

GVPT 409E
International Relations of East Asia
Fall 2019
Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-10:45; Tydings 1118

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Office hours: Wednesdays 9-10:30AM (or by appointment)

This course will explore international relations in East Asia, focusing mostly on Northeast Asia. The course will provide some background on the evolution of international politics in the region over the past several decades, and will examine several contemporary issues—including the North Korean nuclear issue, the relationship across the Taiwan Strait, and the maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas—in depth. The last several weeks of the course will use insights from international relations theory to examine a series of topics pertaining to the region, including: prospects for a security dilemma in contemporary East Asia; the risks of military conflict in the region; the effect of nationalism and audience costs on the foreign policy of countries in the region; the role of history and historical memory in regional interstate relations; etc.

Requirements

Class time will be a mix of lectures and discussion. As such, participation in course discussions will constitute an important part of the final grade, and students should come to class prepared, having completed the readings on the syllabus for that day.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam (in class on Oct. 15): 25%
Individual paper (due November 21, on a topic to be given in advance by the instructor): 25%
Group presentation (in class during week 15): 10%
Group paper assignment (due on scheduled date of final exam, December 12): 20%
Class participation: 20%

The course will include a group paper and presentation. Students will be divided into small groups after the midterm, and each group will be given a topic; the expected length of the group presentation will be about 10-15 minutes, and the paper should be approximately 5 pages long. The instructor will allocate some class time in November for students to work on this project. More details about the assignment will be given after the midterm.

Optional individual final research paper. Students who prefer not to participate in the group project may instead choose to write an individual research paper, on a topic to be approved by

the instructor. The research paper should be approximately 10-12 pages long, and will be due on December 12. This paper would then count 30% toward the student's final grade. Students choosing this option will still be expected to attend course during the group presentations during the final week of class, and to participate in Q&A during those presentations.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students should have a better understanding of international politics in East Asia. The course also aims to improve research skills, writing and communication skills, critical thinking skills, and analytical skills.

Class policies and other important information

Cheating:

I take cheating very seriously, and will not hesitate to forward a case to the Office of Student Conduct if I suspect academic misconduct.

The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit: <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>.

Laptops, cellphones, and other distractions:

Using electronic devices in class not only undercuts your ability to learn, but also distracts others (including me), thus affecting the ability of other students to learn. Laptops should be used only for taking notes. Cellphone use will not be tolerated. Violation of these policies (such as texting, surfing the web, etc. during class) will negatively affect your course participation grade.

Absences, etc.

The University of Maryland has a policy regarding medically necessitated absences from class. Under the policy, I will accept a self-signed note from the student attesting to the date of the illness as an excused absence from a single class. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per class per semester.

A student who experiences a prolonged absence or an illness preventing attendance at a major scheduled grading event is required to provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or an outside health care provider, verifying the dates of the treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities.

For information on University policies regarding excused absences for medical or other reasons, and information on other course related policies, please refer to the Office of Undergraduate Studies webpage on course related policies:

<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>.

Course readings

Most course readings are available on course reserves. A few are available online via the link provided on the syllabus.

WEEK 1 (August 26, 28)

Introduction: East Asia after the Cold War

Readings for August 28:

- Aaron L. Friedberg, "Ripe for Rivalry: Prospects for Peace in a Multipolar Asia," *International Security*, Vol. 18, no. 3 (1993/1994), pp. 5-33.

Week 2 (September 3, 5)

The US-China relationship and China's rise

Readings for September 3:

- Thomas J. Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (New York, NY: Norton, 2015), ch. 1.

Readings for September 5:

- Harry Harding, "Has U.S. China Policy Failed?," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 38, no. 3 (2015), pp. 95-122.

Week 3 (September 10, 12)

The Korean Peninsula; The North Korean nuclear issue

Readings for September 12:

- Nicholas D. Anderson, "America's North Korean Nuclear Trilemma," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 40, no. 4 (Winter 2018), pp. 153-164.
- Victor D. Cha, "North Korea's Weapons of Mass Destruction: Badges, Shields, or Swords?" *Political Science Quarterly* 117, 2 (Summer 2002), pp. 209-230.

Week 4 (September 17, 19)

US-Japan alliance; Japanese foreign policy and its evolution

Readings for September 19:

- Thomas U. Berger. 1993. "From Sword to Chrysanthemum: Japan's Culture of Anti-Militarism," *International Security*, Vol. 17, No. 4: 119-150.
- Adam P. Liff. 2018. "Japan's Security Policy in the 'Abe Era': Radical Transformation or Evolutionary Shift?" *Texas National Security Review*, Vol. 1, No. 3: 8-34.

Week 5 (September 24, 26)

Maritime disputes in the East and South China Seas

Readings for September 24:

- M. Taylor Fravel. 2010. "Explaining Stability in the Senkaku (Diaoyu) Islands Dispute." In Gerald Curtis, Ryosei Kokubun, and Wang Jisi, eds., *Getting the Triangle Straight: Managing China-Japan-US Relations*. Japan Center for International Exchange:
http://www.jcie.org/researchpdfs/Triangle/7_fravel.pdf.

