Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please; they do not make it under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under circumstances directly encountered, given and transmitted from the past. The tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brain of the living.

Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte (1852)

This course provides an analytical overview of the comparative politics of East Asia, 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 overcome an ethnocentric provincialism by making explicit and implicit comparisons (e.g., China, Korean and Japan; East Asia and Euro-America). 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 mor

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE OF TOPICS

1-2	Jan	12-19	Introduction and Analytical Framework				
I. MODERN CAPITAL-NATION-STATE FORMATION							
3	. lan	24-26	The				

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 posted on Moodle. All students should have a LSU e-mail account for access to Moodle.

Students need to purchase and read the following book to write a final paper (see the course requirements below). Studwell, Joe. 2014. How Asia Works. Grove Press.

Recommended/ background books:

If you are serious about studying East Asia, read these three monumental books on the history of political thoughts

A History of Chinese Philosophy [

READING ASSIGNMENTS

divided? The world in 1945. Juche and the n

In Lawrence Harrison and Samuel Huntington

(eds.) Culture Matters, pp. 80-97.

. World Culture Report. Paris: UNESCO Publishing,

pp. 125-131, 134-146.

Week 11 (Mar. 21-23) The Hegemonic Party and the : Japan US occupation as a reverse course. Parliamentarism vs. presidentialism. The 1955 system. Cabinet formation. Minimal coalition vs. minimal connected coalition. What made the end of the LDP dominance possible? Lost twenty years. Faction politics. Politics of Pivotal elections 1946, 1993, 2009, and 2012. The issues to be discussed are: 1) party system, 2) parliamentarism, 3) electoral system, 4) cabinet formation, and 5) political ideology deep-