Course Description

The course is designed to acquaint students with the foreign policies of the nations in Northeast Asia: China, Japan, Russia, and the two Koreas. The class will explore national security strategies and foreign economic relations of these countries within the changing context of international environment shaped by the end of the Cold War, globalization, and the war on terror. Particular attention will be paid to the security issues around the Korean peninsula and Taiwan and to the role of the United States in the region. The overview of regional interrelationships will enable students to assess the functionality and the perspectives of regional institutions, such as ASEAN and APEC.

The class will apply three theoretical frameworks, such as realism, liberalism and constructivism to look at political, economic and social developments in Northeast Asia. Students will assess the rising power of China employing the realist power transition theory and the liberal account of economic interdependence. We will identify the realist and the liberal perspectives of resolving security issues around the Korean peninsula and Taiwan. We will see how Japan adjusts and implements its foreign policy strategies under the changing balance of power and increased economic liberalization in the region. Additionally, the class will apply the constructivist theoretical framework to look at the Taiwanese identity within the context of accelerated economic integration with Mainland China.

The course meets the General Education requirements for the category of Regions Beyond Europe. Students will acquire knowledge of political arrangements, institutions, economies, and societies of Northeast Asia. They will be able to analyze the developments in the region from the perspectives of its peoples. The class will pay attention to the historical and cultural context as well as learn distinctive geographical features of the states.

Course Requirements

The final grade will be based on:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In class midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>In class final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home assignment #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-home assignment #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Consistent attendance, reading of the required material, and participation in discussions are essential for successful completion of the course. There will be in-class midterm and final exams offering the choice between two questions. The questions will be handed out a week prior to the exams that would enable students to come well prepared for writing an essay in class. Two take-home assignments will require students to write a 5-6 page essay answering one of the two questions. The response must be typewritten, double-spaced, and in 12-point font. The argument should be supported by evidence from the assigned readings and the notes taken from class. Students must provide appropriate references to the sources.

Students must meet the standards of academic integrity. For comprehensive information visit the website: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

Readings:

- Course pack *All the readings are available at Mary Jane Bookstore: 215 Western Avenue (at Quail Street, phone 518-465-2238.*

Course Outline

Jan 21: Introduction
- Course syllabus

Jan 23 - Jan 26 - Jan 28: The Past and the Present of Northeast Asia
- Kim, Chapter 1, pp. 3-64

Jan 30 – Feb 2 - Feb 4: China: The Political and Security Dimensions
- Kim, Chapter 2, pp. 65-100


### Feb 6 – Feb 9 – Feb 11: China: Global and Regional Economic Integration

- Kim, Chapter 3, pp. 101-134


### Feb 13: The first take-home assignment will be handed out.

Feb 13: Discussion: How does the literature assess China’s transition to the largest world economy? Will China challenge regional and global status-quo policy? Why? Why not?

### Feb 16: NO CLASS

### Feb 18: NO CLASS

### Feb 20: NO CLASS

**The first take-home assignment is due on FEB 27.**

### Feb 23 - Feb 25 - Feb 27: Contentious Issues: The Korean Peninsula: Nuclear Threats and Unification

- Kim, Chapter 8, pp. 251-279

- Kim, Chapter 9, pp. 281-299


### Mar 4: Midterm exam questions will be handed out.

Mar 2 – Mar 4 – Mar 6: Contentious Issues: Taiwan

- Kim, Chapter 10, pp. 301-327


Mar 9: Discussion: What are the realist and the liberal perspectives of resolving security issues of Korea and Taiwan?

**Mar 11: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Mar 13 – Mar 16: Russian Foreign Policy in Northeast Asia**

- Kim, Chapter 6, pp. 201-224

**Mar 18 – Mar 20: US Foreign Policy in Northeast Asia**

- Kim, Chapter 7, pp. 225-248


- Kim, Chapter 4, pp. 135-169

**Mar 30 - Apr 1- Apr 3: Japan: Foreign Economic Policy**

- Kim, Chapter 5, pp. 171-199

**Apr 6:** Discussion: What is the role of the United States in shaping Japan’s foreign security and economic policy? What are the main current shifts in Japan’s foreign policy?

**Apr 8:** NO CLASS

**Apr 10:** NO CLASS

**Apr 13:** NO CLASS

**Apr 15:** The second take-home assignment will be handed out

**Apr 15- Apr 17 - Apr 20:** East Asian cooperation: constraints and opportunities


**Apr 22:** Discussion: What are the opportunities and the constraints for cooperation in Northeast Asia?

**The second take-home assignment is due on Apr 24.**

**Apr 24- Apr 27 – Apr 29 – May 1:** Future of Northeast Asia

- Kim, Chapter 11, pp. 331-362


May 4: Final exam questions will be handed out.

May 4: Discussion: What are the major problems Northeast Asia is going to confront in the 21st century?

May 6: NO CLASS

May 11: FINAL EXAM