

# East Asian Politics: INTL 4356

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11a–11:50a MWF  
212 Baldwin Hall  
Office Hours: W 2p-4p

## Course Description:

This course introduces students to the dynamics of East Asian political systems, including China, Taiwan, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. I have three main goals: 1) to introduce students to salient issues in East Asian international politics; 2) to situate East Asian current events within a historical context; and 3) to provide students with analytic tools to analyze contemporary issues in the region. We begin with an examination of the regional balance of power: what is power, who has it, and how is the balance of power shifting? We then focus on the military relations between key countries, assessing the conventional and nuclear balance of power, and the prospects for stable deterrence. We next move to the realm of ideas, where we explore how history and national identities affect the security strategies of states, and how they affect regional relations. We will then consider the prospects for a “liberal peace” in the region, made possible through increasing economic interdependence and through democratization. The course ends with a discussion of future American strategy toward the East Asian region.

By the end of this course, students should:

- Have a strong knowledge of contemporary East Asian governments and intra-region relations.
- Understand how the countries’ histories inform the current political climate.
- Be familiar with emerging/evolving political issues that are likely to be dominant in the near future for East Asia.
- Be able to understand how East Asian political phenomena are related to politics beyond the region.

## Required Texts:

1. Lieberthal, Kenneth. 2003. *Governing China: from Revolution through Reform*. W.&W. Norton Company.
2. Gordon, Andrew. 2008. *A History of Modern Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. Oxford University Press.

## Suggested Texts:

1. Oh, John Kie-Chiang. 1999. *Korean Politics: The Quest for Democratization and Economic Development*. Cornell University Press.
2. Oberdorfer, Don. 2001. *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*. New York: Basic Books.

## Course Policies:

### • Reading

- Some of the academic articles we will read are dense. You are not expected to understand all of the technical aspects of these articles, but you are expected to make a good faith effort to identify the argument, evidence, and conclusions presented by the authors.
- Some readings that can be found for free online can be accessed via a hyperlink in the syllabus. Readings from academic journals can be accessed via the university's subscription through the library. Use the library's search function or Google Scholar on the university's wifi network to locate these readings.
- Assigned book chapters from non-textbook sources can be found on the online learning system.

### • General

- Computers are only to be used for taking notes. If you browse the internet or social media while in class, I will ask you to put your device away and use pen and paper for notes.
- Please set your phone on **silent**, not vibrate.
- Quizzes and exams are closed book, closed notes.

### • Simulation

- We will have a Crisis Diplomacy simulation in which students will be assigned into one of four countries: China, North Korea, South Korea, or the United States. This simulation will be across several class periods.
- Your grade in this simulation is calculated according to your level of participation, your team's performance, and from two papers: a policy brief before the simulation and a reflection essay afterward. More details will be given in class.

### • Quizzes

- There will be 6 unannounced quizzes. I will drop the lowest one (only 5 will be counted). These quizzes will cover material from readings and lecture from the previous week's lectures, textbook and recitation readings, and current events. They are a way for me to check in and see if you are doing the readings, coming to class, understanding things, and keeping up with the news.
- There will be no make-ups.

- **Attendance and Participation**

- Students should come to class having read all the required readings and prepared to both pose and answer questions, and engage in discussion on the subject matter. Participation in discussions will earn the student a high participation grade.
- Students may miss 2 classes for any reason without penalty. Any further absences will result in a one point reduction in the final grade per absence.

**Grade Distribution:**

Midterm Exam	25%
Research Paper	30%
Simulation	25%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance & Participation	10%

**Letter Grade Distribution:**

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

**Academic Honesty Policy Summary:**

In addition to skills and knowledge, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

The week's topic is shown in blue text. The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. This syllabus can change as often as needed, but I will give you plenty of advance notice and issue an updated syllabus when any changes are made.

Week	Content
Week 1	Friday: <b>Course Introduction</b> – Read syllabus before class
Week 2	<b>Traditional Order and the Collapse of China</b>  Monday: <b>Traditional Political Order</b> – Fairbank, John. 1973. “A Preliminary Framework.” in Fairbank, John (ed.), <i>The Chinese World Order</i> . pp. 1-14. Wednesday: <b>Traditional Political Order</b> – Gordon: Introduction Friday: <b>Collapse of Qing Dynasty</b> – Lieberthal: pp. 19-39.
Week 3	<b>Modernization of Japan</b>  Monday: <b>MLK Jr. Day</b> Wednesday: <b>Tokugawa Polity</b> – Gordon: chapters 1 and 4 Friday: <b>Meiji Restoration</b> – Gordon: chapters 5 and 6
Week 4	<b>Japan’s Path to War and China’s path to Communism</b>  Monday: <b>Imperial Japan</b> – Gordon: chapters 7 and 8 Wednesday: <b>Japan and the Pacific War</b> – Gordon: chapters 10–12 Friday: <b>China: the Communist Rise to Power</b> – Lieberthal: chapter 2

