

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Paul McGhee Undergraduate Division, School of Professional Studies

POLS1-UC 6658 - 001: Politics of East and South East Asia
东亚/东南亚政治

Spring 2017
6:20PM - 8:50PM, Tue.
Classroom Bldg: SILV Room 588

Professor: Dr. Ming Xia
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is an introduction to the politics of East and South-East Asian countries, focused on political history, political institutions, traditions and political ideologies and the impact of development and globalization on political developments.

East and Southeast Asia include Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia in our discussion, which can also be called “Pacific Asia”. With an emphasis on the years after the Second World War, its primary goal is to help students understand the issues of governance and development in East and Southeast Asia, namely, how they organize their polities, expand their wealth, manage their economies, govern their societies, and respond to the challenges from the outside, especially the West. In discussing the interactions between the states and economies, the societies, and their citizens, this course highlights the East and Southeast Asian unique cultural patterns, their origins, their transformation in responding the challenge of modernization and their future development. It also explains how the East and Southeast Asian political systems distinguish themselves from other regions in the world.

This course takes an interdisciplinary perspective, being organized into historical as well as thematic sections and weaving with cross-national comparison and country studies. Geographically it covers China (PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao), Japan, two Koreas, Mongolia, and ASEAN countries. Discussed will be historical, cultural, ethnic, societal, political, economic, and international issues. But special attention will be given to the government systems and patterns of political economy in East Asia, in particular, exploring the East Asian model in political development and economic modernization. Because of its historical importance and today's influence, China will be reviewed in more detail when we discuss the historical context and cultural patterns in this region. Due to its successful story of modernization and democratization and its impact upon other East Asian countries, Japan will constitute an important part of our country studies and provide the centerpiece for this class, especially regarding colonial experiences, economic take-off, the origin of developmental state, the emergence of democratic governance, and the integration of political economy in this region. ASEAN countries will be highlighted in the context of economic catch-up, democratization and democratic consolidation in the region.

To provide changing angles to look at East/Southeast Asian region, five theoretical approaches will be adopted in our discussion. The **cultural perspective** will primarily help us understand the social context and leading values in East/Southeast Asia. The **modernization (or developmental) perspective** will help us understand the evolution, dynamics, goals and tensions within and among East/Southeast Asian states in pursuing their developmental goals. The **structural perspective** will highlight the role and the interplay of institutions (both formal and informal), regimes, and actors in organizing their societies and managing their conflicts. It will also discuss the role played by the elites in modernizing and democratizing (or failing to modernize and democratize) the countries in this region. The **political economy perspective** is taken to highlight the interaction of states and the markets, political power and wealth under the developmental state model during the past decades. Lastly, the **globalist perspective** will examine the global influences upon the Pacific Asian region, tension, conflict and security issues in the region, as well as its integration within the region and with the world dominated by the West.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To fulfill the goals of McGee undergraduate program this course is designed to emphasize writing, thinking and analytical skills in order to help juniors/seniors work on the topics from East and Southeast Asian region for their theses. Also, this course will help students increase intercultural communication and understanding by learning about other societies and cultures; provide a helpful guide to students who are interested in East/Southeast Asia and international cultural, political and economic transactions with and within this area, and increase students' sensibility to this region. Therefore, the relevance of East/Southeast Asia to the United States and the differences between these two regions will also be explored.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. Steven A. Leibo, *East and Southeast Asia 2016-2017* (World Today (Stryker) 49th Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers 2016. ISBN-10: 147582906X; ISBN-13: 978-1475829068
2. Damien Kingsbury, *Politics in Contemporary Southeast Asia: Authority, Democracy and Political Change*, Routledge, 2017. ISBN-10: 113888944X; ISBN-13: 978-1138889446
3. Minxin Pei, *China's Crony Capitalism: The Dynamics of Regime Decay*, Harvard University Press, 2016. ISBN 9780674737297
4. R. Taggart Murphy, *Japan and the Shackles of the Past*, Oxford University Press, 2014. ISBN: 9780199845989

Articles and book chapters by the instructor will be distributed to the class.

SUGGESTED E-SOURCE

1. Asia Source: <http://www.asiasource.org>

2. Asia Society: <http://www.asiasociety.org>
3. Association of Asian Studies: <http://www.aasianst.org>
4. Asia Now: <http://www.cnn.com/asianow>
5. Channel News Asia: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/>
6. NHK World: <http://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/tv/>
7. The Diplomat online magazine: <http://thediplomat.com/>
8. Sinosphere on The New York Times: http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/?_r=0.
9. The World Fact Report from CIA: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>.
10. The World Bank Data on East and Pacific Asia: <http://data.worldbank.org/region/EAP>.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Final Exam	30%
Book Reviews	20%
Paper Proposal (with a news analysis report)	10%
Analytical Paper	30%
Participation/Attendance	10%

Book Reviews (Due dates: Feb. 21, Tuesday and March 21, Tuesday): You are required to write a book review on Minxin Pei's book, *China's Crony Capitalism* and another book review on Murphy's *Japan and the Shackles of the Past*. The writing guide will be distributed in class.

Analytical Essay: You are expected to write a mini-research paper on major issues or recent developments in East/Southeast Asia. This project can be on one important issue in this region or in one country based on your research started with a news report from national newspapers (e.g., *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*, or Lexis-Nexis search) and news magazines (e.g., *The Economist*, *The Times*, etc. Of course my suggested e-source can be of help). You should also consult at least three scholarly journal articles and two books which are related to your discussion. You should indicate your resources of these articles. This report should be typewritten and double-spaced and has 8-12 pages. Due is two week before the final examination day (April 18, 2017, Tuesday). Before you start your research, you should consult with me regarding your potential topics. You must get my permission in order to start your research. You are required to write a proposal of at least three pages to show me your preliminary research on a topic (including the significance of the news report you have chosen,

the puzzle you have identified, background information, scope of the issue, its relevance and significance to the country under our discussion, bibliography, research strategy, a brief road signs for your writing, etc. This proposal is due on March 7, 2017, Tuesday). Once your topic and research question are identified in your proposal, you have to stick to it in your essay. A more detailed writing guide will be distributed in class for your proposal and essay.

