

[Sample Upper-level Undergraduate Syllabus]

## **East Asian Political Economy**

Instructor: Yujeong Yang

Office hours: TBD

### **Course Outline**

East Asia is a fascinating region to test the main theoretical debates in the field of comparative politics and international political economy. Countries in this region have shared many important cultural and historical characteristics and have experienced phenomenal economic growth. However, they have developed widely different political systems. Over the past few decades, countries in this region have experienced political and social changes, including civil war, economic crisis, rapid urbanization, and (success and failure of) democratization. Why does economic growth in this region generate different political outcomes? Why and how are political systems and institutions similar and different across countries in the East Asian region? What can other developing countries learn from East Asian cases and can they emulate the East Asian model? How do political and social dynamics in the East Asian country cases improve theories in the field of comparative politics?

This course aims to answer these questions, focusing mainly on Northeast Asia (China, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and Japan). Throughout the course, students will be engaged with the canonical theoretical debates in the literature of comparative politics, sociology, and development studies and will deepen their understanding of East Asian countries.

This course is divided into three parts. In Part 1, we will explore the historical and political origins of the “East Asian miracle” and compare the relationship between the state and market in each East Asian country. Students will also discuss how to understand the rise of China and whether the Chinese economic development model is a variant of the East Asian development model. Students will also discuss whether the East Asian development model is applicable to other developing countries.

In the second part of the course, we will shift our attention to the political outcome of economic growth. Students will compare how political institutions (party systems, electoral systems, and government types) and regime types (democracy and autocracy) of each East Asian country differ and how the socioeconomic foundation of each country has contributed to the divergent political outcomes.

In part three, students will explore various social and political issues created under the political economic structure of East Asian countries. Among various topics, we will focus on the development of civil society and social movements, labor immigration and gender inequality, and welfare provision in East Asian countries.

## Assessment

Midterm	20 %
Final	20 %
Pop quizzes	20 %
Research project	30 %
○ Research proposal	10 %
○ Final paper	20 %
Class attendance and participation	10 %

- Midterm and final (20% each)
  - The midterm and final will each take up 20% of your grade. Both midterm and final are comprised of multiple choice questions, true and false questions, and short essays. Going over the quizzes from the past lectures, reviewing the lecture slides, and reading the assigned materials will be the best way to prepare for the exam. The midterm will cover materials from Week 2 to Week 7 and the final will cover materials from Week 8 to Week 15.
- Pop quizzes (20%)
  - There will be five pop-up quizzes based on readings. Students will have 15 to 20 minutes to take the quiz. The quizzes will be returned and reviewed at the next lecture. The questions from quizzes are highly likely to be recycled for the Midterm and Final. The quizzes are mainly comprised of multiple choice questions.
- Research project (30%)
  - In your final research project, you can either address a research question that we have covered in class or develop your own research questions. Your final paper is due on the last week of the class and paper should be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font. Students who want to work together with their fellow students can develop a collaborate project, but should first with consult with the instructor. During week 3-4, each student should meet with the instructor individually to discuss the research idea, develop the research question, select the best cases to explore. During Week 7, students are required to submit a two-page summary of the research proposal and get an approval by the instructor. The instructor will provide detailed feedback on the proposal. During Week 11, students will discuss how they are developing their ideas in small group discussion. Each member of the group will provide written feedback to their fellow students.
- Class attendance and participation (10%)
  - Attendance will be taken for each session. You can only be excused for missing class if you have a medical note from a doctor of official reason approved by the instructor. Those students who observe a religious holiday on a class day should contact the instructor within the first two weeks in order to receive an excused absence. Each subsequent absence will reduce their grades by 0.5 points.
  - Students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions and participate in class discussion as well. Participation points come from critical comments during class and coming to office hours.

## **Policies**

### **Classroom Environment**

This class is a safe space for open and lively discussion which may even deal with contentious and sensitive political issues. For any reason, I will never allow any personal attacks on any member of this class. Insulting or threatening comments may result in a reduction of the participation grade. If there's any one who feels threatened or insulted, please contact me immediately to resolve the problem.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones are not allowed during the class. Text messaging is not allowed either. Students are asked to turn their cell phones off or on silent during class. If a student's cell phone rings or vibrates during section, he/she will have to bring a treat for everyone to the class. (Same rule applies to the instructor!)

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at least two weeks prior to the time when the accommodation will be needed. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

## **Course schedule and reading list**

### **1. Overview: What is East Asia? What constitutes East Asia?**

#### **2. Asian values?**

- Discussion questions
  - Are Asian values incompatible with democracy?
  - Can culture function as an independent variable to explain political outcomes?
- Required readings
  - Jung, Kim Dae. "Is culture destiny? The myth of Asia's anti-democratic values." *Foreign Affairs* (1994): 189-194.
  - Dalton, Russell J., and Nhu-Ngoc T. Ong. "Authority orientations and democratic attitudes: A test of the 'Asian values' hypothesis." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 6, no. 2 (2005): 211-231.

#### **3. Colonialism**

- Discussion questions:
  - How did China, (North and South) Korea, and Taiwan experience Japanese colonialism and why does each country have different attitudes toward the colonizer (Japan)?
  - How did the colonial past in Asia shape the relationship between the state and market?

