

Men make their own history, but they do not make it just as they please, under circumstances chosen by themselves, but under directly transmitted, given and transmitted from the past. The totality of these conditions weighs like a giant on the brain of the living

Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon (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 processes 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, Korea and Japan, East Asia and Europe/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 more generally, focusing on the modern capital nation-state formation in the context of colonialism and imperialism. The following sessions in Part I will provide significant historical facts and issues in 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 (democracies and dictatorships), social movements, regime dynamics, and the relationship between cultures and democracies in East Asia. In the second part of Part II, we will discuss Eyewtwo winergnts

SCHEDULE/OUTLINE OF TOPICS

1-2	Jan	10-15	Introduction and Analytical Framework
I. MODERN CAPITAL -NATION -STATE FORMATION			

2-3 Jan 17-22 The

READINGS

Each student is expected to read (before class) all the readings for each session (see the reading assignments below) All of these readings are posted on Moodle. All students should have a LSU email account for access to Moodle

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

Recommended/background book

If you are serious about studying East Asia, read these three monumental books on the history of political thoughts:) H Q J <A History of Chinese Philosophy], 0 D V D R 0 D Studies P D - V in the Intellectual History of Tokugawa Japan

REQUIREMENTS

Basically, classes will involve lectures and discussions of the 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 ~~pro~~ providing 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

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS

I. MODER N CAPITAL -NATION -STATE FORMATION

Week1-2

the issue of historical continuity. Decolonization period and the Korean War. How was Korea divided? The world in 1945 and the nature of the North Korean state.

East Asian Curriculum Project of Columbia University.
<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

Ramseyer, J. Mark and Frances Rosenbluth. The Politics of Oligarchy: Institutional Choice in Imperial Japan. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Presentations of the East Asian Curriculum Project of Columbia University. <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

II. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS, CULTURES, AND PEOPLE

Week 7 (Feb. 19) Democracies and Dictatorships

Minimalist vs. maximalist definitions of democracy. Fragility of democracy. Importance of compromise. Trend and pattern of political regimes throughout world. Democratization in East Asia.

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

In: L. O. W. X. H. I. R. I. S. D. C. G. S. I. N. F. I. N. G. \ μ

Przeworski, Adam, et al.
Publishing, pp. 125

¶ & X. O. W. D. D. D. racy World Culture Report Paris: UNESCO