The final exam will be a mixture of defining glossary and essay questions. Study guide for the final exam will be distributed in advance. However, you are required to familiarize with some key concepts and issues in our textbooks.

Considering my lecture will give information not covered by textbooks, attendance is very important. According to the common practice regarding college attendance, students who are absent from this course more than two weeks with no compelling justification (such as medical, family emergency, or unavoidable conflict of schedule, etc.) will NOT get graded.

My grading for all these requirements will follow 100-point system. My final score report will be converted into A-F system. This conversion will roughly follow this formula:

A A- 100-90 B+ B B- 89-80 C+ C C- 79-70 D+ D D- 69-60 F below 60

GRADING CRITERIA

A 100-93

Thorough understanding of all material; sound grasp of all theoretical and empirical materials directly listed in the syllabus. Independent reading and research going beyond the materials in the syllabus. Expression of insights, both orally and in writing, at an adult level of presentation.

A- 92-90

Thorough understanding of all material; sound grasp of all theoretical and empirical materials. Expression of insights at an adult level of presentation.

B+ B B- 89-80

Reasonably sound understanding of most conceptual principles and familiarity with most of the empirical materials.

C+ C 79-70

Weak understanding of conceptual principles. Marginal familiarity with empirical materials.

D 69-60

Serious conceptual and/or factual errors.

F below 60

Completely detached from the materials of the class.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 24, Tue.

Introducing class and syllabus

East and Southeast Asia as a Community

- Geographic Confines
- Cultural Traditions
- Ethnic Background
- Similarities and Diversity

General Survey and Historical Perspective

Jan. 31, Tue.

The Rise and Fall of Asia

- East and Southeast Asia: The Era of China's Supremacy
- East and Southeast Asia Facing the Challenge of the West
- Western Influence: Colonialism
- Nationalism in East and Southeast Asia
- Significance of East and Southeast Asia in World Civilization

The Political Culture in East and South Asia

(Reading: "East Asia and Southeast Asia Today" and "Historical Background" in Leibo; Chapters 1 and 2 in Kingsbury)

Country Studies

Feb. 7, Tue.

The Political Development in China

- Communist Revolution
- The Mao Era: Totalism in China
- Neo-authoritarianism

The Party-state and Auxiliary Institutions

- Ideology
- Constitution and Political Structure
- The Prospect of China's Communist Party-State

The Greater China, Ethnicity and the Issues of Taiwan and Hong Kong

(Reading: "China", "China-Hong Kong", "China-Tibet" and Taiwan in Leibo)

Feb. 14, Tue.

The Political Economy of China

- China's Road to Economic Development
- The Economic Miracle and the China Model
- The crony Capitalism
- The Rise of a Great Power or the Imminent Collapse?

(Reading: Chapters 1-4 in Pei)

Feb. 21, Tue.

First Book Review is due.

Xi Jinping's Coup: Dissecting Chinese Political Regime and Assessing Its Prospect

(Reading: Chapters 5-7 and conclusion in Pei; assigned articles written by the instructor on Chinese local democracy, oligarchy, media control, organized crime and corruption).

Feb. 28, Tue.

Japan: The Formation of State and the Meiji Restoration

The Japanese Nationalism and Militarism

Japan's Transformation after WWII

- The Developmental State Model
- The Japanese Miracle

The Stagnation and the Lost Decades

(Reading: "Japan" in Leibo: Introduction, Chapters 1-3 in Murphy)

March 7, Tue.

Contemporary Japanese Political Economy

(Reading: Chapters 5-8 in Murphy)

March 16, Spring Recess, No Class.

March 21, Tue.

Second Book Review due.

Contemporary Politics in Japan

- Political restructuring in Japan
- The American Occupation
- The Japanese Democracy

- The Single-Party Dominant System: the LDP
- Politics in Flux

Security and Foreign Policy

(Reading: Chapters 9-11 in Murphy)

March 28, Tue.

Report Proposal Due on March 28.

Two Koreas: Dealing with the Colonial Past

A Contrast: Economy and Politics

The North Korea Problem

The Reunification

(Reading: “South Korea” and “North Korea” in Leibo)

April 4, Tue.

Mongolia

Indo-China (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos)

(Reading: “Mongolia”, “Vietnam”, “Cambodia”, and “Laos” in Leibo; Chapters 3-5 in Kingsbury; “Cambodia”, “Laos” and “Vietnam” in Leibo)

April 11, Tue.

Thailand and Myanmar (Burma)

(Reading: Chapters 9 and 10 in Kingsbury; “Thailand” and “Myanmar” in Leibo)

April 18, Tue.

Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam

Research Report Due!

(Reading: Chapters 6-8 in Kingsbury; “Singapore”, “Malaysia” and “Brunei Darussalam” in Leibo)

April 25, Tue.

Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the Philippines

(Reading: Chapters 11-13 in Kingsbury; “Indonesia”, “East Timor” and “The Philippines” in Leibo)

May 2, Tue.

ASEAN Way and Asian Regional Integration

Pan-Asian Union?

Wrap-up and Review on the Final Examination

(Reading: Chapter 14 in Kingsbury)

May 16, Tue.
Final Exam

Thank you for taking this course and enjoy your summer break!