

POLS 3326/ASIA 3350: Politics of East Asia

Dr. Joseph Yingnan Zhou

Fall 2020

Class Hours: New lectures uploaded on T&Th

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Course Description

This course gives you a basic understanding of government and politics in four East Asian countries or regions: China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. We will compare China with Japan, South Korea with Taiwan. Our themes of comparison include political culture, political development, political institution, political process, political economy, and political change. This course will prepare you for your career development in international affairs of this region.

Learning Objectives

- Understanding key topics and issues in East Asian politics
- Developing research and analytic skills
- Improving writing skills
- UTEP EDGE Experiences
 - problem-solving
 - communication
 - global awareness
 - teamwork
 - critical thinking

Required Texts

Politics of East Asia, Fall 2020

- Hayes, Louis D. 2018. *Introduction to Japanese Politics*. 6th ed. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 1138244155.
- Ku, Yangmo, Inyeop Lee, Jongseok Woo. 2017. *Politics in North and South Korea: Political Development, Economy and Foreign Relations*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 1138647500.
- John F. Copper. 2019. *Taiwan: Nation-state or Province?* 7th ed. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 1138337749.

All other readings are available on Blackboard.

Course Format:

This is an asynchronous online course, meaning that lectures are not delivered real-time but are pre-recorded, **with the exception of a live debate scheduled on December 1 from 10:30 am to 11:50 am**. New lectures are normally posted by noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Many lectures, including films, have embedded quizzes for you to complete while watching. Discussions are conducted through Blackboard forums. Questions for me or your TA can be asked through email or during virtual office hours.

Asynchronous courses have the obvious advantage of flexibility. No one has to miss a class due to scheduling conflict or logistic difficulty. You can pause and rewind lecture videos at your own pace. Note-taking becomes more manageable. However, this advantage, when taken unwisely, can turn into serious disadvantages. Many students yield to the temptation to procrastinate and quickly become overwhelmed by the remaining work. Without the classroom environment, attention span, which is not known to be long nowadays, may become even shorter. When everything is available “out there,” some people think it needless to take notes, often to their regret.

Therefore, it is critical to stick to a steady and disciplined schedule, be focused, and take good notes. A proven tip for success is finish watching lectures the week they are posted.

Course Requirements

Finishing readings before class is key to success in this class because it underlines your success in all the following class components.

1. In-class Quizzes (10%)

Some of the lecture videos, including assigned films, come with an embedded quiz. The video pauses, a question pops up, you give the answer, and the video will resume. You may be quizzed about assigned readings, previous lectures, or materials covered in the current lecture.

2. Reaction Essay (15%)

You are required to write an essay in response to one reading of your own choosing. The readings available for this task is marked with **[Reaction Essay]** in the timetable. You will be asked to declare your preference through a survey on Blackboard. Once a reading is selected, you should honor it and its deadlines. I only approve request of switching readings in extraordinary circumstances.

The essay should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced, one-inch margin on all sides, with 12 point Times New Roman font. I believe that best educational results of essay writing are achieved through interactive feedback between students and the instructor, so your essay is completed in two phases. First, you should submit a **first draft** on Blackboard at 1:00 pm the day the reading is scheduled to be covered. I will provide feedback and **the second and final draft** is due **one week** after I provide the feedback. Missing either deadline will result in a 5-point penalty.

In your essay, do not only summarize, but also critique the reading. Do you agree with the author or not? Why? What do you find especially convincing or weak? Does the author provide sufficient support for the arguments? Is the reasoning valid? What do you think the author has missed? What inspires you the most?

I do not require specific styles such as APA or Chicago, but you must have citations that can be traced back to the original sources. **Copying somebody's words without quoting the speaker is plagiarism. Using others' ideas without citing the writers is plagiarism. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will be discovered, and it has severe consequences.**

The first and final drafts are worth 5% and 10% of your final grade, respectively.

3. Online Discussions (10%)

You are expected to participate in five online discussions. The topic for each will be posted by a Thursday (see the timetable for the specific dates). You are required to submit at least one post in reply to my topic by **Sunday midnight**, and one post in reply to your classmates' posts by **the next Tuesday midnight**. Your reply to my post should be a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 500 words. There is no length requirement for your reply to your classmates' posts. The two posts are just the minimum requirement, more are welcome. You are advised to visit the discussion board frequently even after you have already submitted two posts, in order to answer questions others may have for you.

To get a good grade for discussion posts, it is important to base your posts on knowledge gained from this class. It is OK to voice personal opinions but they must be supported by evidence and good arguments. Lively or even heated discussion is encouraged, but civility must always be preserved.

4. In-class Debate (5%)

On **Tuesday, December 1, from 10:30 am to 11:50 am**, you will have a debate on "whether the US should shift its China policy from the longstanding engagement approach to a confrontational approach." Two debaters will be on the pro-side and two on the against-side. You can volunteer to be a debater on a first-come-first-serve basis. The rest of the class will be audience voters. The

debate will be conducted through Zoom. **Please mark your calendar for this only live session.** Whether you are a debater or audience voter, you will be graded on how well you play your role. More details about the debate will be announced.

5. Exams (60%)

There are a midterm exam (30%) and a final exam (cumulative, 30%). Both are open-book and conducted on Blackboard. "Open-book" here means you are allowed to use the lecture recordings, your notes, and any assigned readings. **Searching the Internet for answers and collaboration with classmates are strictly forbidden and will be treated as academic misconduct.**

Your letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	
[90, 100]	A
[80, 90)	B
[70, 80)	C
[60, 70)	D
[0, 60)	F

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Office of Student Life for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Refer to <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html> for further information.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Accommodations will be made for students with disabilities. Please discuss with me in person as soon as possible about any needs you might have. Or you may contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (phone: 5148, Email: cass@utep.edu) at 302 Union East within the first two weeks of classes.

