

Lafayette College
Government and Law

GOVT 238: EAST ASIAN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

FALL 2019

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 am (Kirby 204)

Professor Juheon Lee

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Office: Kirby Hall of Civil Rights 102

Office Hours: MW 12:00 am-2:00 pm, and by appointment

Course Description

Many scholars and policymakers believe that East Asia is the area of greatest strategic importance to the United States and the world today. Despite East Asia's strategic importance to other states and actors, relations among East Asian states have not gained the greatest attention outside the region so far. What are the reasons for this gap? Given that International relations theories have been derived mostly from the European experience, how much are the theories useful in explaining the state behavior in East Asia? Have those theories explained East Asia well?

This course provides an analytical overview of international relations in East Asia, mainly focusing on Northeast Asia (China, Taiwan, Japan, and Korean Peninsula) with some emphasis on Southeast Asia. Over the semester, we will explore the major theoretical and empirical issues in East Asia. We begin with historical events that shaped cultures, political systems, and inter-state relations in contemporary East Asia. We then focus on institutional arrangements, regime dynamics, political economy, and democratization in major countries and examine how domestic politics and interstate relations have been interacting each other. Finally, we examine some of regional issues in East Asia. Major topics for discussion include U.S. strategy in East Asia, the impact of the rise of China on regional security, nuclear proliferation, territorial disputes, nationalism, economic interdependence and regionalism.

Course Objectives

Through the completion of this course, students are expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- understand historical and cultural contexts of East Asian politics and compare different political systems in East Asia
- identify key concepts and theories in the study of East Asian international relations;
- critically assess opposing theoretical arguments by evaluating the validity of empirical evidence;
- apply theoretical knowledge to a variety of issue areas and policy scenarios.
- evaluate the success and challenges of East Asian countries

Course Requirements

Completing ALL the readings and regular attendance will be required of all students. Active participation in class discussions is also very important for students to succeed in this course. Students should make special efforts to arrive on time. They should inform the instructor ahead of time if they need to be late or leave before the class ends.

Course Grading Criteria:

Assignment	Weight	Notes
Final exam	20%	In-class exam (TBD)
Midterm exam	20%	In-class exam (Oct. 11)
Policy Paper	20%	> 2500 words (Nov. 25)
Reading response	15%	5 response papers (>500 words, 3% each)
Current issue presentation	15%	Case study and discussion leading
Attendance and Class Participation	10%	Preparation and participation

- 1. Exams (Midterm 20% / Final 20%):** Exams will be in-class and closed-book and consist of short and long essays. Short essays will test your understanding of key concepts or the main arguments of the assigned articles. Long essays will test how you apply a theoretical framework to the real-world examples.
- 2. Policy Paper (20%):** You will be required to complete a policy paper on a specific issue/problem that has involved more than two countries in East Asia. A good paper will highlight effectively and logically the theoretical significance of the problem and its strategic importance to the United States or any other actors in international politics. You may use academic articles, local/national news sources, or your own knowledge to identify the issue you wish to focus on. You must use a critical thinking approach and not simply summarize the information.
- 3. Reading Response (15%):** You will be expected to choose five class periods and respond to the assigned readings. Your response must be critical and go beyond a summary or a description of the readings. A good response paper will compare or critique the readings using some analytical tools covered in previous classes. All papers should be submitted electronically to me (leeju@lafayette.edu) before the class for which the reading is assigned starts.
- 4. Presentation (15%):** Students will work in groups for a slide presentation (40-45 minutes). The presentation should include an in-depth case study on a topical issue and some discussion questions. Each group will decide their own presentation topic by the end of the first week. Effective and interactive presentations will earn extra credit.
- 5. Attendance and participation (10%):** Attendance is vital to learning the material presented in this course. If you miss more than 3 of this semester's classes, you will not be eligible for a final grade of A, regardless of your other assignment grades. If you miss more than 6 of this semester's classes, you will not be eligible for a final grade above a B-. Missing more than 9 of the classes will result in a failing grade for the course. Please come to class prepared to engage thoughtfully, listen attentively, and interact with your peers respectfully.

