GEA3704: People, Place, and Environment of East Asia
(Section RVAA 87859)

Instructor Information Table

Instructor Information

- Email: raechoi@fiu.edu (mailto:raechoi@fiu.edu)
- Office: SIPA 308
- Zoom Office Hours: Mondays 11:30am-1:30pm or by Appointment
- Zoom Meeting ID: 457 539 6871 (password: GEA3704)
- Zoom Meeting Direct Link (https://fiu.zoom.us/j/4575396871?pwd=a1AwWlFaVURkT2luOFJ1V3kzSVpVZz09)
- Instructor Biography (https://sipa.fiu.edu/people/faculty/global-and-sociocultural-studies/choi.young.html)

TBA

Teaching Assistant Information
Course Description and Purpose

Using critical geography perspectives, this course explores the social, economic, cultural, and geopolitical issues that shape East Asia today. While being a highly porous and fluid concept, East Asian countries form a world region for their geographical proximity as well as historical, ethnic, and cultural connections. In this course, with a particular focus on China, South Korea, and Japan, students will explore and engage with various historical and contemporary issues through readings, case studies, discussions, and debates. Critical geography is concerned about the relations between space and society in terms of how knowledge-power is produced and enacted and is inevitably drawn into the questions of differences, unevenness, and inequality. With this in mind, students will learn and apply key theoretical lenses in geography, including modernity, uneven development, developmental state, (post)-colonialism, nationalism, neoliberalism, transnationalism, and geopolitics.

The course is a discipline-specific Global Learning course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement. GEA 3704 is designed to “provide an overview of East Asia from a critical geographic perspective. Students will explore various historical and contemporary issues on the region with geographic lenses and themes.” For more information on the Global Learning Initiatives and the Global Learning Graduation Medallion, visit [http://goglobal.fiu.edu](http://goglobal.fiu.edu).

- This is a fully online Fall A course with no scheduled meeting times EXCEPT the COIL meeting with Sophia U students on October 3. The course runs from August 21 to October 8.

Global Learning Course Learning Objectives and Outcomes

1. **Global Awareness:** Students will identify current issues of each country in East Asia and explain their interconnectivity and interrelatedness on the local, national, and global levels to other parts of the world.
2. **Global Perspective:** Students will apply key geographic lenses to engage in and analyze major debates and transformations taking place in East Asia today.
3. **Global Engagement:** Students will demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem-solving as it relates to the historical, political-economic, and cultural processes shaping the East Asian region.
Course Policies

Communication

Announcements will be posted on Canvas, which will also be automatically sent to your FIU email address. If you have any questions or concerns, send me an email (raechoi@fiu.edu) or use the message function on Canvas. I will respond to all correspondences within a day or two. Be polite and responsible when you communicate with your professor, TA, and classmates.

Late submission

Late work will be accepted up to 20 days with the penalty of -5%/day. All assignments must be submitted by the end date of the course.

Academic misconduct

Do not cheat or act dishonestly in order to gain an advantage. Any more-than-a-sentence-long texts directly copied and pasted from external sources (i.e. not from your brain) are considered plagiarism, which is a serious academic offense that I must report to the FIU Academic Integrity Committee. Using AI (e.g., Chat GPT) for research is allowed but you should never copy and paste the texts generated by AI for written assignments, which will also be considered plagiarism. To avoid this, always paraphrase in your own words. If you need to cite others’ words, use quotation marks and add reference(s). Both in-text and full citations are required. Visit https://library.fiu.edu/plagiarism (https://library.fiu.edu/plagiarism) for more resources.
Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook and Course Resources

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

Readings for this class (subject to change):


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Bartal, O. (2016). From Hiroshima to Fukushima: Comics and Animation as Subversive Agents of Memory in Japan. Interdisciplinary Handbook of Trauma and Culture (pp. 101–115).

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**Additional readings** are mandatory unless labeled as "optional" and will be announced in advance. Optional readings are for your self-study. I don't use them for evaluation.

