**Understanding East Asia**

Semester 1, 2019 (March-June)

Class: Tues. 09.00 – 11.50

Instructor: Erik Mobrand

Email: erikmobrand@snu.ac.kr

Consultation hours: Tues. 13.00-15.00

Office: Building 140-1, room 513

TA: Paul Kim

**Course description**

This course offers an overview of key ideas in the study of contemporary Asian societies. Our focus is on the interactions, linkages, and common influences that make “Asia” into something like a region. For the purposes of this course, the geographic scope of the region is Southeast and Northeast Asia.

**Assignments and expectations**

Memos: During the course of the term, students will write four memos. The memos should respond to a major argument in the week’s readings. Memos are due at the start of the seminar for the week they cover. They should be submitted both as hard copies and online through ETL. You may choose the weeks you prefer to prepare memos. However, submitting a memo is mandatory on 12 March. A memo should be no more than 500 words in length.

Final exam: The final exam is a take-home assignment. You will be given a week to prepare an essay in response to a question set by the instructor. The assignment will be based on the course readings and discussions.

Attendance and participation: You are expected to be in class every week. Complete the readings before class and be prepared to discuss them. Starting on 26 March, students will make brief presentations of fewer than five minutes each. The instructor will assign students to weeks for the presentations. In your presentation, you should make a point about a theme from the week’s readings and you should offer one or two questions that you have after doing the readings. These presentations will help our seminar discussions.

Plagiarism: Don’t do it. Plagiarism is cheating and it’s taken seriously. Ignorance isn’t an excuse. If you’re unsure what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor.

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| Breakdown of marks |  |
| memo #1 | 10 |
| memo #2 | 10 |
| memo #3 | 10 |
| memo #4 | 10 |
| final exam (take home) | 30 |
| attendance and participation | 30 |
| total | 100 |

**Schedule and list of topics**

5 March. **What is Asia?**

-- No readings --

12 March. **Asia as Method**

\*Chen, Kuan-Hsing. *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2010. Introductions, Chapters 1, 2, 3.

Chen, Kuan-Hsing. “Paik Nak‐chung’s Theory of Overcoming ‘Division System’: Rethinking the China–Taiwan Relation with Reference to the Two Koreas.” *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 11, no. 4 (2010): 566–590.

Chang, Kyung-Sup. “Asianization of Asia: Asia’s Integrative Ascendance through a European Aperture.” *European Societies* 16, no. 3 (2014): 1–6.

19 March. **Debating Inter-Asia**

Ho, Engseng. “Inter-Asian Concepts for Mobile Societies.” *Journal of Asian Studies*. 76, no. 4 (2017): 907–928. And debate (all in *Journal of Asian Studies*):

* Kim, Jaeeun. “Globalization, Transnationalism, and ‘Mobile Societies’ from a Sociological Perspective: Comments on Engseng Ho’s ‘Inter-Asian Concepts for Mobile Societies’” 76, no. 4 (2017): 935–941.
* Thum, Rian. “Surviving in a ‘Society’-Centric World: Comments on Engseng Ho’s ‘Inter-Asian Concepts for Mobile Societies’” 76, no. 4 (2017): 929–933.
* Ho, Engseng. “Response to Responses” 76, no. 4 (2017): 961–962.

Duara, Prasenjit. “Asia Redux: Conceptualizing a Region for Our Times.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, no. 4 (2010): 963–983. And debate:

* Andaya, Barbara Watson. “Response to Prasenjit Duara, ‘Asia Redux.’” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, no. 4 (2010): 1015–1020.
* Acharya, Amitav. “Asia Is Not One.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, no. 4 (2010): 1001–1013.
* Duara, Prasenjit. “Response to Comments on ‘Asia Redux.’” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69, no. 4 (2010): 1027–1029.

26 March. **The State and People**

Scott, James C. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009. Chapters 1, 2, 5, 6, 9. Online via SNU Library.

2 April. **The State and Informal Authority**

Chatterjee, Partha. *The Politics of the Governed: Reflections on Popular Politics in Most of the World.* New York: Columbia University Press, 2004. Chapters 1, 2, 3. Online via SNU Library.

Anderson, Benedict. “Cacique Democracy and the Philippines: Origins and Dreams.” *New Left Review* 169 (1988): 3-31.

Aspinall, Edward. “A Nation in Fragments: Patronage and Neoliberalism in Contemporary Indonesia.” *Critical Asian Studies* 45, no. 1 (2013): 27–54.

Rodan, Garry and Caroline Hughes. *The Politics of Accountability in Southeast Asia: The Dominance of Moral Ideologies.* Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2014. Chapters 1-2. Available through ETL.

