

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF EAST ASIA—REGIONAL COOPERATION?

Political Science 4386, Summer Two (July Term) 2020
M–F 1:00–2:50pm, Zoom Online (Fully Remote)
Web page: <http://canvas.smu.edu>

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Virtual office hours: M–F 3:00–4:00pm
Zoom office hours: By appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course has both *substantive* and *procedural* objectives. Substantively, this course provides an overview of international relations in the East Asian region while introducing students the leading theories and debates about regional cooperation in the field of international relations (IR). Procedurally, because this is a *writing-intensive* course, students are expected to write an analytical essay that demonstrates a *clearly articulated research question* and *thesis statement*. The thesis is to be *supported* by logical and empirical *evidence*, and not merely opinion. The essay is to be *well researched* and written in a polished and *grammatical* style.

Postwar Europe was integrated as a region rather early through the European Coal and Steel Community and NATO; today close intra-European ties are institutionalized in the European Union. By contrast, East Asia was long divided by colonialism, the Cold War, and America's "hub and spoke" alliance system.

However, there are signs that may lead to regional cooperation in the twenty-first century. Intra-regional trade and investment is reaching new highs. There are multiple efforts to build new regional institutions. There has been a limited, but significant, spread of democratization and signs of pluralism in authoritarian and communist countries, especially in China.

Meanwhile, there remain lingering signs of regional conflict. The region is confronted with two major, long standing points of crises, the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait, as well as a host of other lesser, but quite serious, territorial disputes. Two of the major countries in the region, China and Japan, have experienced long historically-rooted conflict. China's burgeoning economic power is placing new strains on the global trading regime and energy resources, and the region as a whole continues to be vulnerable to a systemic economic crisis of the sort that was seen in the 1997–98 Asian financial crisis. One or a combination of these factors may pull apart the fragile equilibrium that has kept the peace in the region for forty years.

This course will examine the various tensions between the establishment of closer ties among the nations in East Asia and the preservation of national sovereignty. The central question is whether the East Asian region is heading towards greater peace and cooperation or war and conflict in the twenty-first century. The subtitle of the course includes a question mark because all of us, including the instructor, are searching for answers.

For the purposes of this course, East Asia is defined as the region encompassing the Russian Far East, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia. Since it has been extensively involved in the region since the 1850s, we will also focus on the role of the United States in the region. We may make occasional reference to India, but South Asia and Central Asia are not a primary focus of this class.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- explain the historical context of politics and IR of East Asia,
- analyze issues related to politics and IR of East Asia, and
- discuss the manners in which U.S. foreign policy shapes and is shaped by politics and IR of East Asia.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (including weekly memo assignment) (30% of a student's course grade): Attendance at lecture and participation in discussion are mandatory. The readings vary in length and difficulty but average about 70 pages per day. You are expected to attend all the lectures (Zoom participation) and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. Most importantly, *students are required to turn in a **memo** by **emailing** it to the instructor by 5pm on Friday.* An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared.

*After four unexcused absences, I may give an FA (F for attendance) to your course grade. An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities require communication with me at the **beginning** of the session. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.*

Zoom Participation: You are expected to participate in Zoom class meetings from beginning to end. You must turn on the video feature for the duration of the class meeting. Non-participation will lead to a commensurate penalty in your grade for the course. During the class, please obey the following Zoom protocol:

- Please raise your hand virtually.
- Please wait to be called on before you unmute to speak.
- Please use the Chat function only if you have trouble getting my attention.
- Please keep your video on so we can see you.

Ultimately your attendance and participation grade turns on **my** impression of how seriously you take this course. It is **your** responsibility to take this course seriously and let me know that. How? Attend class; be prepared for class—read the assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions, and especially write a good memo; **arrive on time** to class; remain your video on and be attentive for the entire class;

complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the papers and other assignments.

Conduct: Mature, respectful behavior befitting an SMU student is expected. Please find a quiet location where you may work uninterrupted. *Turn off mobile phones and other devices that may disrupt the meeting.*

The course is designed, and will be conducted, to be student-driven and discussion-centered. How well this course achieves its goals will depend on students' participation. Students are expected to do the assigned reading **before** class; to have read **actively**, comparing what they are reading with what they already know through other readings in this class or other classes to join class discussion.

In each class, **every** student is expected to give a brief (1–2 minutes) presentation of their initial impressions of the readings, along with any questions they wish to raise for the day's discussion.

2. Take-home midterm (30%): The take-home midterm will be due July 20 (Monday) at 5pm by email. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 5–7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. The essays will be evaluated on the basis of: demonstrated mastery of the assigned readings; skill in exposing nuances of similarity and difference in various defensible positions; cogency, clarity, precision and organization of presentation; and relevance of evidence marshaled to *support your argument(s)*. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a serious illness or a death in the family. **Please plan to finish the assignment prior to the due date, and leave adequate time to proofread and to work out any computer or printer problems that may arise.**
3. Final paper (40%: 10% for presentation and 30% for paper): The major task for the course will be to write a policy paper which would give the government an advice for enhancing regional cooperation in East Asia. Late in this summer term you will present and defend your findings to the class. The final paper will be due August 4 (Tuesday) at 5pm by email.