**Other useful resources**

*Regional News media:*

South China Morning Post [https://www.scmp.com/](https://www.scmp.com/)


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*US & Global News media:*

NPR [http://www.npr.org/sections/news/](http://www.npr.org/sections/news/) (Also, listen to NPR Radio on WLRN 91.3 FM)


Le Monde Diplomatique [https://mondediplo.com/](https://mondediplo.com/)

BBC News [http://news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk)

Al Jazeera [https://www.aljazeera.com/](https://www.aljazeera.com/)

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*World Data:*

Our World in Data (Oxford) [https://ourworldindata.org](https://ourworldindata.org)

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*Software:*


Google Maps: [https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces](https://maps.google.com/maps/myplaces)
Microsoft PowerPoint & Word (available for free to all FIU students)

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**Film/documentary:**

- Rachel Carson Council’s list of environmental film festivals: [https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/environmental-film-festivals/](https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/environmental-film-festivals/)

**Center for Excellence in Writing**

As an upper-level course in geography, you will be required to make your arguments clearly and coherently. The FIU Center for Excellence in Writing offers various services that will help improve your writing skills. If you feel you need assistance, visit their [website](http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/) to make an appointment.

**Expectations of this Course**

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **take the practice quiz** to ensure that your computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course at least 1 time per week;
respond to discussions by the due date specified;
respond to emails within 5 days;
submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course at least 2 times per week;
- respond to questions within 2 days;
- respond to other emails within 3 days;
- grade assignments within 10 days of the assignment deadline.

Course structure

Canvas: This course uses Canvas as a course webpage. All the readings, lecture slides, class activities, assignment instructions, the latest version of the syllabus, and other announcements will be posted here. If you experience problems with accessing Canvas, contact ETS in the Green Library for support (GL 152a).

Class material: You must read all the mandatory readings. Links to these materials will be available on Canvas in advance. Additional readings will complement, not repeat, the lectures.

Assignments/Discussions & Grading

<table>
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<th>Graded Item</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly assignments</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>Every Sunday 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class activities</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>Every Sunday 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>COIL Zoom meeting attendance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>Oct 3 7:30-9:30 PM</td>
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</table>

1. Weekly assignments: For each module, you will write a concise, specific, and coherent essay that integrates the main arguments of the readings and videos. The essay should contain your critical opinion/argument/reflection on the topic of the week. Specific prompts will be given in advance regarding how to structure each week’s assignments. The required readings and videos for each
week will be announced and posted in advance on Canvas. Assignments are due by the end of the respective module week (Sundays by 11:59 PM).

- Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

2. Class activities: Class activities consist of individual assignments of various types (e.g., virtual fieldwork, media analysis, Google worksheet activity, etc.). Activities (except the ones related to COIL meetings) are also due by the end of the respective module week (Sundays by 11:59 PM).

3. COIL Zoom meeting attendance: There is one COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) meeting this semester with students from Sophia University in Japan. Students are required to attend the meeting on Zoom and complete two pre- and post-meeting class activities (note their due dates on Course Calendar). If you cannot attend the online meeting, contact me in advance to arrange an alternative assignment.

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<tr>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 - 86</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 94</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 - 82</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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Class materials are subject to change. All the required and optional class materials will be posted on Canvas.

All the assignments are due **Sunday at 11:59 PM** unless specified otherwise. Course time zone is the Eastern Standard Time (EST).
Module 1-1 Aug 21-27

Introduction (What is geography?)

- Define geography
- Identify orientalist accounts of the East Asian region

- Course syllabus
- What is Geography (UK Royal Geographical Society) (https://www.rgs.org/geography/what-is-geography/)
- An Introduction to Edward Said’s Orientalism (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZST6qnRR1mY)
- ‘Orientalism’ in Dictionary of Human Geography
- Lecture_M1-1

Module 1-2 Aug 21-27

An overview of East Asia from a comparative perspective

- Identify key geographic features of East Asia
- Compare the East Asian countries’ demography, cities, and other facts

- World regions in global context, Ch 8 (East Asia)
- Our World in Data website (https://ourworldindata.org/)
- Lecture_M1-2

Module 2 Aug 28- Sep 3

Colonial history and legacy

- Describe the colonial history and legacy of East Asia of the 20th century

- Gender, Class, Sexuality, and Labor under Japanese Colonialism and Imperialist War (Soh, 2008)
- Weekly assignment M2: Reading & lecture reflection
- Class activity M2: Critical review of the M1 country comparisons

