

GVPT 409E
International Relations of East Asia
Spring 2018
Thursdays, 2-4:45PM, Tydings 1101

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3PM (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

In most weeks, class will consist of a combination of some lecture and some 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 for the week.

Grades will be determined as follows:

Class participation: 20%
Paper assignment (due March 15, on a topic to be given in advance by the instructor): 25%
Group presentation (in class on May 3): 10%
Group paper assignment (due in class on May 3): 15%
Final Exam (at the official exam date and time): 30%

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

The paper that is due on March 15 should be approximately 5 pages long. Topics will be given in advance by the instructor.

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

Course readings include some book chapters that will be posted on ELMS course reserves. But most are journal articles: students are responsible for downloading journal articles themselves via the library webpage.

Week 1: January 25

Introduction

Week 2: February 1

The rise of China in a dynamic region

Week 2 Readings:

- Thomas J. Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (New York, NY: Norton, 2015), ch. 1. ELMS COURSE RESERVES.
- 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 3: February 8

The United States in Asia and the evolving U.S.-China relationship

Week 3 Readings:

- Hillary Clinton, "America's Pacific Century," *Foreign Policy* 189 (Nov. 2011), pp. 56-63.
- Harry Harding, "Has U.S. China Policy Failed?," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 38, no. 3 (2015), pp. 95-122.
- G. John Ikenberry, "Between the Eagle and the Dragon: American, China, and Middle State Strategies in East Asia," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 131, no. 1 (2016), pp. 9-43.
- Michael D. Swaine, "Managing Asia's Security Threats in the Trump Era," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 19 January 2017: <http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/01/19/managing-asia-s-security-threats-in-trump-era-pub-67746>

Week 4: February 15

The Korean Peninsula and North Korea's nuclear weapons program

Week 4 Readings:

- Oriana Skylar Mastro, "Why China Won't Rescue North Korea: What to Expect if Things Fall Apart," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, no. 1 (January/February 2018), pp. 58-66.
- 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.
- Yun Sun, "The (Upcoming) Changes to China's North Korea Policy?" *China-US Focus*, September 21, 2017. Online at: <https://www.chinausfocus.com/peace-security/the-upcoming-changes-to-chinas-north-korea-policy>

Week 5: February 22

The relationship across the Taiwan Strait

Week 5 Readings:

- Richard C. Bush, *Uncharted Strait: The Future of China-Taiwan Relations* (Washington DC: Brookings, 2013), chapter 2. ELMS COURSE RESERVES.
- Nancy Bernkopf Tucker and Bonnie Glaser, "Should the United States Abandon Taiwan?," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 34, no. 4 (2011), pp. 23-37.
- Denny Roy, "Prospects for Taiwan Maintaining its Autonomy under Chinese Pressure," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 57, no. 6 (November/December 2017), pp. 1135-1158.
- Patricia Kim, "History Shows Beijing Won't Budge an Inch on Taiwan," *Foreign Policy*, 3 January 2017.
- John J. Mearsheimer, "Say Goodbye to Taiwan," *The National Interest*, March/April 2014, online at: <http://nationalinterest.org/article/say-goodbye-taiwan-9931>

Week 6: March 1

Current Issues in China's foreign relations

NOTE: Today, students should attend the China and the World Conference to be held in the Stamp Student Union on campus. On March 1, the conference will run from 11:30AM until

5:30PM. Students are only expected to attend the conference during normal course time, but are encouraged to attend the entire conference if their schedule allows.

Week 6 Readings:

- Aynne Kokas, *Hollywood Made in China* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 2017), chapter 1. ELMS COURSE RESERVES.
- Xiaoyu Pu, "Controversial Identity of a Rising China," *The Chinese Journal of International Politics*, Vol. 10, no. 2 (Summer 2017), pp. 131-149. ELMS COURSE RESERVES.

Week 7: March 8

China's political system and foreign policy.

Week 7 Readings:

- Susan Lawrence and Michael F. Martin, "Understanding China's Political System," *CRS Report for Congress*, May 2013. Online at <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41007.pdf>
- Susan L. Shirk, *China, Fragile Superpower: How China's Internal Politics Could Derail its Peaceful Rise* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2008), chapter 3. ELMS COURSE RESERVES.

Week 8: March 15

Japan and the US-Japan alliance

Paper 1 due today

Week 8 Readings:

- Thomas U. Berger. 1993. "From Sword to Chrysanthemum: Japan's Culture of Anti-Militarism," *International Security*, Vol. 17, No. 4: 119-150.
- Jennifer Lind, "Japan's Security Evolution," CATO Institute, Policy Analysis No. 788, Feb. 25, 2016, online at <https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-788.pdf>
- Audrye Y. Wong, "Comparing Japanese and South Korean Strategies toward China and the United States: All Politics is Local," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 55 no. 6 (November/December 2015), pp. 1241-1269.

Spring Break (March 18-25)

Week 9: March 29

Maritime disputes: the East and South China Seas

Week 9 Readings:

- Andrew Erickson and Adam Liff, "Installing a Safety on the 'Loaded Gun'? China's institutional reforms, National Security Commission and Sino-Japanese crisis (in)stability," *Journal of Contemporary China* (2015).
- Wei Zongyou, "China's Maritime Trap," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 40, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 167-184.
- Kimberly Wilson, "Party Politics and National Identity in Taiwan's South China Sea Claims: Don't Rock the Boat," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 57, no. 2 (March/April 2017), pp. 271-296.

Week 10: April 5

The security dilemma and power transition theory

Week 10 Readings:

- 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.
- Alastair Iain Johnston. 2003. "Is China a status quo power?" *International Security* 27 (4): 5-56.
- Rosemary Foot, "Power Transitions and Great Power Management: Three Decades of China-Japan-US Relations," *Pacific Review*, Vol. 30, no. 6 (2017), pp. 829-842.

Week 11: April 12

Economic interdependence, regional institutions, and prospects for stability

Week 11 Readings:

- Alice Ba, "Is China Leading? China, Southeast Asia, and East Asian Integration," *Political Science* 66:2 (2014).
- Etel Solingen. 2014. "Domestic Coalitions, Internationalization, and War: Then and Now." *International Security* 39 (1): 44-70.
- Christopher Dent, "Paths ahead for East Asia and Asia-Pacific Regionalism," *International Affairs*, Vol. 89, no. 4 (2013), pp. 963-985.

Week 12: April 19

Nationalism and audience costs

Week 12 Readings:

- 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.
- Robert S. Ross, "China's Naval Nationalism: Sources, Prospects, and the U.S. Response," *International Security*, Vol. 34, no. 2 (2009), pp. 46-81.

Week 13: April 26

History and historical memory

Week 13 Readings:

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

Week 14: May 3

GROUP PRESENTATIONS AND PAPERS DUE TODAY

Week 15: May 10

Conclude and review for final

Final exam: currently scheduled for **Wednesday, May 16, 10:30AM-12:30PM**. NOTE: this date is subject to change, pending the release of the University's official final exam schedule.