Understanding International Relations in East Asia
Fall Semester 2017

Class Time and Venue: Thursday 2:00~4:50 pm at Room 201 @ Bldg. 140-2
Course Level: Graduate
Instructor: Kang, Seok Ryul (diploksy@gmail.com)
Office: Room 517 @ Bldg. 220 (the College of Liberal Studies)
Office Hour: Friday 9:30~11:30 am and by appointment

Course Overview

The course offers an overview of the existing scholarly discussion on international relations in East Asia. In doing so, students will critically review theoretical and empirical analyses, which are available in the existing literature. This will help the students to develop their own research agenda. Topics covered in the course are the historical development of East Asian order and its current implication, theoretical frameworks to explain international relations in East Asia, scholarly debates on the rising of China and its implication on the security/regional order of East Asia, Japan’s post-Cold War security policy, the issue of North Korea’s nuclearization, the political economy of stability in East Asia, and regionalization in East Asia.

Course Materials

The instructor will upload all of the assigned reading materials to the course’s website on the SNU eTL. They will be available at the “Class Files” under the “Course Summary.”

Grading

In-class Participation (20%), Presentation of two Analytical Essays (15% each), Literature Review Paper (50%)

Course Format

Each week’s class is divided into three sections.

First, there will be group discussion section (about 50 minutes). In this section, all of the students will be ready to discuss one article (or book chapter) in depth. Assigned readings for this section are marked with two asterisks (**). To prepare for this section, I encourage the students to do the reading and think hard to answer questions raised therein. For example, you may want to answer the following questions:

Q1. What are the assumption / hypothesis / objectives of the study?
Q2. What is/are the major finding(s) of the study?
Q3. How did the authors test their hypothesis?
Q4. How reliable are the results of the test?
Q5. Based on your analysis of the study, are the claims raised therein accurate?
Q6. What are the importance / implication of the study?

A second section will be class presentation of critical review essay (about 15 minutes for each presentation). For this section to work, each student must choose two weeks for which they will write analytical review essays (3~4 pages each), based upon the designated readings for each week. The readings are marked with one asterisk (*). What I want to know is what you thought about the readings. I encourage you to elaborate on your thoughtful analyses of the chosen reading, focusing on some central themes of the readings in a thoughtful, informed, sustained and well-developed manner.

The third section is the instructor’s lecture (about 30 minutes). In this section, I will give presentation of my own analysis of all of the assigned readings for each week. This presentation may cover the points raised in the first and second sections of each week’s class.

Literature Review Paper

Each student is required to produce a detailed literature review paper that provides an overview of previous research on some aspect of international relations in East Asia. This paper constitutes the major determinant of each student’s grade and is made up of the following five elements:

- Topic proposal (1 page) due by September 22 (5%)
- First draft of paper (5 pages) due by October 27 (10%)
- Second draft of paper (10 pages) due by December 1 (10%)
- Presentation of paper on December 7 (5%)
- A final draft of paper (20 pages maximum) due by December 15 (20%)

I will have more to say about each element.

The quality of the literature review project is the major determinant of each student’s grade, and, therefore, requires a good deal of systematic and sustained work. I strongly suggest that students think carefully about this project at the outset of the course and begin working on the preliminaries of it immediately.

Schedule of the Course

Week 1 (September 7). Overview of the Course

Week 2 (September 14). Theories on International Relations of East Asia


**Week 3 (September 21). The Imperial Chinese Tributary System from Comparative Perspectives**


**Week 4 (September 28). Remembering the Japanese Colonial Era and the Politics of Reconciliation**


Jennifer M. Lind, *Sorry States: Apologies in International Politics* (Cornell University Press, 2008), Introduction and Conclusion**


**Week 5 (October 5). Holiday Break**

**Week 6 (October 12). Understanding the Cold War in East Asia**


**Week 7 (October 19). Debates about Post-Cold War Stability in East Asia**


**Week 8 (October 26). The US-led East Asian Order under the Rising of China**


Week 9 (November 3). Contending Perspectives on the Inevitability of Conflict between the US and China


Week 10 (November 9). Japan’s Cold War and Post-Cold War Security Policy


Week 11 (November 16). How to deal with Nuclear North Korea?

Narushige Michishita, “Playing the Same Game: North Korea’s Coercive Attempt at U.S. Reconciliation,” *The Washington Quarterly* 32-4 (2009), pp.139–152*


**Week 12 (November 23). The Political Economy of Regional Security in East Asia**


Miles Kahler, “Regional Economic Institutions and East Asian Security,” in The Nexus of Economics, Security, and International Relations in East Asia, pp. 66–90*


**Week 13 (November 30). East Asian Regionalism from Comparative Perspectives**


Mark Beeson, “Rethinking regionalism: Europe and East Asia in comparative historical perspective,” Journal of European Public Policy 12-6 (2005), pp. 969–985*


**Week 14 (December 7). Presentation of Literature Review Paper**

**Week 15 (December 14). Literature Review Paper due by December 15**