Week	Content
Week 5	<p><b>Political System in post-WWII Japan</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Establishing Order in Japan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gordon: chapter 13</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Democracy without Competition?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gordon: chapter 15</li> <li>– Masumi, Junnosuke. 1988. “1955 System in Japan and its Subsequent Development.” <i>Asian Survey</i> 28(3): 286-306.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Constitutional Reform?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Boyd, J. Patrick, and Richard J. Samuels. 2005. “Nine Lives? The Politics of Constitutional Reform in Japan.” <i>Policy Studies</i>. Focus on pp. 1-11.</li> </ul>
Week 6	<p><b>Divided China</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Mainland</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lieberthal: pp. 77-112</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Taiwan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Roy: chapters 3 &amp; 4</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Taiwan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Roy: chapter 5</li> </ul>
Week 7	<p><b>The Korean War and the Divided Peninsula</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Korean War</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gupta, Karunakar. 1972. “How did the Korean War begin?” <i>The China Quarterly</i> 52: 699-716.</li> <li>– “North Korea: A Country Study.” <i>Library of Congress</i> 2008. pp. 37-45.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Divided Korea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Oh: chapter 2</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Divided Korea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Oberdorfer, pp. 1-11.</li> <li>– “North Korea: A Country Study.” <i>Library of Congress</i> 2008. pp. 45-58.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 8	<p><b>Economic Miracle and Political Development: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Eats Asian Miracle?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Gordon: pp. 243-248</li> <li>– Cummings, Bruce. 1984. “The Origins and Development of the North-east Asian Political Economy.” <i>International Organization</i> 1-40. 38(1):</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>East Asian Miracle?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Johnson, Chalmers A. 1982. <i>MITI and the Japanese Miracle” the Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975</i>. Chapter 1.</li> <li>– Krugmen, Paul. 1994. “The Myth of Asia’s Miracle.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>Democratization of South Korea</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>suggested</i>: Oh: chapters 3-5</li> <li>– <i>suggested</i>: Oberdorfer: chapters 2, 5, 7</li> </ul>
Week 9	<p><b>Midterm Exam</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Democratization of Taiwan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Roy: chapter 6</li> <li>– Wakabayashi, Masahiro. 1997. “Democratization of the Taiwanese and Korean Political Regimes: a Comparative Study.” <i>The Developing Economies</i> 35(4): 422-439.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Review for Midterm</b></p> <p>Friday: <b>Midterm Exam</b></p> <p>–</p>
Week 10	<p><b>People’s Republic of China</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Mao and the Cultural Revolution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Paper outline due at beginning of class</b></li> <li>– Lieberthal: pp. 59-77 and pp. 112-122</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>China’s Reform and Opening Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lieberthal: chapters 8 and 10</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>China’s Reform and Opening Up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wing Thye Woo. 1999. “The Real Reasons for China’s Growth.” <i>The China Journal</i> 41: 115-137.</li> <li>– Yu-shan Wu. 2002. “Chinese Economic Reform in a Comparative Perspective: Asia vs. Europe.” <i>Issues &amp; Studies</i>.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 11	<p><b>Simulation Week 1</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Simulation Round 1</b></p> <p>Wednesday: <b>Simulation Round 2</b></p> <p>Friday: <b>Simulation Round 3</b></p>
Week 12	<p><b>Simulation Week 2</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Simulation Round 4</b></p> <p>Wednesday: <b>Simulation Round 5</b></p> <p>Friday: <b>Simulation Round 6</b></p>
Week 13	<p><b>China's Rise and the Future of East Asia</b></p> <p>Monday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mearsheimer, John J. 2005. "China's Unpeaceful Rise." <i>Current History</i> pp. 160-162.</li> <li>– Bijian, Zheng. 2005. "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great Power Status." <i>Foreign Affairs</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Christensen, Thomas J. "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China and U.S. Policy toward East Asia." <i>International Security</i>: 81-126.</li> </ul> <p>Friday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tennesson, Stein. 2009. "What is it that best explains the East Asian Peace since 1979? A call for a Research Agenda." <i>Asian Perspective</i> 111-136.</li> </ul>

Week	Content
Week 14	<p><b>North Korea's Nuclear Program</b></p> <p>Monday: <b>Background</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>suggested</i>: Oberdorfer: chapters 11–13</li> </ul> <p>Wednesday: <b>Implications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Choi, Jong Kun, and Jong-Yun Bae. 2016. “Security Implications of a Nuclear North Korea: Crisis Stability and Imperatives for Engagement.” <i>Korea Observer</i> 47(4): 807-827.</li> </ul> <p>Friday: <b>North Korea and the Global Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Moore, G.J. 2008. “How North Korea Threatens China's Interests: Understanding Chinese Duplicity on the North Korean Nuclear Issue.” <i>International Relations of the Asia-Pacific</i> 8(1): 1-29.</li> </ul>