In addition, the instructor will give a short answer question at the end of each class and collect students' responses written on a piece of paper. Questions will be broad and general and will be relevant to the topic that was covered in the class. The purpose of this activity is for the instructor to better understand and communicate with each student. Interesting thoughts and perspectives will be introduced at the beginning of the next class. Answers will not be graded but may be given extra credits.

Final grade will be based on the quality of assignments listed above and will be determined using the following percentage scale:

A = 100 – 93	A- = 92 – 90	B ⁺ = 89 – 87	B = 86 – 83	B- = 82 – 80
C ⁺ = 79 – 77	C = 76 – 73	C- = 72 – 70	D ⁺ = 69 – 67	D = 66 – 63
D- = 62 – 60	F ≤ 60			

Statement on Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work. For specific examples of and College policies on academic dishonesty, both intentional and inadvertent, please consult the *Student Handbook*, available online at <https://conduct.lafayette.edu>.

Student Disability Services

Lafayette is committed to assisting students with disabilities fully participate in all programs and activities at the college. In compliance with Lafayette College policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that you may require as a student with a disability. Requests for academic accommodations need to be made during the first two weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students must register with the Office of the Dean of the College for disability verification and for determination of reasonable academic accommodations. Students with disabilities may contact Disability Services through ATTIC. You can find more information online at <http://attic.lafayette.edu/disability-services/>.

On Electronics and Courtesy

All electronic messaging devices must be turned off and stowed away by the time class begins: no e-mail/Facebook/text message checking, net surfing, etc. during class time. The use of laptops and tablets is prohibited in class except when explicitly permitted by the instructor. Out of courtesy to your classmates and your instructor, please come to class on time and do not leave until the class ends, unless you obtained prior permission, and do not engage in private conversations in class.

Textbooks

1. Michael Yahuda. (2019). *The International Politics of the Asia-Pacific* (4th Edition). ISBN: 978-1-138-64707-7. Routledge.
2. Mark Beeson. (2014). *Regionalism and Globalization in East Asia: Politics, Security and Economic Development* (2nd Edition). ISBN: 987-1-137-33235-6. Palgrave MacMillan.

Course Schedule

Week 1: International Relations Theories in the Context of East Asia

What are the central tenets of the mainstream international relations theories? Have the theories of international relations explained East Asia well? Why do scholars think that East Asian international relations have been understudied in the international relations literature?

Monday, August 26

- Introduction (No reading)

Wednesday, August 28

- Walt, S. M. (1998). International relations: one world, many theories. *Foreign policy*, 29-46. (posted online)
- Snyder, J. (2004). One world, rival theories. *Foreign policy*, (145), 52. (posted online)

Friday, August 30

- Johnston, A. I. (2012). What (if anything) does East Asia tell us about international relations theory? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15, 53-78. (posted online)
- Kang, D. C. (2003). Getting Asia wrong: The need for new analytical frameworks. *International Security*, 27(4), 57-85. (posted online)

Week 2: History and International Relations in East Asia

How do we define East Asia? What, if anything, is different about East Asia? How have historical circumstances shaped the international politics of East Asia? What accounts for the East Asian countries' attitudes towards Japan, then and now?

Monday, September 2

- Beeson: Conceptualizing East Asia: From the Local to the Global (pp. 1-22)
- Yahuda: Introduction (pp. 1-11)

Wednesday, September 4

- Beeson: Northeast Asia and the Weight of History (pp. 23- 46)

Friday, September 6

- Beeson: Southeast Asia's Dependent Development (pp. 47-62)

Week 3: Cold War and East Asian International Relations

How the Cold War affected Asia? How did the Cold War spread to East Asia? Was the Cold War cold in East Asia?

Monday, September 9

- Yahuda: The impact of the Cold War on the Asian-Pacific (pp. 13-52)

Wednesday, September 11

- Yahuda: From unipolarity to uncertainty: 1991-2018 (pp. 53-93)

Friday, September 13

- Student Presentation 1

Week 4: Post-Cold War and Evolving Security in East Asia

Do East Asians think of themselves as east Asian or Asian? Is regional integration happening in East Asia? Is an Asian NATO (or EU) possible?

