Political, Social & External Relations of East Asian Countries

Taipei, TAIWAN, Republic of China (ROC)

Instructor: Dr. Kwei-Bo Huang (黃奎博)※

Class Meets: 2PM-5PM
Classroom: T.B.A.

Objectives

This 18-hour undergraduate-level course aims to introduce the political (including foreign policy-related, and a bit economic) and social-cultural dimensions of major state and nonstate actors in East Asia – for instance, mainland China (PRC), Japan, South Korea (ROK), Taiwan (ROC), Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its “ASEAN plus N,” and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). To help the students better understand the region of East Asia, an issue-based thematic syllabus rather than a country-based one is provided. Due to the time constraint, East Asian regional cooperation and integration in these dimensions will be explored in brief.

On completion of the course, the students shall acquire the knowledge of certain critical issues in contemporary East Asian societies, as well as demonstrate some interdisciplinary analytical skills to identify and scrutinize those issues. It is also hoped that the students will be able to

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recognize and appreciate different aspects of life in East Asia in a way East Asian countries and societies see themselves.

**Course Description**

The teaching takes the form of lectures, individual and/or group work, oral presentations, and film. All will be conducted in English. It is understandable that the students registering in this course will have little time to manage the reading requirement in such a short and intensive session, so before their arrival in Taipei, they are encouraged to read a few articles and essays from some of the following:

- **East Asia Forum** ([http://www.eastasiaforum.org/](http://www.eastasiaforum.org/))
- **Southeast Asian Weekly** ([http://thesoutheastasiaweekly.com/](http://thesoutheastasiaweekly.com/))
- China Academy of Social Science (CASS, [http://www.cssn.cn/english.html](http://www.cssn.cn/english.html))
- East Asia Institute in South Korea (EAI, [http://www.eai.or.kr/english/index.asp](http://www.eai.or.kr/english/index.asp))
- Japan Center for Economic Research (JCER, [http://www.jcer.or.jp/eng/index.html](http://www.jcer.or.jp/eng/index.html))
- Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA, [http://www2.jiia.or.jp/en/](http://www2.jiia.or.jp/en/))
- Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, National University of Singapore ([http://www.iseas.edu.sg/](http://www.iseas.edu.sg/))
- Center for Strategic and International Studies in Indonesia (CSIS, [http://www.csis.or.id/](http://www.csis.or.id/))
- Center for East Asian Policy Studies (CEAPS), Brookings Institution in USA ([http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/ceaps](http://www.brookings.edu/about/centers/ceaps))
- Center for Strategic and International Studies in USA (CSIS, [http://csis.org/region/asia](http://csis.org/region/asia))
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in USA ([http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/asia-program](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/asia-program))
- Pacific Forum CSIS's *Comparative Connections* ([http://csis.org/program/comparative-connections](http://csis.org/program/comparative-connections))

β "***" means "highly recommended," but that doesn't mean at all that those with one "**" is less important.
While the students are at NCCU campus, they can use the university libraries to check out books relevant to the topics to be introduced, for example,


**Requirements and Grades**

The final score will be based on the following criteria: class participation (30%), written assignment (40%), and oral presentation (30%).

Class participation includes on-time attendance and active contribution to class discussion. In general, the instructor will lecture for about 80-to-90 minutes, perhaps including a short film or a couple of video clips that are related to the topic of the day. During the lecture the students can pose questions any time. Then, the students can make oral presentations or answer more questions from the lecture, depending on the requirement of the meeting day.

The written assignment is a 4-page commentary essays (single spaced,
12-point Times New Roman) on any two (journal, e-) articles related to one of the topics this session touches upon. In this assignment, specify the sources clearly, summarize the articles briefly, justify why you choose them to read and why, as well as indicate whether or not they have inspired you. The short commentary essays should be handed to the instructor or the office which the instructor refers to by 5PM of July 28. No email submission will be permitted. Using footnotes or endnotes moderately are strongly encouraged.

Late assignments and plagiarism will result in penalty. The late assignment will cause a drop of 10 points each day. Assignments with serious plagiarism will not be accepted. Using wrong format in footnotes or endnotes will affect the score to a great extent as well.

Oral presentations will be on July 16 and the ensuing meetings, and they would be made individually, depending on the number of the students in this class. Each presenter will have 6-to-7 minutes to introduce an assigned case or historical event throughout East Asian history. Explain the case or event in brief and describe how it has been viewed or assessed in general.

_Schedules and Themes of Class Meetings_

7/14/2013 (Mon.)
Course Administration
East Asia: A historical introduction

7/15/2013 (Tue.)
Political Dimension: Ranging from Communist/(Soft-)Authoritarian/Socialist to Democratic

7/16/2013 (Wed.)
Dimension of Political Economy: Ranging from “Semi-closed” Planned Economy to Capitalist Market Economy

7/21/2013 (Mon.)
Socio-cultural Dimension: Education, Culture, and Societal Forces

7/22/2013 (Tue.)
Foreign Policies: Interdependent with Involvement of Great Powers
7/23/2013 (Wed.)
Regional Organizations and Institutions: Stumbling Blocks or Building Blocks for Greater Cooperation in the Future?

**Presentation Cases/Events about East Asia (with Schedules)**

In addition to the important cases and events to be introduced by the instructor, these are some other cases and events to better your understanding of the region. (Incomplete, depending on the number of the students.)

7/16
• Xinhai Revolution of 1911
...

7/21
• 1958 (Second) Taiwan Strait Crisis
• ...

7/22
• ...

7/23
•...