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## 875.532 Understanding East Asia

Spring 2024  
Wed 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Building 140-1, Room 101  
GSIS, SNU

Instructor: Yoon Ah Oh (yoonah.oh@snu.ac.kr)  
Office Hours: Mon 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.  
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### 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 Attendance and general participation	10 %
2 Weekly response discussion	30 %
3 Country comparison table	10 %
4 Conference observation report	10 %
5 Final exam	40 %

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

2. Weekly response discussion: Detailed instructions will be provided.

3. Country comparison table: Students will put together country information tables. Detailed instructions will be provided.

4. Conference observation report: Students will observe a conference panel online and submit a report. Detailed instructions will be provided.

5. Final exam: Students will take a **one-hour, closed-book, in-class exam**. Instructions will be provided in due time.

### Course Reading

There is no single text for this course. The reading materials will be made available through eTL.

## 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 for In-Person Classes

You may use electronic devices in class to take notes, consult readings or find information. 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 class activity is **prohibited**. 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	Date	Event	Assignment Due
1	6-Mar		
2	13-Mar		
3	20-Mar		
4	27-Mar		
5	3-Apr		
	10-Apr	No Class: Election Day	Country table due at class time
6	17-Apr	Feedback on country table assignment	
7	24-Apr		
8	1-May		
9	8-May		
10	15-May	Conference Week	
11	22-May		Conference report due at class time
12	29-May	Feedback on conference report	
13	5-Jun		
14	12-Jun		
15	19-Jun	Review and Final Exam	

## **Week 1: Introduction and Course Overview**

## **Week 2: East Asian Development**

Perkins, Dwight H. 2013. *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies*. Harvard University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1.

Asian Development Bank. 2020. *Asia's Journey to Prosperity: Policy, Market, and Technology over 50 Years*. Manila: Asian Development Bank.

## **Week 3: East Asian Development**

Perkins, Dwight H. 2013. *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies*. Harvard University Press. Chapter 2.

Studwell, Joe. 2013. *How Asia Works: Success and Failure in the World's Most Dynamic Region*. New York: Grove Press, 2013. Introduction and Part I.

## **Week 4: East Asian Development**

Perkins, Dwight H. 2013. *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies*. Harvard University Press. Chapter 3.

Studwell, Joe. 2013. *How Asia Works: Success and Failure in the World's Most Dynamic Region*. New York: Grove Press, 2013. Part II.

Szirmai, Adam. 2012. "Industrialisation as an Engine of Growth in Developing Countries, 1950–2005." *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics* 23(4): 406-420.

## **Week 5: East Asian Development**

Perkins, Dwight H. 2013. *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies*. Harvard University Press. Chapter 4.

**April 10: No Class (Election Day: 2024 South Korean Legislative Election)**

Country table assignment due at class time

## **Week 6: East Asian Development**

Perkins, Dwight H. 2013. *East Asian Development: Foundations and Strategies*. Harvard University Press. Chapter 5.

Coxhead, Ian. 2015. *Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Economics*. Routledge. Chapter 1

Garnaut, Ross. 2015. "Indonesia's Resources Boom in International Perspective: Policy Dilemmas and Options for Continued Strong Growth." *Bulletin of Indonesian Economic Studies* 51(2): 189-212.

### **Week 7: Political Economy of Development**

Doner, Richard, Ritchie Bryan, and Slater, Dan. 2005. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of the Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective." *International Organization* 59(2): 327-361.

Doner, Richard, and Ben Ross Schneider. 2016. "The Middle-income Trap: More Politics Than Economics." *World Politics* 68(4): 608-644.

Coxhead, Ian. 2007. "A New Resource Curse? Impacts of China's Boom on Comparative Advantage and Resource Dependence in Southeast Asia." *World Development* 35 (7): 1099-1119.

### **Week 8: Global Value Chains and East Asia**

Gereffi, Gary, John Humphrey, and Timothy Sturgeon. 2005. "The Governance of Global Value Chains." *Review of International Political Economy* 12(1): 78-104.

WTO and IDE-JETRO. 2011. *Trade Patterns and Global Value Chains in East Asia: from Trade in Goods to Trade in Tasks*. pp. 4-27.  
[https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/booksp\\_e/stat\\_tradeptat\\_globvalchains\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/booksp_e/stat_tradeptat_globvalchains_e.pdf)

World Bank. 2019. *World Development Report 2020: Trading for Development in the Age of Global Value Chains*. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2020>

\*\*\* Recommended:

Raj-Reichert, Gale. 2020. "Global Value Chains, Contract Manufacturers, and the Middle-income Trap: The Electronics Industry in Malaysia." *The Journal of Development Studies*, 56 (4): 698-716.

### **Week 9: The Economic-Security Nexus in East Asia**

Ikenberry, G. John. 2016. "Between the Eagle and the Dragon: America, China, and Middle State Strategies in East Asia." *Political Science Quarterly* 131(1): 9-43.

Haggard, Stephan. *The East Asian Political Economy: Stylized Facts and Security Debates*. SITC-NWC Policy Briefs 2013-2 (2013).

Kausikan, Bilahari. "The Binary Fallacy: How Not to Think about Geopolitics in East Asia." *Horizons: Journal of International Relations and Sustainable Development* 11 (2018): 72-89.

