

**Asian International Relations
(POLITICAL SCIENCE 778-343)**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The general objective of this course is to develop a clear understanding of recent changes in East Asia. Since the development of East Asia from being economic backwater to export powerhouses has certainly not escaped the attention of social scientists. The 1997 financial crisis and the North Korean nuclear crisis even increased global attention to Asia. Thus, this course examines China's rise and its impact on Japan and Korea. We will also have a simulation of the North Korean nuclear crisis to help understand the implications.

REQUIREMENTS

Two Exams (25% each): **No make-up exam will be given**
A Policy Position Paper (20%): 3-5 pages
Weekly Assignment and Response to Discussion Questions (30%, 3 points each)

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

GRADES:

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

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 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 question. 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.

There will be two exams (mid-term and final), which will be 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, and then enter again at a later time to finish it. Also, exams will be timed (50 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 because internet issue cannot be an excuse. You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would any closed-book exam and be prepared to complete the exam on your own.

I will post a discussion question 10 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. In addition, you MUST comment on at least another student's post to get full credit. You will get full credit as long as you meet the minimum requirement (at least 200 words and a comment on another student's post), but you will be downgraded if the quality of your response is too poor.

Course Outline

January 22-27 Introduction (Post a brief introduction of yourself)

January 28-February 3 Political and Economic Development in China
Reading: Shirk Ch. 2 (pp. 13-34): When you read Shirk Ch. 2, keep in mind the questions in China Lec 1.; China's Rise under Syllabus section of Content will also help you get a big picture of China's economic development although it is not required.
Discussion 1: China has a socialist system with a market economy. Do you think the Chinese economy can catch up with the US under the current system (mixture of the Socialist and capitalist) just like some studies predict.

February 4-10 US-China Rivalry in Asia
Reading: Shirk Ch. 8 (pp. 212-254) & Lecture notes
Discussion 2: China is viewed as a potential threat for the US in Asia. What are the main issues in the US-China relations? If you are the US president, how would you handle the issues?

February 11-17 US-Japan Alliance
Reading: Lecture notes
Discussion 3: In the recent past, the US-Japan relationship has been strained. What are the main issues in the US-Japan relations? If you are the US president, how would you deal with the issues?

February 18-24 China-Japan Relations

Reading: Shirk Ch. 6 (pp. 140-180)

Discussion 4: Name one current issue between China and Japan, explain the issue and take a position which side you agree more and explain why.

February 25-March 3 China-South Korea Relations

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 8 (pp. 183-191) & Lecture Notes

Discussion 5: China and South Korea were enemies during the Cold War, but they normalized the relationship in the early 1990s. Why do you think they normalized the relationship?

March 4- 10 **Mid-term Exam**

March 11-17 Installation and Consolidation of Democracy in South Korea

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 2 & 3

Discussion 6: What do you think helped the transition to democracy in South Korea? Typically scholars argue that economic development, education, industrialization, and foreign influence help democratization. Among them, which do you think played the key role in the Korean case?

March 18-24 Spring Recess

March 25-31 Economic Development and Financial Crisis in South Korea

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 4 & 5 (pp. 104-117)

Discussion 7: What do you think are the causes of financial crisis in South Korea in 1997?

April 1-7 Korea-Japan Relations

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 8 (pp. 192-199) & Lecture Notes

Discussion 8: Korea and Japan have an interesting relationship. They are close neighbors, but they have emotionally hostile relationship. One of the issues they have is a territorial issue over the Dokto (Takeshima) island. Based on the assigned reading (and more readings on your own), which side (South Korea or Japan) do you think has a better (more reasonable) claim over the island?

April 8-14 South Korea-US Alliance

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 7

Discussion 9: Anti-American sentiment periodically rises in South Korea despite the fact that the US troops helped South Korea from the Communist North. What do you think cause the anti-American sentiment in South Korea?

April 15-21 Korea-US FTA

Reading: Heo and Roehrig ch. 5 (pp. 118-128)

Discussion 10: Free trade agreement (FTA) between South Korea and the US was signed on June 30, 2007, but it had to be renegotiated to produce a new agreement (concluded on December 3, 2010) signed on February 10, 2011 because of strong

opposition in both countries. Even after renegotiation, it was not ratified by the legislatures in both countries until October 12, 2011 for the US and November 22, 2011 for South Korea. What do you think caused delay in ratification of the treaty? Is there a problem with the treaty?

April 22-May 5 Inter-Korean Relations & The North Korean Nuclear Crisis

Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 6

Discussion 11: What do you think is the best way for the US to deal with North Korea?

Policy Position Paper (due on May 6): The Six-party talk has been used to deal with the North Korean nuclear crisis. Do you think this is the best approach to handle the case? If yes, explain why. If you disagree with this approach, also explain reason. In addition, assume you are the president of South Korea or China. Describe how you would deal with the North Korean nuclear program.

May 7-13

Final Exam