Class activity M1-1: Self-intro word cloud

Weekly assignment M1-2: Readings quiz

Class activity M1-2: Comparisons chart
The Comfort Women (HISS 2016/ a short anime about comfort women)

- Lecture_M2
Module 3  Sep 4-10 & Gentrification
Urbanization & Gentrification
• Describe the patterns of urbanization and gentrification in China and South Korea
  • Urban China (World Bank, 2014; Read pp.5-31)
  • Shin & Kim (2016)
  • China's competition for living space (DW Documentary, 2021) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6wY2b9amnA)
  • Lecture_M3

• Korea's twentieth-century odyssey, Ch. 7 (Robinson, 2007)

• North Korean Nation-Building Outside North Korea (Shin, 2022)

Module 4  Sep 11-17 Geopolitics & DPRK
Geopolitics & DPRK
• Explain what geopolitics is and describe recent historical events in North Korea within the geopolitical contexts of East Asia
  • What North Koreans think of South Korea (Asian Boss, 2017) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaVjD_XLtR0)
  • Story of a North Korean defector (YonTong TV, 2019) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaVjD_XLtR0)

• Explain why North Koreans leave their country and how North Korean Defectors live in diaspora

• Weekly assignment M3: Reading & lecture reflection
• Class activity M3: Virtual fieldwork

• Weekly assignment M4: Reading & lecture reflection
• Class activity M4: TBD
Module 5  Sep 18-24  Nuke: past, present, and future

• Describe the history of pro- and anti-nuclear movements in Japan
  • Explain the causes, consequences, and implications of the Fukushima nuclear disaster
  • The nuclear past and present (Manabe, 2015)
  • The history of the anti-nuclear movement on the Kii Peninsula (Citizens’ Nuclear Information Center, 2019) (https://cnic.jp/english/?p=4446)
  • Inside Japan’s Nuclear Meltdown (Frontline PBS, 2012) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRKScRgsUaE)

• Weekly assignment M5: Reading & lecture reflection
• Class activity M5: Media analysis
• Lecture_M5
Module 6
Sep 25 - Oct 1
6: Aging Society

- Explain the causes, responses, and implications of 'aging society' in Japan
- Discuss the issue of aging society with students from Japan
- Japan's Demographic Time Bomb
  (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tALSvwS1XAM)
- The Japanese economy
  (Jones, 2022; Chapters 1&2)
- The Graying of America: More Older Adults Than Kids by 2035
  (US Census Bureau, 2018)
- Immigrants play big role in caring for elderly and disabled in U.S
  (Reuters, 2019)
- Zoom Meeting (with Japan's Sophia U students): Oct 3
  7:30-9:30pm (attendance required)
- Weekly assignment M6: Reading & lecture reflection
- Class activity M6-1: Pre-meeting interactions with Sophia U students
- Class activity M6-2: Reflection on collaboration with Sophia U students
  (Due: Oct 8)

Module 7
Oct 2-8
Environmental issues and responses

- Explain the causes, responses, and implications of air pollution in
  China's major cities
- China's Environmental Challenges, Ch. 2 (Shapiro, 2011)
- Under the dome with no way out? (Golley, 2016)
  Under the Dome
- Weekly assignment M7: Reading & lecture reflection
- Class activity M7: Discussion on the impact
### Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Due</th>
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<td>Sun Aug 27, 2023</td>
<td>📜 Class activity M1-1: Word Cloud (self-intro)</td>
<td>due by 11:59pm</td>
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<td>📜 Class activity M1-2: Country comparisons</td>
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<tr>
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<td>📜 Weekly assignment M1-2: Readings Quiz</td>
<td>due by 11:59pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun Sep 3, 2023</td>
<td>📜 Class activity M2: A critical review of country comparisons</td>
<td>due by 11:59pm</td>
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**Documentary by Chai Jing, 2015**

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5bHb3ljjbc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5bHb3ljjbc))

- Lecture_M7

- of Covid-19 on China's air quality and future prospect
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<td>Sun Sep 10, 2023</td>
<td>📚 Weekly assignment M2: Reading &amp; lecture reflection</td>
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<td>Sun Sep 17, 2023</td>
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<td>Tue Oct 3, 2023</td>
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