

# IR 251: EAST ASIAN POLITICS

WHEATON COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
SPRING 2017

Professor: Dr. Timothy W. Taylor  
Meeting: MSC 204, MWF, 11:35am-12:45pm  
Office Hours: M/W/F 3:30pm-5:00pm, T 8:30am-10:00am  
and by appointment  
Office: MSC 215  
E-mail: tim.taylor@wheaton.edu

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why do democratic and authoritarian countries coexist as neighbors in one of the world's densest trade networks? What explains the great inequalities both within and between East Asian countries? These are questions that we will explore in this course. We will examine the historical development of East Asian states and their contemporary domestic and international politics. In this course we will investigate the three sub-regions on East Asia: Northeast Asia, China and Southeast Asia. Finally, contemporary problems of international relations will be discussed ranging from nuclear weapons to island disputes to power transitions away from American hegemony.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The knowledge and skills you will develop in this course will help students understand East Asian political systems and international politics. Students will build a knowledge of social inquiry as they view the region. The course has three primary objectives:

- 1. Identify social science theories and methods of research testing.** We will examine how social science works as a discipline and how comparative politics and international relations tests its theories.
- 2. Appraise the political institutions of East Asian states.** Students will evaluate the efficacy of political institutions and the domestic politics of East Asian states.
- 3. Develop a theoretically and empirically derived perspective on current affairs in the region.** Students will assess the greatest challenges and constraints for the international politics of East Asia.

**Department Mission Statement:** Equip students with knowledge about politics and government, with methods for analyzing political actors and institutions, and with the ability to apply biblical and theological perspectives to public life.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required:

1. Joseph, William A. 2014. *Politics of China: An Introduction, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press. [abbreviated as **Politics of China** in course schedule]
2. Heng, Liang and Judith Shapiro. 1984. *Son of the Revolution*. New York: Random House.

3. *The Economist* subscription. Students will purchase a semester-long subscription from the Politics & IR Department in the MSC. The cost is \$35 and grants access to a hard copy of the paper and online access. Students are required to read the “Asia” and “China” sections:
4. Additional required readings
  - Additional readings will be assigned that are relevant for course topics. These readings will be made available (1) through the library's electronic journals, (2) hyperlinked to open online access, or (3) posted to the course site on *Schoology*.

## ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

The course grade will be broken down approximately as follows:

1. Midterm exam (Mar. 24)	25%
2. Final exam (May 2)	30%
3. Term paper (Apr. 21)	25%
4. Presentation	5%
5. Quizzes	10%
6. Participation	5%

### Examinations

- Midterm Exam (**Friday, March 24**)
  - Note: 20% of points will be derived from a map quiz where students will identify countries, capital cities and major geographic features in East Asia (recommended: [Asia countries quiz](#)).
- Final Exam (**Tuesday, May 2, 10:30am-12:30pm**)
  - If you have a scheduling conflict with the exam times, please drop the course. My policy for missed assignments and exams is simple: the only appropriate excuses are compelling, unanticipated, nonacademic reasons. Sleeping-in is nonacademic but not compelling (even if it is unanticipated). Personal conflicts such as late flights also do not qualify.

### Term Paper

- Students will select a country and then compose a structured argument concerning its domestic politics and foreign policy challenges (i.e. two-level game). The paper has two components: (1) select one East Asian state and identify its most prominent foreign policy objective/challenge; (2) examine its contemporary domestic politics in relation to the challenges and opportunities in realizing the foreign policy objective. Recommended paper length is 8-12 pages. More details will be provided.

### Presentation

- Students will prepare a structured 5-minute presentation on the trends of Christianity in one East Asian state. Presentations must address: (1) the government’s interaction with Christians (ambivalent, beneficent, malevolent); (2) recent trends in the national Christian church; (3) future direction and challenges for Christianity in the country. Students are encouraged to discuss any persecutions of Christians and identify evangelism leaders. Students must sign-up for a presentation day and country using a shared spreadsheet (maximum of three presenters per country).

### Quizzes

- There will be **six** quizzes administered throughout the semester where the lowest grade will be dropped (i.e. the 5 highest quiz scores will be kept). Quizzes assess (1) substantive content from class lecture/readings and (2) current events from *The Economist* (Asian-related news).

## Participation

- Class meetings are participatory as lectures will be combined with active discussion and small group interactions. Students are expected to engage in class lectures/discussions and be open participants in small group activities including debates. Students are incapable of participation if they do not attend.

