

POLI 4067 Politics of Asia, Fall 2011

Comparative Politics of East Asia

Tuesday 6:10 – 9:00 pm, 218 Coates

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Stubbs 229, Department of Political Science

OH: 2:00 – 3:00 pm on Tuesday, or by appointment

Karl Marx,

This course provides an analytical overview of the comparative politics of East Asia, mainly focusing on Northeast Asia (China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan) with some emphasis on Southeast Asia. This course has at least three goals: 1) to understand important political issues, political institutions, political behaviors, contentious politics, and political economies of East Asia, 2) to provide a theoretical framework to understand important historical events that have shaped the current politics of East Asia, and 3) to make an explicit comparison across countries (e.g., China and Japan) as well as comparison across regions (e.g., Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia). To do so, this course is divided into three parts.

In Part I, we will begin with a session that equips students with a theoretical framework of comparative politics and introduces this region more generally. By focusing on the modern nation-state formation in the context of colonialism, the following sessions in Part I will provide significant historical facts and issues of China, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asian countries to properly understand the substantive topics in the following parts.

The first part in Part II will deal with political regimes (democracy and dictatorship), regime dynamics, and the relationship culture and democracy. In the second part of Part II, we will study two divergent political systems: democracy in Japan and dictatorship in China. Here the topics are political institutions (political party system, parliamentarism and presidentialism, and electoral system) and political change (election and succession).

In Part III, we will examine the political economy of East Asia, highlighting East Asia's phenomenal economic development and the recent financial crisis. We will explore the various conditions under which the economic "miracle" happened and the socio-political consequences of rapid growth. And we will investigate the financial "crisis," evaluating competing explanations of the origins and effects of the "crisis."

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE OF TOPICS

1	Aug	23	Introduction
I. Modern Nation-State Formation			
2	Aug	30	Emergence of Modern East Asia: A Bird's Eye View
3	Sep	06	China and Taiwan
4	Sep	13	Korea and Japan
5	Sep	20	Southeast Asia
II. Political System, Culture, and People			
6	Sep	27	Democracy and Dictatorship
7	Oct	04	Midterm Examination, 6:10 – 9:10 pm
8	Oct	11	Democratic Transitions
9	Oct	18	Culture and Democracy
10	Oct	25	Hegemonic Party and Democracy

READINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the required readings for each session (see the reading assignments below). All of these readings are po 1 33required

REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the reading material assigned for each session. But, I will introduce and explain some issues and concepts that are not in the readings, so attendance is crucial. This means that a significant amount of material on the examinations will come from class lectures presenting information not discussed directly in the text and other readings. Participation from students is important and will count toward the final grade. At the end of each week, I will distribute a memo (posted on Semester Book) that contains important points of my lecture.

Students are expected to complete:

- 1) In-class midterm and take-home examinations (25% each)
The emphasis is on important concepts and competing explanations of various political phenomena. Knowledge of some relevant historical facts is required as well.
- 2) Critical review paper (25)

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

I. Modern Nation-State Formation

Week 1 (8/23) Introduction
Scope and roadmap of the course.

Week 2 (8/30) The Emergence of Modern East Asia: A Bird's Eye View
Importance of history and theory. Three research traditions or paradigms: structuralism, culturalism, and rationalism. What is unique about East Asia? "Chinese world order." Nationalism and modern-state. "Imagined communities." Colonialism and imperialism. National liberation movements. International setting in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Romanization.

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. . New York: Verso, pp. 1-9.

Week 3 (9/06) China and Taiwan
Approaches: modernization vs. impact-response frameworks. "Paradox of growth without development." Three motifs in the 19th century. 1911 Revolution. Rise of the CCP. Colonizers and colonized. KMT (or the GMD). February 28 Incident. Why did the Nationalists fail? National identity.

"Introduction to Modern Chinese History." East Asian Curriculum Project of Columbia University. <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

"Taiwan Hi # I

"Korea in East Asian and World History," "Korea: 1945-present." East Asian Curriculum Project of Columbia University. <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

Week 5 (9/20) Southeast Asia

Imperialism, colonialism, and nationalism. Revolutionary movements and de-colonization. The mode of control. State centered analysis. Similarities and differences.

"Southeast Asia in the Larger World." East

Doner, Richard et al. 2005. "Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Development States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative Perspective." 59(2): 327-361.

Week 14 (11/22) Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 (11/29) Financial Crisis: End of Miracle? Conclusion and Review
External vs. domestic factors. Globalization and the nature of world capitalist system. Contagion. The IMF and the politics of capital controls. Perception and capital flight. Speculative attack. Moral hazard and the government-business connection