

POLS 307K Topics in Comparative Politics: East Asia

Spring 2019

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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-2:30 or by appointment

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Course Description

East Asia is one of the most important regions in the world. Beginning as undeveloped economies during the post-World War II period, East Asian countries have achieved the most rapid and successful economic growth in the world and have become exemplary cases for other developing countries. After the rise of the Four Asian Dragons (or Tigers) in the 1970s and 80s, China is now the most rapidly growing economy and has challenged American hegemony as an emerging world power. While East Asian countries have experienced remarkable economic progress, political development has been less successful. Although South Korea saw successful democratic transition in the late 1980s, authoritarian legacies still remain in society by repressing labor rights. Despite the expansion of individual freedoms in China, political power is still monopolized by the Communist Party. Thus, East Asia contains many actual and potential points of conflict and political contestation. The goal of this course is to introduce students to important sociopolitical issues in East Asia and to provide students with basic knowledge of contemporary East Asian politics. The course will mainly cover three areas: (1) industrialization and economic development; (2) democratization and social movements; and (3) globalization and new challenges. The course will combine lectures with in-class discussions.

Course Goals and Objectives

By the end of the course, students are expected to:

- Identify the key issues and events of development and democracy in East Asia
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the causes and processes that shaped East Asian politics
- Critically assess theories of development and democracy and analyze contemporary issues of East Asian politics and their challenges

Course Requirements

- 1) Attendance and participation (10%):** All students are expected to attend class meetings and to participate actively in discussion throughout the semester. You are allowed two (2) free absences over the course of the semester before your grade will be affected. Further absences will result in a deduction of points from your participation grade. **If you miss five (5) or more class sessions, you will get a zero for your attendance grade.** Students who miss ten or more classes are subject to failure in the course. You are responsible for all the readings, class discussions, and lecture material covered in your absence. Repeated tardiness will count as an absence.
- 2) Four response papers (40%):** There will be four response papers throughout the semester. Each paper is worth 10 points. Each paper is expected to summarize the core argument and critically analyze the readings. Each paper is expected to be 750 words.

Professor will give written feedback on response papers based on rubric that gives scores in five categories. More details will be announced in class.

- 3) **Research proposal (10%)**: A preliminary statement of interest and an outline are required. Professor will give feedback on the structure and sources of the proposal.
- 4) **Final paper draft 1 (10%)**: Students are expected to write a final research paper on any topic connected to the themes of the course. This can be a paper addressing a clearly defined substantive problem from the class materials. Students will submit their final research paper draft including bibliography. The length should be about 12 pages or 3000 words. Professor will give feedback about how to improve the paper.
- 5) **Final research paper (20%)**: Based on the feedback and comments that students got, they are expected to submit the revised, final version of their research paper. The due date for the final paper is **May 6 (Monday)**.
- 6) **Student presentation (10%)**: Students will give a 10-minute presentation based on their final projects in class. It is scheduled on 5/1. More details will be handed out in class later.

Note: Late papers will lose one full letter grade per day unless accompanied by a documented medical excuse.

Grade Scale

A	above 94	B+	87-90	C+	77-80	D	below 70
A-	91-93	B	84-86	C	74-76	F	below 60
		B-	81-83	C-	71-73		

Course Materials

All the readings are available at the laulima website.

Course Policies and Etiquette

Please come to class and be in class on time. Tardiness, in addition to absences, will affect your grade and are strongly discouraged. Unless you become ill or speak to me about leaving early for a specific purpose, expect to stay for the entire class. **The use of any electronic devices—including laptops—will be banned in class.** If you use electronic devices inappropriately, you will be asked to leave class without hesitation (and will remain responsible for what you missed).

Plagiarism includes copying some or all of your work from a book, a website, or another student's paper. Penalties range from a failing grade for the assignment to permanent expulsion from the University. As an instructor, I am obligated to report all suspected violations to the Dean and s/he then will make recommendations. Please refer to the UHM website on academic dishonesty and related issues.

