

Asian International Relations (POLS 244)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this course is to develop a clear understanding of international relations in East Asia, primarily China, Japan, and Two Koreas. The development of East Asia being economic backwater to export powerhouse has certainly not escaped the attention of social scientists. China nowadays enjoys high growth rates as well as the largest foreign currency reserves in the world. Japan recovered from the decade-long depression although its economy started struggling again. South Korea went through the transition to democracy and successfully recovered from the 1997 financial crisis. On the other hand, the North Korean nuclear crisis raises serious security concerns to neighboring countries as well as the United States. The recent alleged attack on South Korea's naval ship further aggravates the security issues in the region. Thus, we explore domestic politics and international relations among these countries and the United States.

REQUIREMENTS

Three Exams (20% each): **No make-up exam will be given unless students have a university approved excuse.**

Response to 10 Discussion Questions (4% each): Responses will not be graded. As long as you post your response (at least 200 words) to the discussion question and respond at least once to another student's post, you will receive the full credit (4 points).

REQUIRED TEXTS

June Teufel Dreyer. 2010. *China's Political System*. Pearson Longman. 7th ed. (6th ed is also acceptable)

Hayes, Louis D. 2009. *Introduction to Japanese Politics* 5th ed. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

Heo, Uk and Terence Roehrig. 2010. *South Korea since 1980*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grades

In addition to the discussion response, you are also required to post a comment/response to another student's response to the discussion question. **Keep in mind that all responses and posting on the Discussion Questions forum must follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face to face classroom. Your responses to the discussion questions should**

address the question itself and demonstrate that you understand the topic under discussion. When you respond to someone else's post, do so with respect and thought. Personal attacks or excessive opinion-spouting will not be tolerated. You should engage each other's ideas and respond in a thoughtful, constructive, informed manner. Your response will NOT be graded. As long as you post two responses (one to the question itself which must be at least 200 words and another to another student's response which has no length requirement), you will get 4 points.

Final grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale that breaks down as follows. There is no extra credit or curve.

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92.9		
B+ = 87-89.9	B = 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9	
C+ = 77-79.9	C = 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9	
D+ = 67-69.9	D = 63-66.9	D = 60-62.9	F = Below 60

Any student who cheats on an exam or commits any other act of academic dishonesty will receive an F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate University authorities.

Flow of the Class

For this course, a week will start on Monday at 12:01 AM and end on Sunday 11:59PM. Lecture notes outlines and discussion questions posted on D2L combined with the readings from the textbook, will constitute the materials for the course. You are expected to read the chapter, access the lecture notes, and answer the discussion questions. Please remember that I will communicate with you through your UWM e-mail accounts. If you don't regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly. When you need to e-mail me something for the class, send it to me at heouk@uwm.edu.

Grade for this course will be based on three exams (20% each) and 10 responses to the discussion questions (4% each). Exam schedules are in the syllabus. Exams will have multiple choice questions and a short essay taken through the D2L site. You can take an exam at any time during the week it is available, but you will only have one opportunity to take it. **Once you begin the exam, you MUST finish it.** You cannot start an exam, then enter again at a later time to finish it. Also, exams will be timed (60 minutes), so you will have a set amount of time to take the exam once you begin. You should make sure that you have set aside the whole time allotted to take the exam just in case you need it. You should also make sure that you have a secure connection before you begin. Internet connection cannot be an excuse for incomplete exam. You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would do for any closed-book exam and be prepared to complete the exam on your own.

I will post a discussion question ten times. You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) in the "Discussion Questions Forum" on the D2L site by the designated date at midnight. Your response to the discussion question must be at least 200 words in length (3 points). Your comment on another student's post has no length requirement (1 point). If your

post is late, you will be penalized and get 1 point instead of 3 points. Late post of your comment on another student's discussion response will get no point.

Course Outline

9/2-5 Introduction (Please post a brief introduction of yourself)

Chinese Politics

- 9/6-19 Communist Politics
Readings: Dreyer Ch. 5-6.
Discussion 1 (due 9/19): China has a communist political system, but their economy is largely a capitalist market system. In your opinion, is this mixture of communist and capitalist system sustainable? If it is, explain why? If it is not sustainable, why not?
- 9/20-26 The Politics of the Economy
Reading: Dreyer Ch. 7
Discussion 2 (due 9/26): China has enjoyed high rates of economic growth in the past few decades. What makes them develop their economy so rapidly?
- 9/27-10/3 The Role of the Military and Foreign Policy
Reading: Dreyer Ch. 9 & 14
Discussion 3 (due 10/3): In your opinion, what is the main concern in the current US-China relationship? What can be done to deal with the issue?

10/4-10 **First Exam**

Japanese Politics

- 10/11-17 The Structure of Government and Political Participation
Reading: Hayes Ch. 3 & 7
Discussion 4 (due 10/24): Media plays an important role in US elections, but the Japanese news media plays a relatively small role. Which (large role vs. small role) do you think is better and why?
- 10/18-24 Political Parties
Reading: Hayes Ch. 4 & 5
Discussion 5 (due 10/31): Although power has shifted to other parties, the Liberal Democratic Party had been in power for several decades. Despite the dominance of one party, we still consider Japan a democracy. Explain why?
- 10/25-31 The Economy

Reading: Hayes Ch. 9

Discussion 6 (due 11/7): Japan had enjoyed high rates of economic growth prior to the 1990s. Since then, however, its economy has been largely sluggish. In your opinion, has the Japanese economy passed its prime time and is likely to continue to decline or is it likely to recover and continue to be an economic superpower?

Justify your answer.

11/1-7 **Second Exam**

Korean Politics

11/8-14 Democratization

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 2 & 3

Discussion 7 (due 11/14): South Korea went through the transition to democracy in the late 1980s, which has brought in a lot of political, economic, and social changes. Describe an example of changes and explain why the change is good or bad for the nation.

11/15-21 Economic Development and Reform

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 4 & 5

Discussion 8 (due 11/21): Some scholars argue that democracy is good for economic growth because of protection of individual property rights which enhances private investment. In contrast, some other scholars contend that democracy is harmful because of the role of labor unions and interest groups. In your opinion, how has democratization affected the South Korean economy. Justify your answer.

11/22-28 Thanksgiving

11/29-12/5 Inter-Korean Relations

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 6

Discussion 9 (due 12/5): Why do you think North Korea has developed nuclear weapons and what can Seoul and Washington do to lead Pyongyang to end its nuclear program?

12/6-12 South Korea's Foreign Relations

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 7 & 8

Discussion 10 (due 12/12): South Korea's economic development has affected its foreign policy in three key areas: security relations; economic and political ties with some of the world's largest economic players; and the broadening of South Korean interests and involvement in the global community beyond Northeast Asia. South Korean economic success has made it a sought after political and economic partner and has changed its relations with North Korea, the United States, Japan, China, Russia, the EU, India, and the developing world. Pick a

nation or organization and describe how their relationship has changed as the South Korean economy develops.

12/13-19

Final Exam