A written brief concisely summarizing the argument you will make in your presentation must be sent to the instructor no later than 5pm one day before your presentation. It should be a maximum of one page (single-spaced), and can be written in bullet points, paragraphs, or in any other style. It will not be graded, but if it is late or missing, your presentation will be marked down 20%.

Presentation should be 10 minutes in length, proving background on the issue, a review and assessment of the past policies taken by governments, and most importantly your recommendations. Following the presentation, there will be 5 minutes for questions from the audience and general discussion. Your grade on this assignment will reflect both the quality of your presentation and your answers to audience questions.

Papers should be 5–7 pages (double-spaced, twelve-point font, one-inch margin). They should be similar in content to your presentation, but less time spent on background information. The papers should also take into account as much as possible the issues raised during your

presentation.

Each of you must meet with me for 15 minutes in the first week of the session. Sign up for an appointment time before the first day in class.

Disability Accommodations

If you need academic accommodations for a disability, it is **your** responsibility to first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. You should then schedule an appointment with me to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4)

Religious Observance

If you wish to be absent on religiously observed holidays that require missing class, you should notify me in **writing** and send it to me by email **before** the session starts, and should discuss with me, **in advance**, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

If you participate in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity, you will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Books and Readings

The following books should be purchased in advance **before** the session starts. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be available electronically. There may be changes in the readings and assignments below.

Thomas J. Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2015).

Sheila A. Smith, *Japan Rearmed: The Politics of Military Power* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019).

Schedule and Reading Assignments

Readings provide background on topics covered in class lectures and discussions, so read the assignment **before** the class for which they are assigned. Since the course will make frequent reference to current events, you should make a habit of *reading respectable online news on a regular basis* and pay attention to the events in East Asia.

1. Course Introduction (Mon, July 6)

2. The Implications of China's Rise (Tue, July 7)

Christensen, introduction & chapters 1–2 (pp. 1–62).

3. The Challenge of China's Rise (Wed, July 8)

Christensen, chapters 3–4 (pp. 63–114).

4. China's Rise and Global Governance (Thu, July 9)

Christensen, chapter 5 (pp. 115–165)

5. Food Safety After Fukushima: Scientific Citizenship and Politics of Risk (Fri, July 10)

[Guest Speaker: Dr. Nicholas Sternsdorff-Cisterna, SMU Anthropology Department]

Memo Assignment 1 due July 10, 5pm by email.

6. China's Rise and IR of East Asia, 1991–2008 (Mon, July 13)

Christensen, chapters 6–7 (pp. 169–241)

7. China's Rise and IR of East Asia, 2009–Present (Tue, July 14)

Christensen, chapter 8 & epilogue (pp. 242–312)

8–9. Global Value Chains and Development in East Asia (Wed & Thu, July 15 & 16)

* Richard Baldwin, *The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2016): pp. 79–176.

* Fukunari Kimura, “How Have Production Networks Changed Development Strategies in Asia?” in Deborah K. Elms and Patrick Low, *Global Value Chains in a Changing World* (Geneva: WTO Publications, 2013): pp. 361–383.

10. Multinational Corporation in Action (Fri, July 17)

[Guest Speaker from Toyota Motor Corporation]

Memo Assignment 2 due July 17, 5pm by email.

11. Discussion: The China Challenge in a Tumultuous Time (Mon, July 20)

TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE JULY 20, 5PM BY EMAIL

12. Japan's Security Policy During the Cold War (Tue, July 21)

Smith, introduction & chapter 1 (pp. 1–54)

13. The Self-Defense Force and Japan's Military Policy (Wed, July 22)

Smith, chapter 2 (pp. 55–89)

14. Japan's Security Policy During the Post–Cold War (Thu, July 23)

Smith, chapter 3 (pp. 90–127)

15. *Shinkansen* (High-Speed Rail) in Texas and Beyond (Fri, July 24)

[Guest Speakers from the Central Japan Railway Company and the Texas Central Railway]

Memo Assignment 3 due July 24, 5pm by email.

16. The Pacifist Constitution and Japan's Military Policy (Mon, July 27)

Smith, chapter 4 (pp. 128–172)

17. Japan's Security Policy and U.S.-Japan Relations (Tue, July 28)

Smith, chapter 5 & conclusion (pp. 173–240)

18. Discussion: Japan's Security Policy in a Tumultuous Time (Wed, July 29)

19–20. Students' Presentations (Thu & Fri, July. 30 & 31)

21. The U.S.-Japan Alliance and International Relations of East Asia (Mon, Aug. 3)

[Guest Speaker: Admiral Patrick Walsh, former commander of the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet]

22. Review (Tue, Aug. 4)

FINAL PAPER DUE AUG. 4, 5PM BY EMAIL