For the most part, the “modern” period for states in East Asia began with the end of World War II. Imagine, this region entered the “modern period” as a war-torn, impoverished, and newly sovereign collection of states caught in the whirlwind of what would become the Cold War. All of this was only seventy years ago (a historical blink of the eye). Japan was a vanquished empire under American occupation. The Republic of China, still governing mainland China, was in the throes of a civil war between the Nationalist government and the Chinese Communist Party. Taiwan was just relieved of half a century of Japanese rule after “liberation” by the Nationalist Chinese government. South Korea, having also just been liberated from four decades of Japanese colonialism, was divided between Russian and American occupation and suffering early rumblings of a fratricidal war.

Fast forward to 2016 and so much has changed. Japan is the third largest global economy, a full-fledged democracy, and one of the closest alliance partners of the United States. South Korea ranks 14th in global economies, is also a full-fledged democracy, and one of the closest alliance partners of the US. Taiwan, while not recognized by most countries as an independent state, ranks as the 24th largest economy, is a full-fledged democracy, and enjoys a special place under the US security umbrella. The “square peg” in this equation is the People’s Republic of China. Although only in existence since 1949, the PRC is now the world’s 2nd largest economy, having overtaken Japan as number two in 2011. The PRC, while liberalizing a bit from political totalitarianism, remains staunchly authoritarianism and has been identified as the single most prominent potential strategic and economic threat to American hegemony in Asia.

What happened in the years leading up to World War II and its aftermath that set the stage for the founding of the states we know today as Japan, China, South Korea, and “Taiwan”? What were the challenges and opportunities for leaders of these new states by the early 1950s? Why did they make the developmental decisions they did, and how did this shape the next half-century of development? How prominent were the roles played by external powers?

This course offers a broad comparative overview of political, economic, and societal development in East and Southeast Asia. After a brief introduction to colonial Pacific Asia, we
will focus on the region after World War II. The modern states of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and the People’s Republic of China did not come into existence until after cataclysms following the Second World War. Our objective is to assess and explain differences in type and degree of development in the region and understand how different paths of development generated various types of government, political cultures, and levels of country risk.

This course will focus on economic and political development in the region with an eye to the role of external powers. In other words, we will study the parallel and clearly entwined development of East Asian economics, politics, and cultures within the global context. In each unit, we will address broad theories of political and economic development and then apply these theories to the individual cases. The theories covered in this course may also be applicable to other regions of the world and would ultimately make for some neat cross-regional comparisons.

Course Objectives:

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students can expect to learn how to:

1. Define, understand, and use concepts and terms relevant to the study of East Asia.
2. Apply a body of factual knowledge directly relevant to understanding political and economic institutions across East Asian countries.
3. Analyze empirical evidence relevant to evaluating different points of view on historical and contemporary problems in East Asia.
4. Understand theories in the field of international studies and be able to apply them to understand contemporary political, economic, societal and cultural phenomena in East Asia.

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this class and all readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Students will be assessed according to their knowledge of the course materials and their ability to analyze, explain, and apply their knowledge to new and different contexts. Students who are regularly prepared for lecture and active in discussion also tend to earn higher grades on their quizzes and exams.

You are expected to attend lecture and do all of the reading. The assigned materials should be read before class on the date that they are listed. Lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed the reading for that day and are able to analyze the content.
• **Attendance, Discussion and Participation (20%)**
  Participation in class discussion is extremely important in the context of learning. Students are expected to come to each of the class and provide insights and share their ideas with others. In addition, I will randomly assign quizzes in the class for the purposes of checking your attendance and whether you have done your assigned readings. The format of these quizzes will be either ONE multiple-choice question or ONE true-or-false question.

• **Three Short Essays (30%)**
  You will be required to answer ONE of the questions posted on Blackboard. Each essay constitutes 10% of your final grade.

  Technical details:
  - Your essay need to be typed and submitted to Blackboard under “Assignments.”
  - You need to provide a title page indicating your name and which question you are answering.
  - **Three academic references (newspapers, books/book chapters, academic articles, etc.) is required**[^2] You are encouraged to follow the format of the *American Political Science Review* and the *Chicago Manual of Style* for your citations and reference. The Center for International Studies does not require a unified citation style, and the only requirement is to be consistent in the format you choose.
  - The length of the essay is 3 pages[^3] double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1 inch margins.
  - Sloppy writing should be avoided.
  - Dates to submit your answer on Blackboard:
    1. 2/24.
    2. 3/31.
    3. 5/5.

