan, China, Korea(s) due to their economic and geopolitical importance, as well as cultural uniqueness. From a comparative perspective, we will explore major political themes, including state formation, economic development, political changes, civil society, and globalization.

The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to the main debates on East Asia in the subfield of Comparative Politics and provide them with conceptual, theoretical, and analytical tools for conducting and evaluating comparative research in East Asia.

The seminar is a collaborative effort and its value is highly dependent on the input of the participants. To facilitate substantive, productive discussions, therefore, students must complete and synthesize all reading prior to class.

Course Requirements

- 1) Attendance and active participation at all meetings of the seminar, including *but not limited to* leading discussion at least once during the semester (30%). Each week, two students are expected to give a presentation on the reading and will lead a discussion on that week. **Students who miss two or more classes are subject to failure in the course.**
- 2) Weekly one-page memos outlining the main themes in the readings due on Sundays (9 pm) the day before the seminar (20%). All the memos should be posted on laulima and students are expected to read all others' memos before the class. Weekly memos should not summarize but rather address the key contribution of the reading and possible critiques. On the week when you give a presentation, you are exempted to write a weekly memo.
- 3) A final research paper on a topic of the student's choosing and discussed in advance with me (50%).

Note: Assignments submitted late will be docked one full letter grade every 24 hours past deadline.

Course Materials

1) Books to purchase

Mary Gallagher. *Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Namhee Lee. *The Making of Minjung: Democracy and the Politics of Representation in South Korea* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2007).

Kellee S. Tsai. *Capitalism without Democracy: The Private Sector in Contemporary China* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2007).

Steven Vogel. *Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry Are Reforming Japanese Capitalism* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2006).

Joseph Wong. *Healthy Democracies: Welfare Politics in Taiwan and South Korea* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2006).

Dingxin Zhao. *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001).

2) All other additional articles and book chapters will be posted on laulima.

Schedule and Readings

PART I. BACKGROUND

Week 1 (August 25). Introduction and overview of the East Asian Politics

No reading

Week 2 (September 1). Holiday (Labor Day)

Week 3 (September 8) State and Nation-Building

Tuong Vu, "Studying the State through State Formation" in *World Politics* 62 (1), 2010, pp. 148-175.

Atul Kohli, "States and Societies" in Ira Katznelson and Helen Milner, eds., *Political Science: The State of the Discipline* (New York: W. W. Norton and the American Political Science Association, 2002).

Theda Skocpol, "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies for Analysis in Current Research" in Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985).

Week 4 (September 15). Developmental State

Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of International Policy, 1925-1975* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1982), pp. 3-34.

Peter Evans, *Embedded Economy* (Princeton University Press, 1995), chs. 1-3.

Atul Kohli. "Where Do High Growth Political Economies Come From: The Japanese Lineage of Korea's 'Developmental State.'" *World Development* (1994) September, pp. 1269-93

Bruce Cumings. "The Origins and Development of the Northeast Asian Economy: Industrial Sectors, Product Cycles, and Political Consequences" in Deyo, *Political Economy of the New Asian Industrialism* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1987), pp. 44-83.

Week 5 (September 22). Developmental State, cont'd

Vivek Chibber. "Building a Developmental State: The Korean Case Reconsidered," *Politics & Society*, September 1999, Vol 27 No. 3.

David Waldner. *State Building and Late Development* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), chs. 1, 2, and 5.

Manuel Castells. "Development and Crisis in the Asian Pacific: Globalization and the State," in *End of Millennium* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1998).

Week 6 (September 29): Democratic Transition

James Mahoney. "Democracy and Authoritarianism" in *Comparative Historical Analysis in the Social Sciences* edited by James Mahoney and Dietrich Rueschemeyer (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003).

Stephen Haggard and Robert Kaufman. *The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

Paul G. Buchanan and Kate Nicholls. "Labour Politics and Democratic Transition in South Korea and Taiwan" in *Government and Opposition*, Vol. 38, Issue 2 (April, 2003): 203-237.

Week 7 (October 6). Economic Reform and Economic Growth in Post-Mao China

Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar. "Dynamic Economy, Declining Party-State" in *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms* edited by Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Barry Naughton. "China's Transition in Economic Perspective" in *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms* edited by Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Andrew Walder, "China's Transitional Economy: Interpreting Its Significance," *The China Quarterly*, No. 144 (Dec., 1995): 963-979.

Week 8 (October 13). Authoritarianism in China

Kellee Tsai. *Capitalism without Democracy* (Cornell University Press, 2007).

Week 9 (October 20). Social Movements

Namhee Lee. *The Making of Minjung: Democracy and the Politics of Representation in South Korea* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2007).

Week 10 (October 27). Political Contention

Dingxin Zhao. *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001). Part I.

Week 11 (November 3). Political Contention

Dingxin Zhao. *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001). Part II.

Week 12 (November 10). Citizenship

Seungsook Moon. *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), introduction and Part II.

Dorothy J. Solinger. "China's Floating Population" in *The Paradox of China's Post-Mao Reforms* edited by Merle Goldman and Roderick MacFarquhar (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Peter W. MacKenzie, "Strangers in the City: the Hukou and Urban Citizenship in China," *Journal of International Affairs*, Fall 2002: 305-319.

Week 13 (November 17). North Korea

Bruce Comings. "Nation of the Sun King: North Korea, 1953-Present", *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1997), pp. 404-447.

Heonik Kwon and Byung-Ho Chung. *North Korea: Beyond Charismatic Politics* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2001). Chapter 2.

Week 14 (November 24). Welfare States

Joseph Wong. *Healthy Democracies: Welfare Politics in Taiwan and South Korea* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2006).

Week 15 (December 1). Globalization

Mary Gallagher. *Contagious Capitalism: Globalization and the Politics of Labor in China* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Week 16 (December 8) Student Presentations