Northeast Asian Politics: Security and Cooperation
RPOS 204Y (7946)
Spring 2012
Mon-Wed-Fri 11:30 AM – 12:25 AM
ES 147

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Office hours: Uptown, HU 16, Wed 10:00 – 11:20 AM
or by appointment

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, the war on terror, current economic recession and emerging new security threats. Particular attention will be paid to the security issues around the Korean peninsula and Taiwan and to the role of the United States and China in the region. The overview of regional interrelationship 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. 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. The class will explore the realist and the liberal perspectives for resolving security issues around the Korean peninsula and Taiwan. We will also apply the constructivist theoretical framework to look at the Taiwanese identity within the context of accelerated economic integration with Mainland China. Finally, we will assess the rising power of China employing the realist power transition theory and the liberal account of economic interdependence.

Readings

- On-line articles

*The textbooks are available at Mary Jane Bookstore (215 Western Avenue, phone 518-465-2238) and at University Bookstore.*
The on-line articles should be downloaded through the University Libraries’ Minerva Search engine.

**How can you do that?**
- Under Minerva Catalog select JOURNALS
- Type the name of the journal in a search window (under Omit initial articles) and click
- Click on the name of the journal from the list
- Click on Online periodical
- Click on electronic location
- Insert your Net ID and Password if required (This are what you usually use to access your account at My UAlbany and e-mail)
- Navigate through the journal and find the year, volume and issue for the assigned article
- Open the PDF file with the article and download it into your personal database.

**Course Requirements**

The final grade will be based on:

- Participation 20%
- Quizzes 30%
- In-class midterm exam 25%
- Take-home final essay exam 25%

**Participation:** attendance, reading and active role in discussions.

**Attendance** will be taken each class day. Late arrivals will not be considered as ‘present.’ Each student will be allowed two unexcused absences throughout the semester. Any unexcused absence following the second one will result in deduction of 2% from 20% share for participation.

**Reading:** The readings must be completed prior to the lectures. Each reading will be assigned with a set of guiding questions so that the students could pay attention to certain issues while reading and come to class well prepared for discussions and quizzes.

**Active role in discussions** is important for successful completion of the course: it will substantially contribute to the final grade and may be rewarded with extra credits, which could improve the final grade.

**Quizzes:** there will be 10 quizzes throughout the semester. They will be made up of multiple choice questions or short answer questions based on the assigned readings, lectures and documentaries watched during the class. The time for each quiz will not exceed 10 minutes. Only the first two quizzes will be announced. Two bottom quizzes or two absent quizzes will be dropped from the cumulative grade for this activity. **You must get 680 points for 8 best quizzes to meet 30% quiz requirement for the final grade.**

**In-class midterm exam** will be made up of multiple choice questions and short essay questions. Most of the multiple choice questions will be taken from the completed in-class quizzes. Short essay questions will be based on the material covered by the assigned readings, lectures and documentaries watched during the class.
Take-home final essay exam will require students to write a 5-7 page essay answering one of the two questions. The argument should be supported by evidence from the assigned readings, the notes taken from class and documentaries. Students must provide appropriate references to the sources. No additional research is required. The response must be typewritten, double-spaced, and in 12-point font.

The take-home final essay exam is due on Monday, May 7 in class. The questions will be handed out on Wednesday, April 25.

Watching documentaries during the class: take notes and answer the questions handed out before the film. The information derived from the documentaries will help to successfully complete the quizzes, the midterm exam and write a good take-home final essay exam.

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

It is strongly recommended to complete a library tutorial on plagiarism: [http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html](http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html)

Course Outline

Jan 18: Introduction
- Course syllabus

Jan 20 – 23 – 25: The Past and the Present of Northeast Asia
- Kim, Samuel S., ed. The International Relations of Northeast Asia: pp. 3-66
- Cai, Kevin G. The Political Economy of East Asia. Regional and National Dimensions: pp. 34-48

- Quiz 1 (10 min)
- Kim, Samuel S., ed. The International Relations of Northeast Asia: pp. 135-169
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Feb 6 – Feb 8 – Feb 10: Japan: Economic Policy
- Quiz 2 (10 min)
- Kim, Samuel S., ed. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*: pp. 171-199

Feb 13 – Feb 15 – Feb 17: East Asian Developmental States:
- Cai, Kevin G. *The Political Economy of East Asia*: pp. 83-116 (South Korea)
- Cai, Kevin G. *The Political Economy of East Asia*: pp. 117-150 (Taiwan)


Feb 27– Feb 29 – Mar 2: Contentious Issues: Taiwan
- Kim, Samuel S., ed. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*: pp. 301-327

Mar 5: Discussion: What are the realist and the liberal perspectives for resolving security issues of Korea and Taiwan?

Mar 7: Review of the first half of the semester: Preparing for Midterm

**Mar 9: Midterm**

Mar 12 – 14 – 16 – NO CLASSES

- Kim, Samuel S., ed. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*: pp. 65-100

Mar 26 – Mar 28 – Mar 30: China: Global and Regional Economic Integration

- Cai, Kevin G. *The Political Economy of East Asia*: pp. 151-187
- Kim, Samuel S., ed. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*: pp. 101-134

Apr 2 – Apr 4: US Foreign Policy in Northeast Asia


Apr 6 – 9 – NO CLASSES

Apr 11: Will China become a threat to the United States’ world supremacy in the 21st century? Will China challenge the United States’ hard and soft power?


Apr 13: Discussion: What role will the United States play in shaping East Asia’s regional security and economic cooperation?

Apr 16 – Apr 18: Russian Foreign Policy in Northeast Asia

- Kim, Samuel S., ed. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*: pp. 201-224

Apr 20 – Apr 23 – Apr 25: East Asian cooperation: constraints and opportunities

**April 25: The questions of the take-home final essay exam will be handed out.**

- Cai, Kevin G. *The Political Economy of East Asia*: pp. 188-219
- Kim, Samuel S., ed. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia*: pp. 331-362

Apr 27: Discussion: What are the opportunities and the constraints for cooperation in Northeast Asia?

Apr 30 – May 2 – May 4: Future of Northeast Asia


May 7: Discussion: What are the prospects for the East Asian Community?


The take-home final essay exam is due on Monday, May 7 in class.