## Grading Scale

A	94 - 100%	C	74 - 76.99%
A-	90 - 93.99%	C-	70 - 73.99%
B+	87 - 89.99%	D+	67 - 69.99%
B	84 - 86.99%	D	63 - 66.99%
B-	80 - 83.99%	D-	60 - 62.99%
C+	77 - 79.99%	F	59.99% and below

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

### Content Student Responsibility:

- All reading material and class presentations is eligible for assessment. Students are responsible for all announcements made in class and email/Schoology. All lectures, handouts, assignments, and exams may not be published on the internet or in any other manner without the instructor's permission.

### Class Participation:

- Participate and attend class discussions. Please ask questions and make comments! Students are encouraged to challenge ideas discussed in class. In all discussions, everyone must provide his/her fellow students with full respect and courtesy.

### Professionalism:

- Be professional. Unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated (e.g. arriving late and leaving early, talking/texting on cell phones, distracting internet browsing, side conversations).

### Computers & Devices:

- Computers and mobile devices (e.g. cell phones) are strictly prohibited. Web browsing is distracting to students around you and [studies](#) find computer use tends to decrease academic performance.

### Office Hours:

- Office hours are held in MSC 215 (see schedule on page 1). Students may reserve a timeslot through writing their name on a timeslot posted outside the professor's door. The weekly timeslot sign-up sheet will be posted on the first business day of the week. Walk-in appointments are appropriate.

### E-mail:

- Emails will be responded to on the same or following business day. Professional conduct is expected when emailing the instructor and peers. Emails must begin with a salutation, have a clear and polite body, and appropriate closure that includes the student's name. The professor will not respond to unprofessional emails.

### Academic Dishonesty:

- Cheating and plagiarism will be punished to the fullest extent.
- In all papers for this course, **you must document** all thoughts and ideas that are not your own, even if you are not directly quoting a source. Violation of these policies, when discovered, will result in appropriate disciplinary measures.

- “Academic dishonesty occurs when a student or any member of an academic community fails to truthfully represent the sources of their work, whether on tests, in papers, presentations and projects, or in any academic assignment. Academic dishonesty involves both stealing and lying, in that we steal the ideas and expressions of another contrary to their intent and, in representing them as our own, we lie regarding their authorship. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, any misrepresentation or deception related to assigned or voluntary academic work, any deliberate attempt to gain unfair advantage in completing requirements, and colluding, aiding or abetting the academic dishonesty of another student. The College-wide policy on Academic Honesty is presented in the Student Handbook, and in accord with that policy, incidents of academic dishonesty in this course will be dealt with decisively. All academic work involves engagement with and presentation of the ideas of others, and so your professor would be very willing to assist students in learning how to properly use and give credit for the work of others.”
  - Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee, 2004

Inclusive Language:

- “For academic discourse, spoken and written, the faculty expects students to use gender inclusive language for human beings.”

Late Assignments:

- All assignments are to be printed, stapled, and submitted at the beginning of class. All late submissions will be docked 5 percentage points and will be deducted an additional 5 percent for each business day they are late. Papers will not be accepted after one week from the due date. Late assignments must be submitted to the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Re-grading:

- If you want to request a re-grade for a paper or exam, you must submit your request in writing within one week of receiving the graded assignment. All requests must include an explanation outlining why you think the answer/paper deserved a higher grade. If no such request is made within the allotted time, your grade will be considered final. Re-grading is done as a whole, thus readjustments may lead to a higher or lower grade.

Incompletes:

- The grade incomplete shall be assigned only when the student's work is of passing quality and the student has completed all work up to the time of the final exam. Moreover, an incomplete will only be given in cases of medical or family emergency.

Accommodations:

- Wheaton College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to contact the Academic and Disability Services Office as early in the semester as possible. Please call [630.752.5941](tel:630.752.5941) or send an e-mail to [jennifer.nicodem@wheaton.edu](mailto:jennifer.nicodem@wheaton.edu) for further information.

# TOPICS AND COURSE SCHEDULE<sup>1</sup>

I expect you to do the assigned reading *before* the meeting, and to come to class prepared to engage the material with questions, hunches, and confusion. I do not expect you to understand everything you read the first time you encounter it, but I do expect you to try. Re-reading previously assigned material after a relevant class is one of the best ways to master this material.