\*\*\* Recommended:

Acharya, Amitav. "Asia Is Not One," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69:4 (November 2010): 1001-1013.

### **Week 10: Conference Week (Online)**

Students will observe a conference panel online and submit a report. Detailed instructions will be provided.

### **Week 11: Asymmetric Economic Interdependence and Political Power: How Fungible Is Economic Power?**

Conference observation report due at class time

Hirschman, Albert O. 1945. *National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. pp. 1-29.

Copeland, Dale C. 1996. "Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations." *International Security* 20(4): 5-41.

Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph S. Nye Jr. 1973. "Power and Interdependence." *Survival* 15(4): 158-165.

\*\*\*Recommended:

Feigenbaum, Evan A., and Robert A. Manning. 2012. "A Tale of Two Asias" *Foreign Policy*. 31.

### **Week 12: China's Political Economy**

(Feedback session on conference observation reports)

Kroeber, Arthur R. 2020. *China's Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 1. China's Political Economy.

Liu, Mingtang, and Kellee S. Tsai. 2020. "Structural Power, Hegemony, and State Capitalism: Limits to China's Global Economic Power." *Politics & Society* 49(2): 235-267.

Gordon, Jeffrey N., and Curtis J. Milhaupt. 2019. "China as a National Strategic Buyer: Toward a Multilateral Regime for Cross-Border M&A." *Columbia Business Law Review*. 1:192-251.

### **Week 13: China's Economic Statecraft**

Kroeber, Arthur R. 2020. *China's Economy: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 13. Conclusion: China and the World.

Zhang, Ketian. 2019. "Cautious Bully: Reputation, Resolve, and Beijing's Use of Coercion in the South China Sea." *International Security* 44(1): 117-159.

Oh, Yoon Ah. 2023. "Vietnam's Economic Dependence on China: Understanding Vulnerability through a Typology of Trade Shocks." In *The Dragon's Underbelly: Dynamics and Dilemmas in Vietnam's Economy and Politics*, eds. Nhu Truong and Tuong Vu. Singapore: ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.

Oh, Yoon Ah. 2023. "Types of Geoeconomic Power and Competition over Myanmar Before and During the Reform Era of the 2010s." *The Journal of Asian and African Studies*. Online First.

\*\*\* Recommended:

Lim, Darren, Victor Ferguson, and Rosa Bishop. 2020 "Chinese Outbound Tourism as an Instrument of Economic Statecraft." *Journal of Contemporary China* 29(126): 916-933.

Smith, Stephen N. 2021. "Harmonizing the Periphery: China's Neighborhood Strategy under Xi Jinping." *The Pacific Review* 34(1): 56-84.

Harrell, Peter, Elizabeth Rosenberg and Edoardo Saravalle. 2018. *China's Use of Coercive Economic Measures*. 11 June. Center for New American Security.

Yoon Ah Oh. 2022. "Assessing Myanmar's Trade Dependence on China during the Reform Period of the 2010s: A Sectoral Value Chain Approach" *The Pacific Review*. Online First

### **Week 14: How Asia Responded**

Oh, Yoon Ah. 2023. "What Kind of Great Power Partner? The Issue of Trust in the U.S.-China Contest for Influence in Southeast Asia." *Pacific Report*, SNU Institute of International Affairs, No 6. August.

Koga, Kei. 2020. "Japan's 'Indo-Pacific' Question: Countering China or Shaping a New Regional Order?" *International Affairs* 96(1): 49–73.

Shambaugh, David L. 2018. "U.S.-China Rivalry in Southeast Asia: Power Shift or Competitive Coexistence?" *International Security* 42(4): 85–127.

Oh, Yoon Ah. 2018. "Power Asymmetry and Threat Points: Negotiating China's Infrastructure Development in Southeast Asia" *Review of International Political Economy* 25(4): 530-552.

Oh, Yoon Ah. 2021. "Southeast Asian Public Perceptions of China: Clusters and Gaps." *The Korean Journal of International Studies* 19(3): 377-403.

\*\*\*Recommended

Lim, Darren J. and Zack Cooper. 2015. "Reassessing Hedging: The Logic of Alignment in East Asia." *Security Studies* 24(4): 696-727.

Yoshimatsu, Hidetaka. 2018. "New Dynamics in Sino-Japanese Rivalry: Sustaining Infrastructure

- Development in Asia” *Journal of Contemporary China* 27(113)” 719-734.
- Chung, Jae Ho. 2012. “Korean Views of Korea-China Relations: Evolving Perceptions and Upcoming Challenges.” *Asian Perspective* 36(2): 219-236.
- Chung, Jae Ho, and Jiyeon Kim. 2016. “Is South Korea in China’s Orbit? Assessing Seoul’s Perceptions and Policies.” *Asia Policy* 21: 123-146.
- Kim, Min-hyung. 2021. “Hedging between the United States and China? South Korea’s Ideology-Driven Behavior and Its Implications for National Security.” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*. lcab020 <https://doi.org/10.1093/irap/lcab020>
- Goh, Evelyn. 2008. “Great Powers and Hierarchical Order in Southeast Asia: Analyzing Regional Security Strategies.” *International Security* 32(3): 113-157.
- Ciorciari, John D. 2017. “ASEAN and the Great Powers.” *Contemporary Southeast Asia: A Journal of International and Strategic Affairs* 39(2): 252-258.

### **Week 15: Review and Final Exam**

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