

Comparative Politics of East Asia
IR 6645
Term III, 2015-2016
Weekend Format, Yongsan
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Brendan Howe

Meeting dates: Weekend 4 (January 30-31, 2016)
Weekend 7 (February 20-21, 2016)

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Advising: Before or after Weekend class sessions, via email,
or at a mutually convenient time by appointment.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course provides an analysis of East Asian politics, legal systems, economics, culture, military power, geography, and their impact on regional relations and their linkages to the world system.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES

Students will learn the core principles and methods of East Asia's politics, economic development, and foreign relations. These are applied to sectoral issues and studies. Students will also focus on the interconnectedness of East Asia with international political developments and issues. It is hoped that you will demonstrate improved analytical and communications skills, as well.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Compare and contrast competing mainstream academic perspectives on East Asian politics and development.
2. Discuss specific characteristics of the foreign relations of selected nation-states.
3. Explain the inter-relationships between the domestic policy-making of East Asian states, the East Asian regional system, and international issues.
4. Consider possible futures for East Asian governance models, the states employing them, and the regional operating environment.

TEXTBOOKS

1. Timothy C. Lim. *Politics in East Asia: Explaining Change and Continuity*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2014.

ISBN-10: 1626370559

ISBN-13: 978-1626370555

2. Brendan Howe (Ed.) *Democratic Governance in Northeast Asia: A Human-Centred Approach to Evaluating Democracy*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

ISBN-10: 1137550449

ISBN-13: 978-1137550446

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Lectures, Class Discussion/Questions, Student presentations, Student research papers, and final examinations

The Troy University MSIR program uses the Blackboard educational technology system for its courses. Your professor will explain to you any use of Blackboard activities in the course.

COURSE GRADES

GRADE SCALE

Final Examination	30%	A: 90-100
Research Paper	40%	B: 80-89
Oral Presentation(s)	20%	C: 70-79
Discussion/small groups	10%	D: 60-69
		F: 0-59

RESEARCH PAPERS

1. Each enrolled student will complete a graduate level research paper of 4-6,000 words of double-spaced text with appropriate citations and bibliography. The paper should be submitted by February 28, 2016, Sunday, by e-mail (bmg.howe@gmail.com)

2. The research paper must cover an appropriate topic in comparative politics with special focus on the governance, domestic and/or foreign policies of one or more of Japan, North and South Korea, China and Taiwan. Subject to approval, the topic can address a wide range of issues in East Asian politics.

3. As we do not convene until fairly late in the semester, please read ahead and give some thought to your topic in advance of the first class. You may correspond with me about these choices via email.

4. You may, but do not have to cover the same topic in the presentation as in the final research paper.

PRESENTATIONS

During the appropriate student-led seminar each student will give an Oral and Visual/Multimedia Report. During these seminars each presenter will be open to questions from their peers. Students will be well advised to take advantage of these Q&A sessions in order to gain feedback for their final Written Report

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend ALL class sessions. Students should complete the assigned readings BEFORE the class session (see schedule below), so that you can discuss topics raised by them and answer questions about them. Excessive absence may result in either a failing grade or dropping of the student from the course.

MAKEUP POLICY

In exceptional cases, such as medical or family emergencies, official duty requirements, or TDY/TAD, an authorized absence may be permitted upon consultation with the instructor. In such cases, the student MUST meet with the instructor as soon as possible for a comprehensive review of the missed material. Unauthorized absences will require a mandatory review of missed material AND an additional assignment.

INCOMPLETES

A grade of “INC” will only be given in cases of medical emergency, job or military duty, or other significant personal event to be judged by the instructor. Students must submit a petition form, and sign a written commitment to the instructor for completion of course work. Upon satisfactory completion of course work, the instructor will submit a “Change of Grade” form to the office. If the course work is not completed in the following term, the student will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

ACADEMIC ETHICS

Details on ethical standards for research papers can be found in *Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The current “Standards of Conduct” of the Troy University *Graduate Catalog* should also be consulted.

The following will not be tolerated in this course:

1. **Cheating** on examinations or assignments, in any form. This includes submitting another’s work as your own, providing answers to others, or using any unauthorized aids during an examination.
2. **Plagiarism** on research papers, in any form. This includes failure to give credit to the sources of your work, copying of someone else’s work, or using an author’s exact words without quotations.

For more on plagiarism, consult the Troy University Writing Center (www.troy.edu/campus/onlinegraduateprograms/writingresources.htm) and the Purdue University Online Writing Lab.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:
<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

At the beginning of the term, any student whose disabilities fall with the ADA should inform the instructor of any special needs or equipment necessary to complete the requirements of the course.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Students can access online resources through the Troy University web site at www.troy.edu or www.library.troy.edu. These resources include a variety of text data bases that give complete articles from many journals, magazines and newspapers. The MSIR Journal List, for instance, has over 90 publications, including *Foreign Affairs* and *World Politics*. Access to all of the data bases is through “remote services,” the university’s remote patron authentication system, which involves a three-step process (log on, select a service, and select an individual data base). The main full text

information services are EBSCOhost, FirstSearch, InfoTrac and ProQuest. Tutorials and overviews are available on the library home page.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEKEND #4 (January 30-31)

January 30, Saturday

Morning Session: Introduction of the Class and Course

Lecture 1: “Econophoria” and Good Governance in East Asia

Readings: Lim; Chapters 1-3
Howe; Chapter 1

Afternoon Session

Lecture 2: The Democracies: South Korea

Readings: Lim; Chapters 5 & 6
Howe; Chapters 2 & 3

January 31, Sunday

Morning Session

Lecture 1: The Democracies: Japan

Readings: Lim; Chapters 5 & 6
Howe; Chapters 4 & 5

Afternoon Session

Lecture 2: The Democracies: Taiwan

Readings: Lim; Chapters 5 & 6
Howe; Chapters 6 & 7

WEEKEND #7 (February 20-21, 2016)

February 20, Saturday

Morning Session

Lecture 1: Authoritarian Governance and Transformation: China & North Korea

Readings: Lim; Chapters 4 & 7
RAND Corporation: CHINA, INSIDE AND OUT
A Collection of Essays on Foreign and Domestic Policy in
the Xi Jinping Era

Brendan Howe and Jason Park. 2014. 'Addressing North
Korean Security Challenges through Non-State-Centric
International Economic Engagement' *North Korean Review*
2014 (1): 39-54.

Brendan Howe. 2011 'Security Spillover on the Korean
Peninsula' *Journal of Peace and Unification* 1(2): 175-200.

Afternoon Session

Lecture 2: East Asia's Future Governance and Challenges, and the Implications
for regional IR

Readings: Lim; Chapters 8 & 9
Howe; Conclusions

Student Presentations

February 21, Sunday

Morning Session

Review Session

Afternoon Session

Final Exam

February 28, Sunday

Submission of final papers, 17:00, Kore/Japan time.