<http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html>

Disability Issues: Please see me and refer to the UH Kokua Program on issues related to disability. <<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>> I am more than happy to make accommodations on all aspects of the course on a case-by-case basis.

A Word of Advice

Succeeding in this course is in part a function of your own effort. Here are some tips:

- 1) *Do the reading.* The lectures are not a substitute for the readings. Exams and papers will demand familiarity with material not covered in lecture but found in the readings.
- 2) *Come to class.* Likewise, lectures may include material not in the readings and will help you to build up critical thinking skills.
- 3) *Read critically:* Focus on the big picture to glean the main arguments in the texts. Think about the logic of the arguments and draw linkages and contrasts between the texts. This is a course on *comparative politics*, so think comparatively.
- 4) *Ask questions.* Do not hesitate to ask questions or raise issues in class. Your comments will enrich the course.
- 5) *Come to the professor's office hours.* I am here to help, and I also invite you to share your responses and reactions to the material.
- 6) *Follow relevant issues outside of class.* Reading about current (or not so current) events in important journals and newspapers will help you to assess and apply the concepts you encounter in the course. Try to look at newspapers such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and/or periodicals such as the *Economist*, *New Yorker*, and *Atlantic Monthly*.

COURSE OUTLINE

Part I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Jan. 7 Introduction and Overview of the Course

No Reading

Jan. 9 Introduction and Overview of the Course

Simon Reid-Henry, US economist Walt Rostow and his influence on post-1945 development, *The Guardian*, Oct. 8, 2012, <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/oct/08/us-economist-walt-rostow-development>

Simon Reid-Henry, Do resource extraction and the legacy of colonialism keep poor countries poor?, *The Guardian*, Oct.22, 2012, <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/oct/22/resource-extraction-colonialism-legacy-poor-countries>

Jan. 14 Transition to Modernity in East Asia

Amitav Acharya. 2010. "Asia is not one" *Journal of Asian Studies* 69-4: 1001-1013.

Weiming Tu. 2000. "Implications of the Rise of 'Confucian' East Asia." *Daedalus* 129: 195-218.

PART II. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jan. 16 The Japanese Economic Miracle

Chalmers Johnson (1999), "The Developmental State: Odyssey of a Concept," in Woo-Cumings, *The Developmental State* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), pp. 32-61.

Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No Class

Jan. 23 The Rise of East Asian Tigers

Bruce Cumings (1987), "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, pp. 44-83

Jan. 28 The Rise of East Asian Tigers, cont.

Catells, Manuel (1998). "Development and Crisis in the Asian Pacific: Globalization and the State," in *End of Millennium*. Malden, Mass: Blackwell Publisher.

Jan. 30 The Rise of the Urban Middle Class and Consumerism in Asia

Andrew Gordon. 2002. "The Short Happy Life of the Japanese Middle Class." *Social Contracts Under Stress: The Middle Classes of America, Europe, and Japan at the Turn of the Century*, edited by Zunz, Schoppa, and Hiwatari. Russell Sage Foundation.

THE FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS)

Feb. 4 Labor Politics in South Korea

Hagen Koo (2001), *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), Chapter 4.

Feb. 6 Labor Politics in Taiwan

Ming-sho Ho. 2014. *Working-Class Formation in Taiwan: Fractured Solidarity in State-Owned Enterprises, 1945–2012*. Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-31

Feb. 11 China during the Mao Era

Yu Hua. 2012. "Revolution," *China in Ten Words*, pp. 113-141. Anchor Books.

Feb. 13 Economic Reform in the Post-Mao Era

Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth* (MIT Press, 2007), pp. 55-84.

Feb. 18. President's Day: No Class

Feb. 20 Manufacturing Workers in China

Charles Duhigg and David Barboza. 2011. "In China, Human Costs Are Built Into an iPad," *The New York Times*. Jan. 25.

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/26/business/ieconomy-apples-ipad-and-the-human-costs-for-workers-in-china.html?pagewanted=all>)

Pun Ngai and Anita Koo. 2015. "A "World-Class" (Labor) Camp/us: Foxconn and China's New Generation of Labor Migrants," *Positions* 23(3): 411-435.

