

POLITICS IN KOREA AND EAST ASIA (# 35725-01)
Ewha International Co-ed Summer College (Summer 2019, Tentative)

Instructor:

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Course Description and Objectives:

The Korean peninsula is currently one of the most interesting and controversial regions in the world. South Korea has been one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world since 1960s. North Korea has many actual and potential points of conflict which could pose serious challenges to the world in the 21th century. In addition, East Asia is undoubtedly one of the most important regions in the world today. East Asia has become a key area of world trade and political events. Moreover, the economies of these countries have grown more quickly than any other country in history.

This course designed to provide a basic understanding of governments and politics in Korean peninsula and East Asian countries. Primary attention will be paid to Japan, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong as well as South and North Korea. This course will examine and compare the major aspects and functions of political systems, processes, and changes to explore the general patterns of similarities and differences that exist among these nations and the dynamics that are deep-seated in their political and economic changes. The course will conduct a systematic comparison between nations: political culture, political development, political institutions, political process, political economy, and political change. This course is also designed to prepare students for their future career development in foreign policy areas and international organizations concerning China, Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, South Korea and other Asian countries, and serve as an adequate basis for further study.

Teaching Methods:

This course will be utilized a seminar format and composed of lectures, class discussions, watching films, and field trips. There will be ample opportunity for students to participate in class discussion. Thus, reading assignments should be completed in advance. Questions and comments are always welcome. Over the session, students will watch a few films in class which portray various issues in East Asian countries such as modern history, democratic movements, authoritarianism, political cultures, etc. In addition, during class time students might have a few site visits possibly including the War Memorial Museum, the National Assembly, the Office of President (Cheong Wa Dae), Sodaemun Prison, etc.

Reading Materials:

All reading materials will be available in electronic files, reading packets, or pdf files provided by the instructor.

Course Requirements/Grading:**1. Attendance and Class Participation (50%)**

All students are expected to attend classes, participate in discussions, and take exams. Especially, attendance is mandatory. Attendance and class notes will be essential for students' success in this course since all exams will draw heavily from the class lectures. Attendance and active participation in classroom discussion is highly valued and can influence students' grades. Class participation and attendance will be constituted 40% of overall grade. Students who have two or more unexcused absences will lose serious points from students' overall grades.

2. Examinations (Mid-term 25% and Final 25%)

There will be two regularly scheduled in-class examinations throughout the course. Each exam will be 25% of overall grade. Both exams are designed to test your understanding of the concepts presented in the readings as well as the material covered in lecture and discussion. Study guides of the examinations will be provided in advance.

Synopsis of Grading:

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|--|-------------|
| Midterm Examination on July 10th (Wednesday) | 25 % |
| Final Examination on July 23rd (Tuesday) | 25 % |
| <u>Attendance and Class Participation</u> | <u>50 %</u> |
| Total | 100 % |

Grading Scale:

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A+ 97.5-100 | A 93.5-97.4 | A- 89.5-93.4 | B+ 87.5-89.4 | B 83.5-87.4 |
| B- 79.5-83.4 | C+ 77.5-79.4 | C 73.5-77.4 | C- 69.5-73.4 | D+ 67.5-69.4 |
| D 59.5-67.4 | F below 59.4 | | | |

Academic Honesty and Unprofessional Behavior:

Academic honesty is the foundation of the entire enterprise of a university. Only in an environment of honesty can genuine learning occur and good citizenship be fostered. Because academic honesty is treated as a serious matter, the course policy is one of zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. In addition, arriving late without good reason or making distracting noise in class (whispering, beepers, cell phones, etc.) is unprofessional and selfish. Such behavior bothers others who have paid money to concentrate and learn something in class.

Persons with Disabilities:

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. I will make every effort to accommodate verified disabilities so that you may do your best work in this course. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact to the instructor.

Tentative Course Schedule and Reading List:

A syllabus is a plan for the course, not holy writ. If circumstances warrant, the instructor may modify any or all parts of the syllabus as the course progresses. If the instructor deems that modifications are necessary, such modifications will be announced in class.

Week One – Why East Asia?

July 27 (TH)

Lim, Timothy C., *Politics in East Asia: Explaining Change & Continuity*, pp. 1-32

Collinwood, Dean W., *Japan and the Pacific Rim*, pp. 3-16

Week Two – South Korea and North Korea

July 1 (M), 2 (T), 3 (W), and 4 (TH)

Collinwood, Dean W., *Japan and the Pacific Rim*, pp. 162-169 & 134-141

Week Three – China and Hong Kong

July 8 (M), 9 (T), 10 (W), and 11 (TH)

Collinwood, Dean W., *Japan and the Pacific Rim*, pp. 66-79 & 86-93

Week Four – Taiwan and Japan

July 15 (M), 16 (T), 17 (W), and 18 (TH)

Collinwood, Dean W., *Japan and the Pacific Rim*, pp. 170-177 & 25-46

Week Five – East Asia and the World

July 22 (M) and 23 (T)

Lim, Timothy C., *Politics in East Asia: Explaining Change & Continuity*, pp. 297-345