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875.532 Understanding East Asia

Spring 2020
Wed 1:30-4:20 p.m.
Building 140-1, Room 101
GSIS, SNU

Instructor: Yoon Ah Oh (yoonah.oh@snu.ac.kr)
Office Hours: Monday 1:30-3:30 p.m., or by appointment at Building 140-1, #606

Course Description

This course provides a graduate level introduction to the study of contemporary East Asia with a heavy emphasis on the region’s economic, political, and foreign policy issues. While designed to get students introduced to basic concepts and key debates related to the region, this course is also structured with the goal of getting them familiarized with more common types of data work and academic writing specific to area studies. For the purposes of this course, the geographic scope of the region includes China, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

1. Class participation 5%
2. Weekly research questions (10 weeks) 10%
3. Data exercises (6 assignments) 30%
4. Review papers (3 reviews) 30%
5. Final exam 20%
6. Additional assignment to make up for the missed class days due to the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) 5%

1. Participation: Students are expected to do the readings before they come to class and engage discussions.

2. Weekly research questions: Students are required to identify research questions for assigned articles every week. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

3. Data exercises: Students are required to put together key statistical indicators for East Asian countries and to perform some preliminary data analysis. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

4. Review papers: Students are required to write three structural reviews of example papers. Detailed instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

5. Final exam: Further instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

6. Additional assignment: Further instructions will be provided at the beginning of the semester.
**Course Reading**

There is no single text for this course. Some of the reading materials will be available through ETL. Students are expected to find journal articles through the SNU library system.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. It will result in lowered or failing grades as well as the possibility of more serious punishments.

**Use of Electronic Devices**

You may use laptops or tablets in class to take notes or consult readings. Any other use of electronic devices is prohibited. Violating this policy will negatively impact your participation grade.

**Recording Policy**

Video and/or audio recording of any classroom activity is prohibited as a general rule. Students with approved accommodations from the Center for Students with Disabilities permitting the recording of class meetings must present the accommodation letter to the instructor in advance of any recording being done.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (March 18): Introduction and Course Overview**

No readings

**Week 2 (March 25): Area Studies and Research Methods**


*** Recommended


**Week 3 (April 1): East Asia as a Region: History, Security, and Interdependence**


*** Recommended


**Week 4 (April 8): East Asian Economies: Transformations**


*** Recommended

Week 5 (April 15): No Class, Legislative Election

Week 6 (April 22): East Asian Economies: Challenges


Week 7(April 29): Energy Policy and Political Economy of Natural Resources


*** Recommended
Week 8 (May 6): Political Challenges in East Asia: Populism


*** Recommended


Muller, Jan-Werner, 2016, *What is Populism?* University of Pennsylvania Press.


Week 9 (May 13): Meeting the China Challenge


Kei Koga, Japan’s ‘Indo-Pacific’ question: countering China or shaping a new regional order? International Affairs, Volume 96, Issue 1, January 2020, Pages 49–73


*** Recommended

**Week 10 (May 20): China’s Economic Statecraft**


***Recommended:

**Week 11 (May 27): Southeast Asia Responses to the Rise of China**


Bhubhindar Singh, Sarah Teo & Benjamin Ho (2017) Rising Sino-Japanese competition: perspectives from South-East Asian elites, *Australian Journal of International Affairs, 71*:1, 105-120,

***Recommended:

**Week 12 (June 3): ASEAN Regionalism**


**Week 13 (June 10): Korea-Southeast Asia Relations**


East West Center in Washington’s Asia Pacific Bulletin Series, TBD

**Week 14 (June 17): Final Exam**