## PART I: AN OVERVIEW OF EAST ASIA

Session 1 (Jan. 9): Introduction

- Please bring a bold **Name Tag** to put on your desk throughout the class.
- [“How to Read \(and Understand\) a Social Science Journal Article.”](#)

Session 2 (Jan. 11): Imperialism in East Asia

- Politics of China: **pages 41-56.**
- Cumings, Bruce. 1984. "The Origins and Development of the Northeast Asian Political Economy: Industrial Sectors, Product Cycles, and Political Consequences." *International Organization* 38(1): 1-40.

January 13: NO CLASS – AEI conference

January 16: NO CLASS – MLK Day

Session 3 (Jan. 18): A Regional Clash of Economic and Political Disparity

- Solingen, Etel. 2007. "Pax Asiatica versus Bella Levantina: The Foundations of War and Peace in East Asia and the Middle East." *American Political Science Review* 101(4): 757-780.
- Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42(3): 427-460.

## PART II: NORTHEAST ASIA

Session 4 (Jan. 20): Japan History

- [“The Meiji Restoration and Modernization.”](#) *Asia for Educators, Columbia University.*
- [“The Treaty of Portsmouth and the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905.”](#) *Office of the Historian.*
- [“Japan’s Quest for Power and World War II in Asia.”](#) *Asia for Educators, Columbia University.*

Session 5 (Jan. 23): Japan Government

- O’Neil, Patrick H., Karl Fields and Don Share. 2015. *Cases in Comparative Politics, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition.* New York: W.W. Norton, **Chapter 6, pp. 270-329.**
- Scheiner, Ethan. 2006. *Democracy without Competition in Japan: Opposition Failure in a One-Party Dominant State.* New York: Cambridge University Press: **Chapter 1.**

Session 6 (Jan. 25): Japan Foreign Policy

- Yahuda, Michael. 2011. *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.* New York: Routledge: **Chapter 11.**
- Recommended:

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<sup>1</sup> Course topics, readings, and dates are subject to change.

- Panda, Ankit. "[What Will a Kuril Islands Deal Between Russia and Japan Take?](#)" *The Diplomat*. November 7, 2016.

- **Quiz 1**

Session 7 (Jan. 27): Korean Peninsula History

- Hickey, Michael. "[The Korean War: An Overview](#)." BBC. March 21, 2011.
- "[Korean History and Political Geography](#)." *Asian Society*.

Session 8 (Jan. 30): South Korea Government

- Croissant, Aurel. "[Electoral Politics in South Korea](#)."

Session 9 (Feb. 1): South Korea Economy and Foreign Policy

- Moon, Chung-in and Taehwan Kim. "South Korea's International Relations: Challenges to developmental Realism," in *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*, Samuel S. Kim. (ed). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Recommended:
  - "[K-poparazzi](#)." *Radiolab*. February 24, 2016.

Session 10 (Feb. 3): North Korea Kim Dynasty

- Cha, Victor. 2013. *The Impossible State: North Korea Past and Future*. New York: Harper Collins: **Chapter 4**.
- De Mesquita, Bruce Bueno, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93(4): 791-807.

Session 11 (Feb. 6): North Korea Economy and Foreign Policy

- Koo, Bon Sang, Jun Young Choi, and Junseok Kim. 2016. "Analyzing Kim Jong-un's Survival Strategy from the Comparative Authoritarian Perspective." *Pacific Focus* 31(2): 211-231.
- "[North Korea's Illegal Economy](#)." NPR: *Planet Money*. July 15, 2011.
- Friedman, Uri. "[Coming of Age in North Korea](#)." *The Atlantic*. August 26, 2016.
- Recommended:
  - "[A Teenager's Guide to Doing Business in North Korea](#)." NPR: *Planet Money*. June 27, 2014.

Session 12 (Feb. 8): The Future of the Korean Peninsula

- "[Korea Opportunities](#)." *The Economist*. May 5, 2016.
- "[Bad or Mad?](#)" *The Economist*. October 26, 2013.
- Goldberg, Jeffrey. "[Donald Trump and the Threat of Nuclear War](#)." *The Atlantic*. Nov. 7, 2016.
- Wit, Joel S. and Richard Sokolsky. "[Can Trump Make a Deal with North Korea?](#)" *The Atlantic*. November 22, 2016.
- **Quiz 2**

### PART III: CHINA

Session 13 (Feb. 10): China History: The Rise of Communism

- Heng, Liang and Judith Shapiro. 1984. *Son of the Revolution*: **3-100**.
- Recommended:
  - Politics of China: **Chapter 3**.