Readings for September 26:

- Ketian Zhang. 2019. "Cautious Bully: Reputation, Resolve, and Beijing's Use of Force in the South China Sea." *International Security*, Vol. 44, No. 1: 117-159.

Week 6 (October 1, 3)

The Taiwan Strait

Readings for October 1:

- Richard C. Bush, *Uncharted Strait: The Future of China-Taiwan Relations* (Washington DC: Brookings, 2013), chapter 2. ELMS COURSE RESERVES.

Readings for October 3:

- John J. Mearsheimer, "Say Goodbye to Taiwan," *The National Interest*, March/April 2014, online at: <http://nationalinterest.org/article/say-goodbye-taiwan-9931>
- Nancy Bernkopf Tucker and Bonnie Glaser, "Should the United States Abandon Taiwan?" *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 34, no. 4 (2011), pp. 23-37.

Week 7 (October 8, 10)

ASEAN; Regional economic institutions.

Readings for October 8:

- Mark Beeson. 2016. "Can ASEAN Cope with China?" *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, Vol. 35, no. 1: 5-28.

Readings for October 10:

- Hong Yu. 2017. "Motivation behind China's 'One Belt, One Road' Initiatives and Establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 26, issue 105: 353-368.

Week 8 (October 15, 17)

Midterm Exam on Tuesday, October 15

Thursday: the security dilemma in East Asia

Readings for October 17:

- Adam P. Liff and G. John Ikenberry. 2014. "Racing toward Tragedy? China's Rise, Military Competition in the Asia-Pacific, and the Security Dilemma." *International Security* 39 (2): 52-91.

Week 9 (October 22, 24)

China's rise, power transition theory, and balancing behavior in East Asia

Readings for October 22:

- Alastair Iain Johnston. 2003. "Is China a status quo power?" *International Security* 27 (4): 5-56.

Readings for October 24:

- Adam P. Liff. 2016. "Whither the Balancers? The Case for a Methodological Reset." *Security Studies*, Vol. 25: 420-459.

Week 10 (October 29, 31)

Audience Costs and War

Readings for October 29:

- Michael Tomz, "Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach," *International Organization*, Vol. 61, no. 4 (2007), pp. 821-840.

- John D. Ciorciari and Jessica Chen Weiss, "Nationalist Protests, Government Responses, and the Risk of Escalation in Interstate Disputes," *Security Studies*, Vol. 25, no. 3 (2016), pp. 546-583.

Readings for October 31:

- James D. Fearon. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.

Week 11 (November 5, 7)

The economic-security nexus in East Asia

Readings for November 5:

- Stan Hok-wui Wong and Nicole Wu, "Can China Buy Taiwan? An Empirical Assessment of Beijing's Agricultural Trade Concessions to Taiwan," *Journal of Contemporary China* Vol. 25, No. 99 (2016), pp. 353-371.

Readings for November 7:

- Erik Gartzke and Quan Li. 2003. "How Globalization Can Reduce International Conflict." In Nils Petter Gleditsch, Gerald Schneider, and Katherine Barbieri, eds., *Globalization and Armed Conflict* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield), pp. 123-140.
- Kristin Vekasi. 2017. "Transforming Geopolitical Risk: Public Diplomacy of Multinational Firms for Foreign Audiences." *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, Vol. 10, No. 1: 95-129.

Week 12 (November 12, 14)

Nationalism, history and historical memory

Readings for November 12:

- Yinan He. 2007. "History, Chinese Nationalism and the Emerging Sino-Japanese Conflict," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 16, Issue 50: 1-24.
- Jennifer Lind, "The Perils of Apology: What Japan Shouldn't Learn from Germany," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 88, no. 3 (May/June 2009).

Readings for November 14:

- Peter Hays Gries, Jennifer L. Prewitt-Freilino, Luz-Eugenia Cox-Fuenzalida, and Qingmin Zhang. 2009. "Contentious Histories and the Perception of Threat: China, the United States and the Korean War—An Experimental Analysis." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 9: 433-65.

Week 13 (November 19, 21)

Looking to the future: A new Cold War in Asia?

Readings for November 19:

- “Remarks by Vice President Pence on the Administration’s Policy toward China.” (2018 speech given at the Hudson Institute):
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-vice-president-pence-administrations-policy-toward-china/>
- Alastair Iain Johnston. 2019. “The Failures of the ‘Failure of Engagement’ of China,” *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 42, no. 2: 99-114.

Readings for November 21:

- Yan Xuetong. 2019. “The Age of Uneasy Peace: Chinese Power in a Divided World,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, no. 1: 40-49.
- Oriana Skylar Mastro. 2019. “The Stealth Superpower: How China Hid its Global Ambitions,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, no. 1: 31-39.

Individual paper due Thursday, November 21

Week 14 (November 26)

Prepare group projects Tuesday

No class on Thursday (Thanksgiving)

Readings: None

Week 15 (December 3, 5)

Group presentations.

Readings: None

Group paper due December 12