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, the North Korean nuclear crisis, and China’s rise even increased global attention to Asia. Thus, we explore domestic politics and foreign policies of China, Japan, and two Koreas in this course.

REQUIREMENTS

Two Exams (25% each): **No make-up exam will be given**

Weekly Assignment and Response to Discussion Questions (33%, 3 points each; late post will get only 1 point; If posting is late by more than 3 days, 0 point will be given)

A Research Paper (17%): The paper must be at least 2,000 words long. At least five references other than on-line sources are required. Guidelines are below:
1. You MUST have a clearly and narrowly defined research question. You are free to choose any research question as long as it is related to the course subjects. I suggest you develop a research question in a literal question form. For instance, what led North Korea to develop nuclear weapons? Do arms races lead to conflicts? Does economic development lead to democracy? What causes interstate conflicts? Does economic condition affect elections?

2. In the introduction, you introduce the research question and describe why the question is meaningful and/or interesting.

3. At the beginning of the body, you provide background information. If it is a case study or analytical paper, you provide historical information so that the reader can understand the background. If it is a theoretical paper, you provide a literature review on the subject.

4. In the main body of the paper, you provide your answer to the research question. You MUST provide evidence to back up your argument/answer to the research question. Supporting evidence can be other scholars’ research findings, documented record, and/or statistical analysis results.

5. In the conclusion, you summarize what you did in the paper and discuss implications of your study.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Assigned readings will be available on the course site under Files.

GRADES:

Final grades will be calculated on a 100-point scale that breaks down as follows. There will be no extra credit or curve, so please do not ask for it.

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\begin{align*}
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
\end{align*}
\]

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 note outlines and discussion questions posted on Canvas combined with the readings will constitute the materials for the course. You are expected to read the assigned material, 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 frequently 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 Canvas
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 internet 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. This is NOT an open book exam and you must NOT work together or get another person’s help.

There are 11 discussion questions. You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) in the Discussions on the Canvas 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 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 get only 1 point if the quality of your response is too poor, if you post your response later than the deadline (11:59 PM on Sunday), or if your response is fewer than 200 words. This rule will be applied strictly. So, you will be penalized even if you are one word short or one minute late. MS Word provides word count. So, make sure your response is longer than 200 words. There is no minimum word requirement for the comment. That said, you must explain/justify why you like or disagree with the posting.

**One last thing: Do NOT question the discussion question. I have these questions for reason.**

**Course Outline**

January 21-26 Introduction: Post a brief introduction of yourself to the class. This is not a discussion, so you do not need to comment on another student’s post, and it does not have to be 200 words long.

January 27-February 2 Political and Economic Development in China
Reading: Shirk Ch. 2 (pp. 13-34)
**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 3-9 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 10-16 US-Japan Alliance
Reading: Lecture notes
**Discussion 3:** Japan has been the closest US ally in Asia. Do you think this relationship
will last long? If you think so, justify. If you think the relationship will change, what issues do you think will create friction between the two countries?

February 17-23 China-Japan Relations  
Reading: Shirk Ch. 6 (pp. 140-180)  
**Discussion 4:** Name one current issue between China and Japan and explain the issue. Take a position on the issue and justify your argument.

February 24-March 1 China-South Korea Relations  
Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 8 (pp. 183-191)  
**Discussion 5:** China and South Korea were enemies during the Cold War, but they normalized the relationship in the early 1992. Why do you think they normalized the relationship?

March 2-8 **Mid-term Exam**

March 9-13 Economic Development and Financial Crisis in South Korea  
Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 4 & 5 (pp. 104-117)  
**Discussion 6:** What do you think are the causes of the financial crisis in Asia, particularly South Korea, in 1997? How is it different from the 2008 financial crisis in the US?

March 14-22 **Spring Recess**

March 23-29 Korea-Japan Relations  
Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 8 (pp. 192-199)  
**Discussion 7:** Korea and Japan have an interesting relationship. They are close neighbors, but they have an emotionally hostile relationship. One of the issues they have is a territorial issue over the Dokto (Takehimsa) 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?

March 30-April 5 South Korea-US Alliance  
Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 7  
**Discussion 8:** Anti-American sentiment periodically rises in South Korea despite the fact that US troops helped South Korea from North Korean attack during the Korean War (1950-1953). What do you think cause the anti-American sentiment in South Korea?

April 6-12 Korea-US FTA  
Reading: Heo and Roehrig ch. 5 (pp. 118-128)  
**Discussion 9:** 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. Recently, under the Trump administration, the agreement was renegotiated. What is the issue and what is your take on the issue?

April 13-19 Inter-Korean Relations & The North Korean Nuclear Crisis
Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 6
Discussion 10: Why do you think North Korea wants to have nuclear weapons? What do you think is the best way for the US to deal with North Korea?

April 20-26 Democratization in South Korea and China
Reading: Heo and Roehrig Ch. 2 & 3
Discussion 11: Typically, scholars argue that economic development, education, industrialization, and foreign influence help democratization. What do you think helped the transition to democracy in South Korea? Why do you think China is not democratizing despite its rapid economic development?

April 27-May 5 Research Paper (Due on May 5)

May 6-13 Final Exam