Monday, September 16

- Beeson: The Evolving Security Agenda (pp. 63-76)
- Hiroshi Mitani, "Why Do We Still Need to Talk about 'Historical Understanding' in East Asia?" (posted online)

Wednesday, September 18

- Beeson: Regional Security (pp. 77-92)
- Hemmer & Katzenstein, "Why Is There No NATO in Asia?" (posted online)

Friday, September 20

- Student Presentation 2

Week 5: East Asian Economic Miracle

What are some key characteristics of East Asian Economic Miracles?

Monday, September 23

- Beeson: East Asia's Developmental States (pp. 120-149)
- Noguchi, Y. (1998). "The 1940 System: Japan Under the Wartime Economy." *American Economic Review* 88(2): 404-7. (posted online)

Wednesday, September 25

- Kang, D. (1995). "South Korean and Taiwanese Development and the New Institutional Economics," *International Organization* 49 (3): 555-87. (posted online)
- Cummings, B. (1979). "The Political Economy of Chinese Foreign Policy," *Modern China*. 5 (4): 411-461. (posted online)

Friday, September 27

Student Presentation 3

Deadline for policy paper proposal

Week 6: Economic Crisis and Stagnations

What caused economic stagnation in Japan? What started the Asian financial crisis? How did economic crises affect East Asian countries?

Monday, September 30

- Beeson: Crises and their consequences (pp. 186-203)
- Krugman, P. (1994). "The Myth of Asia's Miracle," *Foreign Affairs* 73 (6): 63-78. (posted online)

Wednesday, October 2

- Yahuda: Japan: Re-emergence after a long decline (pp. 184-223)
- Beeson: East Asia and the Global Economy (pp. 167-185)

Friday, October 4

Student Presentation 4

Week 7: The United States in East Asian Region

What were U.S. goals in East Asia during and immediately after World War II? How has China's rise affected U.S. leadership in the region? Is U.S. influence declining in East Asia?

Monday, October 7

- Yahuda: The United States and the post-Cold War transformation (pp. 94-138)
- Tow, W. T., & Limaye, S. (2016). What's China Got to Do With It? US Alliances, Partnerships in the Asia-Pacific. *Asian Politics & Policy*, 8(1), 7-26. (posted online)

Wednesday, October 9

- Yahuda: Southeast Asia: America's relative decline and China's rise (pp. 255-276)

Friday, October 11

- **Midterm**

Week 8: The Rise of China

How did China's economy grow? What are the impacts of China's rise on East Asia and the World?

Monday, October 14

- Fall Break (14-15)

Wednesday, October 16

- Yahuda: China: The ascent to global economic, political and military influence (pp. 139-183)

Friday, October 18

- Beeson: The China Model (pp. 150-166)
- Lam P. (2016) "China, the United States, Alliances, and War: Avoiding the Thucydides Trap?" (posted online)

Week 9: Great Power Rivalry and the Leadership in East Asia

What is the nature of the recent debates on participation in regional economic partnership organizations in Asia-Pacific region?

Monday, October 21

- Huang, J. (2012). "TPP versus ECFA: Similarities, Differences, and China's Strategies," *China Review*, 12, 2: 85-109 (posted online)
- Ferdinand, P. (2016). Westward ho—the China dream and 'one belt, one road': Chinese foreign policy under Xi Jinping. *International Affairs*, 92(4), 941-957. (posted online)
- Phillip Y. Lipsky, "Who's Afraid of the AIIB," *Foreign Affairs: Snapshot*, May 7, 2015. (posted online)

Wednesday, October 23

- Tow, W. (2015). "The United States and Asia in 2014: Reconciling Rebalancing and Strategic Constraints," *Asian Survey*, 55, 1: 12-20. (posted online)
- Ankit P. (2017). "Trump Killed TPP. What's Next For Trade in Asia?" *The Diplomat*, <http://thediplomat.com/2017/01/trump-killed-tpp-whats-next-for-trade-in-asia/> (posted online)

Friday, October 25

- Student Presentation 5

Week 10: Domestic Politics and East Asian International Relations

How have domestic politics affected international relations in East Asia?