- Required readings:
  - Haggard, Stephan, David Kang, and Chung-In Moon. "Japanese colonialism and Korean development: A critique." *World Development* 25, no. 6 (1997): 867-881.
  - Kohli, Atul. "Where do high growth political economies come from? The Japanese lineage of Korea's "developmental state"." *World Development* 22, no. 9 (1994): 1269-1293.
  - Booth, Anne. "Initial conditions and miraculous growth: why is South East Asia different from Taiwan and South Korea?." *World Development* 27, no. 2 (1999): 301-321.

#### **4. Economic growth in Asia: Developmental state**

- Discussion questions:
  - How is the relationship between the state and market in the East Asian developmental states different from that in other countries (e.g. United States)?
  - Can other developing countries emulate the East Asian model? What are the prerequisites/preconditions for the success of the East Asian development model?
  - What are the common features of the developmental model that each East Asian country has pursued? how do the development strategies of each country differ?
- Required readings:
  - Johnson, Chalmers A. *Japan, who governs?: the rise of the developmental state*. WW Norton & Company, 1995.
  - Levi-Faur, David. "The Developmental State: Israel, South Korea, and Taiwan Compared." *Studies in Comparative International Development (SCID)* 33, no. 1 (1998): 65-93.
  - Evans, Peter B. "Predatory, developmental, and other apparatuses: a comparative political economy perspective on the third world state." In *Sociological forum*, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 561-587. Kluwer Academic Publishers-Plenum Publishers, 1989.
  - Cheng, Tun-jen. "Political regimes and development strategies: South Korea and Taiwan." *Manufacturing Miracles: Paths of Industrialization in Latin America and East Asia* (1990): 139-178.

#### **5. Chinese economic development**

- Discussion questions:
  - Is Chinese development model a variant of the development model pursued by its neighbor East Asian countries? In what sense are they similar and different?
  - What explains the sudden rise of the Chinese economy?
- Required readings:
  - Knight, John B. "China as a developmental state." *The World Economy* 37, no. 10 (2014): 1335-1347.
  - Oi, Jean C. "The role of the local state in China's transitional economy." *The China Quarterly* 144 (1995): 1132-1149.

#### **6. Crony capitalism and corruption**

- Discussion questions:
  - Is economic corruption a necessary evil for economic growth in developing countries?

- How are the types and characteristics of corruption different across each East Asian country and what are the political economic implications of such differences?
- Required readings:
  - Kang, David C. *Crony capitalism: Corruption and development in South Korea and the Philippines*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
  - Rock, Michael T., and Heidi Bonnett. "The comparative politics of corruption: accounting for the East Asian paradox in empirical studies of corruption, growth and investment." *World Development* 32, no. 6 (2004): 999-1017.
  - Chang, Eric CC, and Yun-han Chu. "Corruption and trust: exceptionalism in Asian democracies?." *The Journal of Politics* 68, no. 2 (2006): 259-271.

## 7. East Asian Economic Crisis (1997)

- Discussion questions:
  - What explains the sudden demise of the East Asian development model?
  - How did the East Asian countries overcome the Economic Crisis?
  - How has the relationship between the state and market changed since the Economic Crisis?
- Required readings:
  - Feng Yi. Chapter 4. Political Foundation of Economic Management: an Interpretation of Economic Development and Economic Crisis in East Asia in Richter F-J (ed) *The East Asian development model: economic growth, institutional failure, and the aftermath of the crisis*. London : New York: Macmillan ; St. Martin's Press, 2000: 71-96.
  - Robins, Fred. Chapter 2. Asia's 1997 Crash: its Character, Causes and Consequences, in Richter F-J (ed) *The East Asian Development Model: Economic Growth, Institutional Failure and the Aftermath of the Crisis*, London : New York: Macmillan ; St. Martin's Press, 2000, 17-52.

## 8. Democratic transition in East Asia

- Discussion questions:
  - How do the patterns of democratization differ across the East Asian countries?
  - Classical modernization theory explains that economic growth brings political modernization (democratization). How do the East Asian experiences (in South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and China) support, improve, or challenge the modernization theory?
- Required readings:
  - Wong, Joseph. "Democratization and the Left: Comparing East Asia and Latin America." *Comparative Political Studies* 37, no. 10 (2004): 1213-1237.
  - Chu, Yin-Wah. "Labor and democratization in South Korea and Taiwan." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 28, no. 2 (1998): 185-202.
  - Tsang, Steve. "Transforming a party state into a democracy." In *Democratization in Taiwan*, Palgrave Macmillan UK, 1999: 1-22.
  - Gallagher, Mary E. "'Reform and openness': Why China's economic reforms have delayed democracy." *World Politics* 54, no. 3 (2002): 338-372.

