

Geography of East Asia

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Office hours: Mondays 2 - 4 PM

Course description

This course provides an overview of East Asia from a critical geographic perspective. Students will explore various historical and contemporary issues on East Asia with several key themes and theoretical lenses that include colonial experience, modernity, developmental state, neoliberalism, nationalism, geopolitics, cultural exchange, and transboundary environmental issues. While investigating the specificities of each country (i.e., China, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and Japan), this course aims to bring together their differences and similarities to understand how East Asia has been produced and emerged as a world region.

Learning objectives and outcomes

- 1) Critically explore the ideas and forces that have emerged East Asia as a world region
 - Locate major geographic features of the region
 - Explain major historic events and discuss their significance in shaping East Asia today
 - Identify different models of development and illustrate developmental and post-developmental state theory in the context of East Asia

- 2) Investigate specific issues of each country in East Asia and their interconnectivity
 - Describe key economic, political, social, cultural, and environmental issues of each country (China, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and Japan)
 - Examine how national issues are related to each other in regional and global political economy

- 3) Examine major debates and transformations taking place in East Asia today
 - Define neoliberalism and analyze how neoliberalism in relation to the reactions to recent economic crises is transforming East Asia
 - Describe major geopolitical events of East Asia today and analyze underlying rationales
 - Explain the resurgence of nationalism and assess its potential ramifications

Resources

This class does not have a required textbook. Readings for each week will be announced and posted on Blackboard.

Recommended readings:

Park, B.-G., Hill, R. C., & Saito, A. (2012). *Locating neoliberalism in East Asia: neoliberalizing spaces in developmental states*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Roy, A., & Ong, A. (2011). *Worlding cities: Asian experiments and the art of being global*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Arrighi, G. (2008). *Adam Smith in Beijing: lineages of the 21st Century*. Verso.

Chow, K., Doak, K. M., & Fu, P. (2001). *Constructing nationhood in modern East Asia*. University of Michigan Press.

Hayes, Louis D. (2012). *Political systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. M.E. Sharpe.

Ba, Alice D. (2009). *(Re)negotiating East and Southeast Asia: region, regionalism, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations*. Stanford University Press.

Calder, Kent E., and Min Ye. (2010). *The Making of Northeast Asia*. Stanford University Press.

Course structure

In-classroom lecture and activities: There is a 110-minute in-classroom lecture and activities each week. Students are required to attend all scheduled class periods and will be responsible for all material presented in lecture during exams. There will be material presented in class that is not found in the readings, so students must make arrangements to get any information they may have missed.

Readings: Weekly readings for the course are mandatory. They include book chapters, articles, websites, etc., all of which are available on Blackboard. Readings will complement, not repeat, the lectures and other in-classroom activities. Students are accountable for all assigned readings on the exams. The required readings for each day will be announced and posted in advance on Blackboard. Please read each week's listed reading *before* class that week.

Blackboard activities: This course uses the Blackboard system as a course webpage. Students are expected to complete weekly quizzes and assignments through Blackboard before attending each class. The online activities are designed to complement and enhance in-classroom learning. Along with readings, short lecture videos, films, and other class materials as well as the latest version of the syllabus and assignment instructions will be posted here. Under the Discussions tab, you will also find a Q&A board through which you can ask and get answers regarding logistics issues (e.g., deadlines). Please wait up to 72 hours if you posted a new question. If you experience problems with accessing Blackboard, contact ETS in the Green Library for support (GL 152a).

Course evaluation

<i>Graded Item</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Weekly quizzes (12)	36%	On Blackboard
2. Midterm Exam	15%	Cover material from weeks 1-6
3. Final Exam	15%	Comprehensive
4. Student presentation	20%	Instructions on Blackboard
6. Participation & Attendance	14%	Your contributions to discussion & pop quizzes