

East Asia in World Politics

Political Science 405L-001 Fall 2006 Monday 7:00- 9:45 pm

Instructor : Fumiko Sasaki

Classroom : WRI C235

Email : fumiko.sasaki@unlv.edu

Office : WRI A220

Office hours : Wednesday 11:30 – 12:30 , Friday 2:30-4:00

Phone : 702- 895-5230

1, Course Objectives

The goal of this course is for the students to understand how East Asia affect world politics, and why so. The students are expected to acquire the tools to analyze, understand, criticize, and challenge the political events and phenomena in East Asia through the course. To achieve this goal, we must learn first the fundamental and common characteristics of East Asia, in comparison to the West. Then we will examine major issues in East Asia which affect world politics crucially. In the examination, we will study what is the problem, why is it so, how it become a problem, what should be done, what will be the desired situation. These study will deepen our understanding and to train critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, and developing new interest and ideas.

Throughout this course, we will answer the big question: Will East Asia be a stabilizer or de-stabilizer of the world order?

2, Structure and sequences of class activities

The class consists of the following matters: lectures, discussions, midterm exam, final exam, Topic report by group.

Lectures: will be based on the textbook, but not limited to it. The topic of each class is on the following. pages. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters in advance.

Discussions: I believe that Socratic dialogue (Q & A) as the best way to develop and understand the issue in question. So I will throw some questions or problems which will enable the student understand better East Asia and the world. Students are expected to participate actively, and not to leave any questions and issues unsolved.

Midterm: is due on Oct. 23 at the class hour. It is closed-book sit-down exam on the issue covered earlier. Essay style. It will not take more than one hour.

Final exam : is due Dec. 11, 8:10pm. It is also closed-book, sit-down exam on the issue

covered throughout the course. Essay style. It will be one-hour exam.

Topic Report : Students will be divided into groups each of which will be assigned one issue in East Asia. Each group must have a presentation of their research. The research must include the analysis of :what the issue is, why it is so, what its background is, what should be done, what the desirable situation is.

Today's Topic : All students are expected to pick up one article or essay from newspaper, magazine, or internet on East Asia every week. The subject and country are their choice. I will ask 3 students at the beginning of every class to report briefly their topic. No specific analysis is required, but opinion is. No written paper of this report is necessary. .

3, Textbooks

Shambaugh, David, ed. Power Shift: China and Asia's New Dynamics, UCP

4, Grading procedures

The grade consists of the following:

Class participation	20%
Midterm	20%
Final	30%
Country Report	30%

5, Course policies

Attendance -- required for all classes except emergency.
Cheating -- strictly prohibited.

6, Statement for students with physical disabilities

“ Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his other abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities ”

7, Class Schedule

Week 1, Orientation -- grouping, what is social science?

- Week 2, East Asia -- its foundation : history, geography, and nations.
- Week 3, East Asia -- its basic way of thinking : religion
- Week 4, International Relations in East Asia -- contrast to Western one
- Week 5, China's rise ?" its impact on the world affairs (Introduction)
- Week 6, China- Japan relations -- nationalism or economic interest? (chap. 5)
- Week 7, Japan - US relations -- Their interests identical?
- Week 8, China - US relations -- what is the point of cooperation? (chap. 13)
- Week 9, Midterm Exam
- Week 10, Nuclear proliferation in Asia -- North Korea, Iran, India and Pakistan
(chap 6)
- Week 11, Taiwan crisis -- its history, today and future (chap 7)
- Week 12, Challenge of ASEAN -- Does it really benefit? (chap. 8)
- Week 13, APEC : its role, function and possibility -- What does it really bring about?
(chap 16)
- Week 14, East Asia and America -- How should the US to get involved in East Asia?
(chap 14)
- Week 15, Final Exam