Course Schedule

I Introduction

Tuesday, 8/25: Introduction to Class

- No reading

Thursday, 8/27: Introduction to East Asian Politics

- Gilley, Bruce. 2014. "Introduction." *The Nature of Asian Politics*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1.

II. China and Japan

Tuesday, 9/1: Land and People

- Joseph, William A., ed. 2019 *Politics in China: an Introduction*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1.
- Hayes. 2018. Introduction.

Thursday, 9/3: Political Culture: Confucianism

- Chan, Wing-Tsit. 1963. "The Humanism of Confucius." *Source Book in Chinese Philosophy*. Chapter 4.
- Levi, Nicolaos. 2013. "The impact of Confucianism in South Korea and Japan." *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia*. 26. 7-15. (The Japan part only)

Tuesday, 9/8: Political Culture: Modern Political Culture

- Pempel, T. J. 1992. "Japanese Democracy and Political Culture: a Comparative Perspective." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 25(1), 5-12. [Reaction Essay]
- Tang, Wenfang 2016. *Populist Authoritarianism: Chinese Political Culture and Regime Sustainability*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Ch. 1. [Reaction Essay]

Thursday, 9/10: No Class

- Discussion #1 available

Tuesday, 9/15: Political Development: From China's Imperialism to Communism

- Joseph, William A., ed. 2019 *Politics in China: an Introduction*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Ch. 2. [Reaction Essay]

Thursday, 9/17: Documentary

- *China: The Chinese Civil War*

Tuesday, 9/22: From Japan's Feudalism to Post-WWII Democracy

- Hayes. 2018. Ch. 1-2 [Reaction Essay]

Thursday, 9/24: Documentary

- *End of the Samurai Era*
- Discussion #2 available

Tuesday, 9/29: Political Institutions: China's Leninist Party State

- Joseph, William A., ed. 2019. *Politics in China: an Introduction*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Ch. 6.

Thursday, 10/1: Political Institutions: Japan's Parliamentary Democracy

- Hayes. 2018. Chs. 3-5.

Tuesday, 10/6: Political Economy: China's Socialist Market Economy

- Joseph, William A., ed. 2019. *Politics in China: an Introduction*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Ch. 8. [Reaction Essay]

Thursday, 10/8: Political Economy: Japan's Developmental State

- Hayes. 2018. Ch. 9. [Reaction Essay]
- Discussion #3 available

Tuesday, 10/13: Documentary

- *A Portrait of Postwar Japan (pt 2): Economic Bubble and Lost Decades*

Thursday, 10/15: Political Change: Transition from China's Communism

- Joseph, William A., ed. 2019. *Politics in China: an Introduction*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Ch. 4. [Reaction Essay]

Tuesday, 10/20: Political Change: Transition from Japan's One-party Domination

- Hayes. 2018. Ch. 4. (re-read) [Reaction Essay]

Thursday, 10/22: Midterm Exam

- Available on Blackboard from noon to 11:59 pm

III. Taiwan and Korea

Tuesday, 10/27: Land and People

- Ku et al. 2017. Introduction.
- Copper. 2019. Ch. 1.

Thursday, 10/29: Political Culture: Confucianism and Korean Adaptations

- Levi, Nicolaas. 2013. "The impact of Confucianism in South Korea and Japan." *Acta Asiatica Varsoviensia*. 26.7-15. (The Korea part only)
- Ku et al. 2017. Ch. 6.
- Copper. 2019. Ch. 4. 182-196.

Tuesday, 11/3: Political Development: From Taiwan's Colonialism to Authoritarianism

- Copper. 2019. Ch. 2.

Thursday, 11/5: Political Development: From South Korea's Colonialism to Authoritarianism

- Ku et al. 2017. Ch. 1.

Tuesday, 11/10: Political Institutions: Presidentialism in Taiwan

- Copper. 2019. Ch. 4. [Reaction Essay]

Thursday, 11/12: Political Institutions: Presidentialism in South Korea

- Ku et al. 2017. Ch. 3. [Reaction Essay]
- Discussion #4 available

Tuesday, 11/17: Political Economy: East Asian Model

- Copper. 2019. Ch. 5
- Ku et al. 2017. Ch. 4.

Thursday, 11/19: Political Change: Democratization in Taiwan and South Korea

- Ku et al. 2017. Ch. 2.
- Eberstadt, Nicholas. 1992. "Taiwan and South Korea: the 'Democratization' of Outlier States." *World Affairs*. 155(2). [Reaction Essay]
- Discussion #5 available

Tuesday, 11/24: Documentary

- *The Silent Cultural Superpower*

Thursday, 11/26: No Class

- Happy Thanksgiving!

IV. East Asia and US Foreign Policy

Tuesday, 12/1: In-class Debate on Zoom

Thursday, 12/3: US Foreign Policy in East Asia

- Cordesman, Anthony H. 2020. From Competition to Confrontation with China: The Major Shift in U.S. Policy. *Center for Strategic and International Studies*.
- Copper. 2019. Ch. 6.
- Ku et al. 2017. Ch. 8.

Tuesday, 12/8: Final Exam

- Available on Blackboard from noon to 11:59 pm