Feb. 25 Social Inequality and Differentiation in China

Yu Hua. 2012. "Disparity," *China in Ten Words*, pp. 142-162. Anchor Books.

Feb. 27 In-Class Film Screening: *LAST TRAIN HOME* (2009)

THE SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS)

PART III. AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY IN EAST ASIA

Mar. 4 Debates on Asian Values (South Korea and Singapore)

John Cassidy. 2015. "Can Authoritarian Capitalism Outlive Lee Kuan Yew?" *New Yorker* March 24.

Fareed Zakaria. "A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew" *Foreign Affairs*. April 1994.

Kim Dae Jung. "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values." *Foreign Affairs* 73, no. 6 (1994): 189–94.

Mar. 6 Democratic Transitions in East Asia

Gi-Wook Shin, Paul Y. Chang, Jung-eun Lee and Sookyung Kim. 2011. "The Korean Democracy Movement: An Empirical Overview," in *South Korean Social Movements: From Democracy to Civil Society*, edited by Shin and Chang. Routledge.

Mar. 11 Democratic Transitions in East Asia, cont.

David Yang. 2007. "Classing ethnicity: Class, ethnicity, and the mass politics of Taiwan's democratic transition" *World Politics* 59(4): 503–538.

Mar. 13 Totalitarianism in North Korea?

Daniel Tudor and James Pearson. 2015. *North Korea Confidential: Private Markets, Fashion Trends, Prison Camps, Dissenters and Defectors*. Chapter 1 and Epilogue. Tuttle Publishing.

Mar. 18—Mar. 22. Spring Break

Mar. 25 Authoritarianism in China

Andrew Nathan (2003), "Authoritarian Resilience", *Journal of Democracy* 14 (1), pp. 6-17

Ching Kwan Lee and Yonghong Zhang. 2013. "The Power of Instability: Unraveling the Microfoundations of Bargained Authoritarianism in China," *American Journal of Sociology* 118(6): 1476-1508.

Recommend: Evan Osnos, 2018, "Making China Great Again," *The New Yorker*, Jan. 18. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/01/08/making-china-great-again>

Mar. 27 Labor Unrest in China

Ching Kwan Lee. 2016. "Precarization or Empowerment? Reflections on Recent Labor Unrest in China," *Journal of Asian Studies* 75(2): 317-333.

Apr. 1 Political Contention in China, cont.

Kevin O'Brien and Lianjiang Li (2006), *Rightful Resistance in Rural China* (Cambridge University Press), Chapters 4-5.

Apr. 3 Civil Society in Japan

Reading TBA.

Apr. 8 Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong

Johannes Chan. 2014. "Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement," *The Round Table* 103(6): 571-580.

THE THIRD RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS)

PART IV. NEOLIBERALISM AND NEW CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION IN EAST ASIA

Apr. 10 Economic Crisis and the Rise of Neoliberalism in East Asia

Ching Kwan Lee. 2017. "After the miracle" *Catalyst* 1(3): 93-115.

Apr. 15 Insecure Japan

Anne Allison. 2013. *Precarious Japan*. Duke University Press, chapter 3, pp.43-76.

Apr. 17 Insecure Japan

In-Class Film Screening: Shoplifters (2018)

Apr. 22 Social Inequality and the Decline of the Middle Class in South Korea

Myungji Yang. 2018. *From Miracle to Mirage: The Making and Unmaking of the Korean Middle Class, 1960-2015*. Cornell University Press, chapter 3.

Apr. 24 Neoliberal Subjectivity in China

Lisa Rofel. 2007. Chapter 4. From Sacrifice to Desire: Cosmopolitanism with Chinese Characteristic, in *Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality, and Public Culture*, Duke University Press.

THE FOURTH RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS.)

Apr. 29 Catch up and Course Wrap-up

May. 1 Students' Presentation