9 April. **Liberal and Developmental Forms of Modernity**

Chang Kyung-Sup. Developmental Citizenship in Perspective: The South Korean Case and Beyond. In *Contested Citizenship in East Asia: Developmental Politics, National Unity, and Globalization*, edited by Chang Kyung-Sup and Bryan S. Turner. London: Routledge, 2012. Available through ETL.

Chang, Kyung-Sup. “The Second Modern Condition? Compressed Modernity as Internalized Reflexive Cosmopolitization.” *The British Journal of Sociology* 61 (2010): 444-464.

Chang, Kyung-Sup. “South Korea’s Condensed Transition from Class Politics to Citizenship Politics.” *Citizenship Studies* 16, no. 1 (2012): 1–12.

Jayasuriya, Kanishka. “Authoritarian Statism and the New Right in Asia’s Conservative Democracies.” *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 48, no. 4 (2018): 584–604.

16 April. **Developmental States**

\*Woo-Cumings, Meredith. *The Developmental State / Meredith Woo-Cumings, Editor.* Cornell Studies in Political Economy. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1999. Chapters 1, 2.

Kohli, Atul. “Where Do High Growth Political Economies Come from? The Japanese Lineage of Korea’s ‘developmental State.’” *World Development* 22, no. 9 (1994): 1269–1293.

Cumings, Bruce. “The Origins and Development of the Northeast Asian Political Economy: Industrial Sectors, Product Cycles, and Political Consequences.” *International Organization* 38, no. 1 (1984): 1–40.

23 April. **Production beyond Developmental States**

\*Yeung, Henry Wai-Chung. *Strategic Coupling: East Asian Industrial Transformation in the New Global Economy.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2016. Chapters 1-3, 7.

30 April. **Transnational Power and Developmentalism (Part I)**

Glassman, Jim. *Drums of War, Drums of Development: The Formation of a Pacific Ruling Class and Industrial Transformation in East and Southeast Asia, 1945-1980*.Leiden: Brill, 2018. Introduction, Part 1, and Part 2. Online via ETL.

7 May: Holiday. No class!

14 May: **Transnational Power and Developmentalism (Part II)**

Glassman, Jim. *Drums of War, Drums of Development: The Formation of a Pacific Ruling Class and Industrial Transformation in East and Southeast Asia, 1945-1980*. Leiden: Brill, 2018. Part 3. Online via ETL.

21 May: **Labour, Development, and the State**

Carroll, Toby, and D. S. L. Jarvis. *Asia after the Developmental State: Disembedding Autonomy* Cambridge University Press, 2017. Introduction, Part I. Online via SNU Library.

\*Gray, Kevin. *Labour and Development in East Asia: Social Forces and Passive Revolution*.Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2015. Chapters 1, 2.

Gray, Kevin. “Taiwan and the Geopolitics of Late Development.” *The Pacific Review* 24, no. 5 (2011): 577–599.

Gray, Kevin. “The Social and Geopolitical Origins of State Transformation: The Case of South Korea.” *New Political Economy* 16, no. 3 (2011): 303–322.

28 May: **States in Transformation**

Jayasuriya, Kanishka. “Regulatory Regionalism, Political Projects, and State Transformation in the Asia‐Pacific.” *Asian Politics & Policy* 7, no. 4 (2015): 517–529.

Glassman, Jim. “State Power beyond the ‘Territorial Trap’: The Internationalization of the State.” *Political Geography.* 18, no. 6 (1999): 669-696.

4 June. **Asia in a System of States**

\*Johnson, Chalmers A. *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*. Revised ed. New York: Metropolitan/Owl Book: Henry Holt, 2004. Chapter 1-5.

Acharya, Amitav. “Global International Relations (IR) and Regional Worlds.” *International Studies Quarterly* 58, no. 4 (2014): 647–659.

Acharya, Amitav. “‘Idea-Shift’: How Ideas from the Rest Are Reshaping Global Order.” *Third World Quarterly* 37, no. 7 (2016): 1156–1170.

11 June: **New Forms of Participation and Exclusion**

Rodan, Garry. *Participation without Democracy: Containing Conflict in Southeast Asia / Garry Rodan*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2018. Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6. Online via SNU Library.

Morris-Suzuki, Tessa, and Eun Jeong Soh, eds. *New Worlds from below: Informal Life Politics and Grassroots Action in Twenty-First Century Northeast Asia*. Australian National University Press, 2017. Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 9. Online at <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/series/asian-studies-series/new-worlds-below> .