Monday, October 28

- Beeson: Nationalism and Domestic Politics (pp. 93-119)
- Gallagher, M. E. (2011). "‘Reform and Openness’: Why China's Economic Reforms Have Delayed Democracy." *World Politics* 54(03): 338–72. (posted online)

Wednesday, October 30

- Yahuda: DPRK and ROK: Issues of identity (pp. 224-238)
- Yahuda: Democratization and the evolution of Taiwan (pp. 239-254)

Friday, November 1

- Student Presentation 6

Week 11: ASEAN and Regional Cooperation

Why was the ASEAN formed? Does ASEAN fulfill its purpose? Does ASEAN have bright future?

Monday, November 4

- Beeson: The evolution of East Asian Regionalism (pp. 204-222)
- Ravenhill, John. 2009. "East Asian Regionalism: Much Ado about Nothing?" *Review of International Studies*, 35: 215-235. (posted online)

Wednesday, November 6

- Rüländ, J. (2000). ASEAN and the Asian crisis: theoretical implications and practical consequences for Southeast Asian regionalism. *The Pacific Review*, 13(3), 421-451. (posted online)

Friday, November 8

- Student Presentation 7

Week 12 North Korea and Nuclear Proliferation

What made North Korea start developing nuclear weapons? What are the consequences of having nuclear weapons? Who can solve this problem? How?

Monday, November 11

- Bruce Cumings, "North Korea: The Sequel," *Current History* 102, 663 (April 2003): 147-151. (posted online)
- Mark Bowden, "How to Deal with North Korea," *The Atlantic*, July/August 2017. (posted online)

Wednesday, November 13

- Wu, A. (2005). What China Whispers to North Korea. *Washington Quarterly*, 28(2), 35-48. (posted online)

Friday, November 15

- Student Presentation 8

Week 13: Territorial Disputes

Why do East Asian nations dispute island territories? How would you adjudicate the disputes? Does your suggestion have a chance of success?

Monday, November 18

- Tim Liao, "Why China, Japan and Korea Fuss Over Tiny Islands—4 Things to Know," *The Washington Post: The Monkey Cage*, April 17, 2018. (posted online)
- Alexis Dudden, "Korea's and Japan's Rocky Standoff," in Jeff Kingston, ed., *Asian Nationalisms Reconsidered* (London and New York: Routledge, 2016), pp. 103-115. (posted online)

Wednesday, November 20

- M. Taylor Fravel, "China's Strategy in the South China Sea," *Contemporary Southeast Asia* 33, 3 (December 2011): 292-319. (posted online)

Friday, November 22

- Student Presentation 9

Week 14: Migration and Ethnic Conflict in Southeast Asia

Monday, November 25

- Mahmood, S. S., Wroe, E., Fuller, A., & Leaning, J. (2017). The Rohingya people of Myanmar: health, human rights, and identity. *The Lancet*, 389(10081), 1841-1850. (posted online)
- Kipgen, N. (2014). Addressing the Rohingya problem. *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 49(2), 234-247 (posted online)
- **Policy Paper Due**

Wednesday, November 27

- Thanksgiving holiday

Friday, November 29

- Thanksgiving holiday

Week 15: Environmental Security

Monday, December 2

- CNN, <https://www.cnn.com/2019/04/24/asia/duterte-canada-trash-intl/index.html>
- The New York Times, http://www.mrwmd.org/archives/2009%20Board%20Meeting/October/MRWMDSep09_6a_Smuggling_Europe.pdf.

Wednesday, December 4

- Biba, S. (2012). China's continuous dam-building on the Mekong River. *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 42(4), 603-628. (posted online)
- Kim, I. (2014). Messages from a middle power: participation by the Republic of Korea in regional environmental cooperation on transboundary air pollution issues. *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics*, 14(2), 147-162. (posted online)

Friday, December 6

- Student Presentation 10

Final Exam (Reading day 12/9, Final exam period 12/10-17)

Submit your paper to LVAIC Global Student Conference (Due on December 31, 2019)

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvaGDpBSK8rjllvZXaTm1d6KNwz2s6vrVDac65ZigtcbSdOA/viewform>