## 9. One party state in East Asia (personalistic v.s. single party state)

- Discussion questions:
  - How does economic openness in China change the party institutions of the country? How does the party structure differ between China and North Korea?
  - Both North Korea and China are classified as nondemocracies but they are different in many important aspects. What are the key differences between the two countries?
- Required readings:
  - Lin, G. (2004) Leadership Transition, Intra-Party Democracy, and Institution Building in China. *Asian Survey*, 44(2), 255-275.
  - Geddes, Barbara. "What do we know about democratization after twenty years?" *Annual review of political science* 2, no. 1 (1999): 115-144.
  - Li, Cheng. "Intra-party democracy in China: should we take it seriously?." *China Leadership Monitor* 30, no. 3 (2009): 1-14.
  - Haggard, Stephan, Luke Herman, and Jaesung Ryu. "Political Change in North Korea." *Asian Survey* 54, no. 4 (2014): 773-800.

## 10. Multiparty states in East Asia (South Korea and Taiwan)

- Discussion questions:
  - Both South Korea and Taiwan have established multiparty institutions coupled with the presidential system. What political economic determinants have shaped the institutional combination?
  - What are the key political economic cleavages of the two countries? How are they different and similar?
- Required readings:
  - Kim, Y. (2008). "Explaining the minority coalition government and governability in South Korea: A review essay." *Korea Observer* 39(1): 59-84.
  - Mainwaring, S. (1993). "Presidentialism, Multipartism and Democracy: The Difficult Combination." *Comparative Political Studies* 26(2): 198-228.
  - Linz, Juan J. "The perils of presidentialism." *Journal of democracy* 1, no. 1 (1990): 51-69.

## 11. Hegemonic party system in Japan

- Discussion questions:
  - How is the political system in Japan different from other East Asian democratic countries?
  - How does the political economic structure of Japan affect the dominance of the LDP in Japan?
  - How does the electoral system in Japan reinforce the dominance of the LDP?
- Required readings:
  - Cox, Gary W., and Michael F. Thies. "How Much Does Money Matter? "Buying" Votes in Japan, 1967-1990." *Comparative Political Studies* 33, no. 1 (2000): 37-57.
  - McElwain, Kenneth Mori. "Manipulating Electoral Rules to Manufacture Single-Party Dominance." *American Journal of Political Science* 52, no. 1 (2008): 32-47.

## 12. Nationalism

- Discussion questions:
  - How does nationalism in East Asian countries affect economic outcomes?
  - When do the states repress nationalistic movements against free trade and when do they repress it?
- Required readings:
  - Weiss, Jessica Chen. "Authoritarian signaling, mass audiences, and nationalist protest in China." *International Organization* 67, no. 1 (2013): 1-35.
  - Park, Mi. "Framing free trade agreements: the politics of nationalism in the anti-neoliberal globalization movement in South Korea." *Globalizations* 6, no. 4 (2009): 451-466.
  - Rigger, Shelley. "Taiwan's rising rationalism: generations, politics, and" Taiwanese nationalism"." *Policy Studies* 26 (2006): 1-56.
  - Ho, Ming-sho, and Chen-Shuo Hong. "Challenging New Conservative Regimes in South Korea and Taiwan." *Asian Survey* 52, no. 4 (2012): 643-665.

## 13. Civil society in East Asia

- Discussion questions:
  - How does civil society in East Asia function and how are they different from those in other developed countries?
  - Can civil society emerge under authoritarian regimes, like China, and how will they affect the regime stability?
  - Is a sound civil society a necessary condition for political and economic development?
- Required readings:
  - Ortmann, Stephan. "The umbrella movement and Hong Kong's protracted democratization process." *Asian Affairs* 46, no. 1 (2015): 32-50.
  - Tang, Shui-Yan, and Xueyong Zhan. "Civic environmental NGOs, civil society, and democratisation in China." *The Journal of Development Studies* 44, no. 3 (2008): 425-448.

## 14. Gender, Immigration, and Labor in East Asia

- Discussion questions:
  - How are the East Asian society integrated through labor immigration and marriage immigration?
  - Why do East Asian countries implement different immigrant integration policies and what are the political economic implications of such policy differences?
- Required readings:
  - Chung, Erin Aeran. "Workers or residents? Diverging patterns of immigrant incorporation in Korea and Japan." *Pacific Affairs* 83, no. 4 (2010): 675-696.
  - Freeman, Caren. *Making and faking kinship: Marriage and labor migration between China and South Korea*. Cornell University Press, 2015.
  - Chang, Chin-fen, and Paula England. "Gender inequality in earnings in industrialized East Asia." *Social Science Research* 40, no. 1 (2011): 1-14.

## 15. Social Policy and Welfare Politics in East Asia

- Discussion questions:
  - How does globalization affect the social welfare systems in East Asia?
  - What are the key characteristics of welfare policies in East Asia? Is there an “East Asian” welfare model?
- Required readings:
  - Haggard, Stephan, and Robert R. Kaufman. *Development, Democracy, and Welfare States: Latin America, East Asia, and Eastern Europe*. Princeton University Press, 2008.
  - Kwon, Huck-ju. "Transforming the developmental welfare state in East Asia." *Development and Change* 36, no. 3 (2005): 477-497.
  - Lee, Hye Kyung. "Globalization and the emerging welfare state—the experience of South Korea." *International Journal of Social Welfare* 8, no. 1 (1999): 23-37.