Session 14 (Feb. 13): China History: The Cultural Revolution I

- Heng, Liang and Judith Shapiro. 1984. *Son of the Revolution*: 101-188.
- **Students must be prepared to discuss book.**

Session 15 (Feb. 15): China History: The Cultural Revolution II

- Heng, Liang and Judith Shapiro. 1984. *Son of the Revolution*: 189-292.
- **Students must be prepared to discuss book.**

Session 16 (Feb. 17): China History: Reforms and Economic Miracles

- Politics of China: **Chapter 4.**
- [“The Secret Document That Transformed China.”](#) NPR: *Planet Money*. January 13, 2012.

February 20: NO CLASS – Presidents Day

Session 17 (Feb. 22): China’s Government

- Politics of China: **Chapter 6.**
- **Quiz 3**

Session 18 (Feb. 24): Selecting Leaders: A Political Meritocracy

- Bell, Daniel A. 2015. *The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy*. Princeton University Press: **Chapter 2.**
- [“How to Make Leaders.”](#) Youtube. October 17, 2013.

Session 19 (Feb. 27): China’s Political Economy

- Politics of China: **Chapter 8.**
- [“China, China, China.”](#) NPR: *Planet Money*. September 9, 2015.

Session 20 (Mar. 1): Inequality in China

- Politics of China: **Chapters 9 & 10.**

Session 21 (Mar. 3): Political Freedoms in China

- [“The Wedding House.”](#) *The Economist*. November 26, 2016.
- [“China’s Digital Dictatorship.”](#) *The Economist*. December 17, 2016.
- Politics of China: **Chapter 14.**

March 6 - March 10: NO CLASS – Spring Break

Session 22 (Mar. 13): The Environment and Public Health in China

- Politics of China: **Chapters 12 & 13.**

Session 23 (Mar. 15): China’s Frontier: Hong Kong and Tibet

- Politics of China: **Chapters 15 & 17.**
- **Quiz 4**

Session 24 (Mar. 17): Peer Paper Challenge

- Students will use class time to meet with a peer(s) to review and critique term papers.

Session 25 (Mar. 20): China and the West

- Steinfeld, Edward S. 2010. *Playing Our Game: Why China's Rise Doesn't Threaten the West*. New York: Oxford University Press: **Chapters 1 & 3**.
- Green, Mike. "[The Legacy of Obama's 'Pivot' to Asia](#)." *Foreign Policy*, September 3, 2016.
- Recommended:
  - Tellis, Ashley J. and Travis Tanner. 2012. "[China's Military Challenge](#)." *Strategic Asia*.

Session 26 (Mar. 22): Catch Up and Midterm Review

- Email questions to professor by 8am to be considered for class review.

Session 27 (Mar. 24): **Midterm Exam**

#### **PART IV: SOUTHEAST ASIA**

Session 28 (Mar. 27): Vietnam I: A Political History

- SarDesai, D.R. 2008. *Southeast Asia: Past and Present, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Los Angeles: UCLA: **Chapter 17**.
- Johnson, Lyndon B. 2013. "The United States in Vietnam," in *Southeast Asian History: Essential Readings*. D.R. SarDesai (ed). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Herring, George C. 1991. "America and Vietnam: The Unending War." *Foreign Affairs*.

Session 29 (Mar. 29): Vietnam II: Government and Contemporary Challenges

- Kingsbury, Damien. 2008. *South-East Asia: A Political Profile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press: **Chapter 9**.
- SarDesai, D.R. 2008. *Southeast Asia: Past and Present, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Los Angeles: UCLA: **Chapter 26**.
- McCormac, Dennis C. "[Vietnam's Foreign Policy Tightrope](#)." *East Asia Forum*. October 12, 2013.
- **Quiz 5**

Session 30 (Mar. 31): Thailand

- Dayley, Robert and Clark D. Beher. 2013. *Southeast Asia in the New International Era, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press: **Chapter 2**.
- Mimoun, Raphael and Joseph Brennan. "[A Chance for Change in the New Thailand](#)." *Foreign Policy*. November 18, 2016.

Session 31 (Apr. 3): The Philippines

- Kingsbury, Damien. 2008. *South-East Asia: A Political Profile, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press: **Chapter 12**.
- "[A Harvest of Lead](#)." *The Economist*. August 13, 2016.
- Rushford, Greg. "[What Rodrigo Duterte Is Giving Up](#)." *Foreign Policy*. October 17, 2016.
- Recommended:
  - "[A Liar or a Killer](#)." *The Economist*. December 17, 2016.

