

# Syllabus (2025-Summer)

Course Title	International Relations of East Asia	Course No.	
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Thr Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name Saeme Kim	Department Graduate School of International Studies	
	E-mail saemekim@ewha.ac.kr	Phone 010-8709-7437	
Office Hours Office Location			

## I. Course Overview

### 1. Course Description

East Asia is a dynamic and high-stake region in world politics. It is home to several of the world's largest economies and nuclear powers, a region where democracies and authoritarianism coexists, and has two of the world's last divided countries (Koreas and Taiwan). Unresolved territorial and history issues plague bilateral relations while China's increasing aggressiveness and North Korea's pursuit of nuclear weapons threaten the stability of the entire international community. Indeed, the region is rife with flashpoints that can erupt at any time with ramifications that go beyond the region. Meanwhile, it lacks institutions that can temper these volatile issues. These dynamics make the region increasingly difficult to analyze.

This course provides an overview of international relations of East Asia. At the end of the course, students will learn how to use IR theories to analyze key issues in East Asia, the interests of major actors, and the drivers of political, economic, and security relations among those major actors. Students will also gain in depth knowledge of three regional challenges, specifically on the Taiwan Strait, North Korea, and the politics of identity and memory.

### 2. Prerequisites

None.

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
60%	40%	%	%	%

### 3. Course Format

Each class will start with a lecture and will be followed by small group discussions.

### 4. Course Objectives

- To gain a comprehensive understanding of the political, economic, and security relations in East Asia
- To understand how theories of IR can be applied to East Asia
- To analyse the interests of key states in the region
- To examine major challenges facing the region.

## 5. Evaluation Systems

Relative evaluation  Absolute evaluation (for Ewha International Summer College students only)  Others

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Others
20%	20%	%	20%	%	20%	20%	%

## II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

### 1. Required Materials

Articles will be provided during class and online

### 2. Supplementary Materials

### 3. Optional Additional Readings

## III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/30)	Introduction
Day 2	(7/1)	IR theories and East Asia (realism, liberalism, constructivism)
Day 3	(7/2)	The impact of the Cold War on East Asia
Day 4	(7/3)	China in East Asia (China's rise, territorial disputes)
Day 5	(7/7)	Japan in East Asia (Japan's economic miracle, decline)
Day 6	(7/8)	South Korea in East Asia (soft power, middle power diplomacy)
Day 7	(7/9)	North Korea in East Asia (dictatorship, human rights, weapons of mass destruction)
Day 8	(7/10)	Midterm exams
Day 9	(7/14)	Southeast Asia (authoritarian legacies, regionalism)
Day 10	(7/15)	The US in East Asia (alliance system, US-China rivalry, minilateralism)

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
<b>Day 11</b>	(7/16)	Regional challenges: Taiwan strait
<b>Day 12</b>	(7/17)	Regional challenges: North Korea
<b>Day 13</b>	(7/21)	Regional challenges: Politics of identity and memory
<b>Day 14</b>	(7/22)	Towards a shared future? Challenges and opportunities
<b>Day 15</b>	(7/23)	Final exams
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

#### IV. Special Accommodations

\* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Visual impairment: braille, enlarged reading materials</li> <li>. Hearing impairment: note-taking assistant</li> <li>. Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra days for submission, alternative assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Visual impairment: braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant</li> <li>. Hearing impairment: written examination instead of oral examination</li> <li>. Physical impairment: longer examination hours, note-taking assistant</li> </ul>

-Actual support may vary depending on the course.

\* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.