

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF EAST ASIA—REGIONAL COOPERATION?

Political Science 4386, Spring 2015

M 6:30–9:20pm, Dedman Life Science Building 131

Web page: <http://courses.smu.edu>

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### 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 and the annotated bibliography are 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, most notably the ASEAN Plus Three initiative. 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 1997–1998 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 nearly thirty 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.

## Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (20% 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 150 pages per week. You are expected to attend all the lectures 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 **Sunday at 5pm before class***. An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared.

*After two unexcused absences, I may drop you from the course or 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 semester. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with me **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.*

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 early** to class; remain for the entire class; *be attentive in class without distracting me or your classmates with cell phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips, coming-and-going, and so forth*; complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the essays and other assignments. Laptops, cell phones, iPhones, and any other *electronic devices may not be used in class—not even for note-taking*.

The course is designed, and will be conducted, like a graduate seminar. 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 discussions.

Each week **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. **Two Take-home midterms** (15% each): The first take-home midterm will be made available on February 16 and due February 23, and the second take-home midterm will be made available on April 13 and due April 20. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. 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 work out any computer or printer problems that may arise.**
3. **Research paper** (35%): Each student will be required to write a 10–15 page research paper (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font) on a controversial issue in international relations of East Asia. Topics and readings for the paper should be developed in close consultation with the course instructor. *Each paper must be re-written, taking into account criticism of your first draft.* Each student is *required to meet the following due dates:*

Paper topic / question	February 2
Progress report	March 16
First draft	April 13
Final draft	May 4

Each research paper will be evaluated based on the final draft. However, *the paper will not be graded and given an F if you have not turned in the first draft or some of the previous assignments.* Moreover, if you turn in the first draft late, your research paper grade will be marked down with 20%. *A paper written without close consultation with the instructor will not be graded and given an F.* If you receive an F for the research paper, you will also receive an F for your course grade. **Late papers will not be accepted.** More detailed information on this assignment will be posted on the course web site.

4. **Take-home final** (15%): The take-home final will be made available on May 4 and **due May 11 at 9:30pm by email.** It will cover material from the entire semester. The exam is open book and open notes and will require 7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond your control: e.g., illness or family emergencies.

*Each of you must meet with Professor Takeuchi for 20 minutes in the first weeks of the semester.* Sign up for an appointment time during the first day in class. Be punctual.

### **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](http://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** at the **beginning** of the semester, 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 are available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are available electronically on the course webpage at the Blackboard (<http://courses.smu.edu>). There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of the Blackboard.

Thomas J. Christensen, *Worse than a Monolith: Alliance Politics and Problems of Coercive Diplomacy in Asia* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011).

Alexis Dudden, *Troubled Apologies: Among Japan, Korea, and the United States* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008).

George C. Herring, *America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950–1975*, fifth edition (New York: McGraw Hill, 2014).

Leonard J. Schoppa, *Bargaining with Japan: What American Pressure Can and Cannot Do* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997).

David Shambaugh, *China Goes Global: The Partial Power* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).

Michael Yahuda, *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific*, third and revised edition (New York: Routledge, 2011).

### **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 a respectable newspaper on a regular basis* and pay attention to the events in East Asia.

## **1. Introduction: Theory of International Relations in East Asia? (Jan. 26)**

Christensen, chapter 1 (pp. 1–27)

Schoppa, chapter 2 (18–49)

Yahuda, introduction (pp. 5–18)

\* Hillary Clinton, “America’s Pacific Century,” *Foreign Policy* 189 (November 2011): pp. 56–63.

\* David C. Kang, “Getting Asia Wrong: The Need for New Analytical Frameworks,” *International Security* 27(4) (Spring 2003): pp. 57–85.

## **I. The Cold War, 1945–1989**

### **2. Cold War Alliance and Alignment (Feb. 9)**

Christensen, chapters 2–4 (pp. 28–145)

Yahuda, chapters 1–2 (pp. 19–61)

## **RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC/QUESTION DUE FEBRUARY. 2**

### **3. China, Japan, and the U.S. during the Cold War (Feb. 9)**

**[Guest Speaker: Ambassador Thomas Schieffer]**

Christensen, chapters 5–6 (pp. 146–220)

Yahuda, chapters 3–4 & 6–7 (pp. 63–115 & 137–176)

### **4. The Vietnam War (Feb. 16)**

Herring, chapters 4–7 (pp. 131–320)

**5. Film: *The Last Emperor* (Feb. 23)**

**The first midterm distributed on Feb. 16 and due Feb. 23**

**II. The Post-Cold War Period**

**6. The History Problem (Mar. 2)**

**[Guest Speaker: Alexis Dudden]**

Dudden, entire (133 pages)

**7. Japan's Postwar Development and *Gaiatsu* (Mar. 16)**

Schoppa, chapters 5–8 (pp. 117–253)

**RESEARCH PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE MARCH 16**

**8. The China-Japan-U.S. Triangular Relationship (Mar. 23)**

Yahuda, chapters 8–11 & conclusion (pp. 181–340)

**9. The Region's Troubled Spots (1): The Korean Peninsula (Mar. 30)**

\* Victor Cha, *The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future* (New York: Harper-Collins, 2013): pp. 162–314.

**10. The Region's Troubled Spots (2): The Taiwan Strait (Apr. 6)**

\* Shelley Rigger, *Why Taiwan Matters: Small Island, Global Powerhouse* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011): pp. 59–197.

**11. China's Rise (1): China and Globalization (Apr. 13)**

Shanbaugh, chapters 1–4 (pp. 1–155)

**RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT DUE APRIL 13**

**12. NO CLASS (Apr. 20)**

**The second midterm distributed on Apr. 13 and due Apr. 20**

**13. China's Rise (2): China's Presence in Globalized World (Apr. 27)**

Shambaugh, chapters 5–8 (156–318)

**14. Film: *Yamato [Otoko-tachi no Yamato]* (May 4)**

**RESEARCH PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE MAY 4**

**Take-home final distributed on May 4 and due May 11 at 9:30pm**