Session 32 (Apr. 5): Indonesia

- Dayley, Robert and Clark D. Beher. 2013. *Southeast Asia in the New International Era, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press: **Chapter 8**.
- Djalal, Dino Patti. "[Indonesian Foreign Policy: Raising the Game in 2016](#)." *The Jakarta Post*. January 5, 2016.

Session 33 (Apr. 7): Political Violence in Southeast Asia



- Cribb, Robert and Michele Ford. 2010. "[The Killings of 1965-66.](#)" *Inside Indonesia*, 99(Jan-Mar).
- "[Khmer Rouge History.](#)" *Cambodia Tribunal Monitor.*
- Suu Kyi, Aung San. 2013. "Freedom from Fear," in *Southeast Asian History: Essential Readings.* D.R. SarDesai (ed). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Session 34 (Apr. 10): *The Killing Fields*

- In class we will watch *The Killing Fields* (1984).

Session 35 (Apr. 12): *The Killing Fields*

- In class we will watch *The Killing Fields* (1984).

April 14: NO CLASS – Good Friday

Session 36 (Apr. 17): ASEAN

- Johnston, Alastair Iain. 2003. "Socialization in International Institutions: The ASEAN Way and International Relations Theory," in *International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific.* G. John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno (eds.) New York: Columbia University Press.
- "ASEAN Vision 2020," in *Southeast Asian History: Essential Readings.* D.R. SarDesai (ed). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

## PART V: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN EAST ASIA

Session 37 (Apr. 19): Island Disputes

- "[Why Is the South China Sea Contentious?](#)" BBC. July 12, 2016.
- French, Howard W. 2014. "[China's Dangerous Game.](#)" *The Atlantic.* November 2014.
- Himmelman, Jeff. "[A Game of Shark and Minnow.](#)" *New York Times Magazine.* October 27, 2013.
- Recommended:
  - Horton, Chris. 2016. "[Southeast Asia's Dance with China.](#)" *The New York Times.* May 26, 2016.
  - "[The South China Sea: Come Back from the Brink, Beijing.](#)" *The Economist.* July 14, 2016.
- **Quiz 6**

Session 38 (Apr. 21): Trade and Economic Asymmetries

- Ravenhill, John. 2009. "The Economics-Security Nexus in the Asia-Pacific Region," in *Security Politics in the Asian-Pacific: A Regional-Global Nexus?* William T. Tow (ed.) New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Crescenzi, Mark JC. 2003. "Interdependence and Conflict: When Does Symmetry Matter?" *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 20(1): 73-92.
- Recommended:
  - "[How Fear Turned a Surplus into a Shortage.](#)" NPR: *Planet Money.* January 22, 2013.
- **Term Papers due to professor (hard copy) by 4:30pm.**

Session 39 (Apr. 24): Nuclear Weapons in the Asia-Pacific

- Hanson, Marianne and Rajesh Rajagopalan. 2009. "Nuclear Weapons: Asian Case Studies and Global Ramifications," in *Security Politics in the Asian-Pacific: A Regional-Global Nexus?* William T. Tow (ed.) New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Revere, Evans J.R. "[Dealing with a Nuclear-Armed North Korea.](#)" *Brookings.* October 4, 2016.
- Lewis, Jeffrey. "[Why Is North Korea's Fifth Nuclear Test Different from Its Other Tests?](#)" *The Atlantic.* September, 10, 2016.

- Recommended:
  - Lewis, Jeffrey. "North Korea's Nuke Program Is Way More Sophisticated Than You Think." *Foreign Policy*. September 9, 2016.

Session 40 (Apr. 26): Cybersecurity and Intellectual Property in East Asia

- Segal, Adam. "[What to Do About China's New Cybersecurity Regulations?](#)" *CFR*. February 2, 2015.
- "[The Quiet Old Lad Who Whispers 'Fair Use'.](#)" *NPR: Planet Money*. July 1, 2016.
- Lee, Timothy B. "[The Trans-Pacific Partnership Is Great for Elites. Is It Good for Anyone Else?](#)" *Vox*. October 7, 2015.

Session 41 (Apr. 28): Conclusion and Course Review

- Email questions to professor by 8am to be considered for class review.

**FINAL EXAM:** Tuesday, May 2, 10:30am-12:30pm