• **A Book Review, (20%)**
  The purpose of this assignment is to help you acquire in-depth knowledge of an East Asian country that is of interest to you. Reading important and critical literatures, especially those masterpieces, will help you immerse yourself into the historical and cultural context and atmosphere of a foreign country. Thus, you will be able to see through their eyes without actually being in the country. In this review, you need to complete two sections:
    2. A critical review. You need to analyze the book with the knowledge you learned from the class and provide your personal feedbacks.

[^2]: For graduate students, five academic references are required.
[^3]: For graduate students, 5 pages.
You can choose one of the following books (the translated versions are all available on Amazon, eBay, or the library):

- Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia*. (Taiwan)
- Huang Chunming, *The Taste of Apples*. (Taiwan)
- Mo Yan, *Red Sorghum: A Novel of China*. (China)
- Ba Jin, *The Family*. (China)
- Yasunari Kawabata, *The Old Capital*. (Japan)
- Kenzaburo Oe, *The Silent Cry*. (Japan)
- Naoki Hyakuta, *The Eternal Zero*. (Japan)
- Gong Ji-young, *My Sister, Bongsoon*. (Korea)
- Hwang Sun-won, *The Descendants of Cain*. (Korea)

Technical details:

- Your essay need to be typed and submitted to Blackboard under “Assignments.”
- You need to provide a title page indicating your name and the name of the book.
- You are encouraged to incorporate multiple references from the course readings or other relevant academic sources as supporting material.
- The length of the review is 5 pages, double-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1 inch margins.
- Sloppy writing should be avoided.
- **Due dates:** 4/21.

**A Final Open-Book Exam (30%)**
The final exam will be an open-book test, given at **May 8, 6:00-8:30 pm**. You can bring the lecture slides and class notes as your references. However, all electronic devices (laptops, cell-phones, and etc.) are strictly prohibited in this exam. The exam will include multiple-choice, true-or-false, fill-the-blank, and short answer questions. The questions will be drawn from the lectures and readings from the whole semester (cumulative).

**Extra Credit** Students are encouraged to participate in the speaker/lecture series held by the Center for International Studies. Attending the lecture, and submitting a one page response memo (double-spaced, 1-in margins, and Times New Roman font) within ONE week after the lecture will grant TWO additional points to the final exam score. Students can earn at most 10 addition points for their final exam.

---

**Graduate Student Addendum to Syllabus:**

---

4 For graduate students, 8 pages.
The quality of work from graduate students should be, by definition, superior in most instances to undergraduate work. MLA students are required to provide additional pages of analysis per essay assignment/exam. On examinations, graduate students will also be held to a higher standard with regard to the precision of answers. In other words, partial credit will be limited.

Policy on Missed Exams and Late Papers

- If you have an “acceptable excuse” that causes you to miss an exam/quiz (e.g., illness with a note from a doctor), contact your professor (me) within two business days of the test (preferably contact me before the test) and a make-up exam will be scheduled. Note that the format of the make-up exam/quiz may be different from the format of the regular exam.
- If you miss a test/quiz and do not have an “acceptable excuse,” you will receive a 0 on the test/quiz.
- Late papers and exams lose a letter grade per day late (including both business and non-business days). However, if you have an “acceptable excuse,” you will have extra time to finish your assignments.
- If you are late for over three days (> 3, including both business and non-business days) without an “acceptable excuse,” you will receive a 0 on the test/assignment.

Grading Policy:

The grade will be rounding to one decimal place. No additional rounding will be executed.

A = ≥ 93  B+ = 87-89.9  C+ = 77-79.9  D+ = 67-69.9
A- = 90-92.9  B = 83-86.9  C = 73-76.9  D = 60-66.9
B- = 80-82.9  C- = 70-72.9  F = Below 60

Academic Honesty: Cheating will not be tolerated. You must write your own quizzes and exams. Plagiarism is a representation of another person’s work as your own (for example, directly quoting from another source without using quotation marks). See the University of St. Thomas regulations, “Scholastic Dishonesty.” If you plagiarize, or otherwise cheat, on any exam or assignment, you will be punished to the maximum extent possible. While some cross-pollination of ideas may occur, student papers must not be written in collaboration. Student papers of similar flow, structure, word-choice, and content will be treated in the same manner as if they were plagiarized.
Course Outline and Readings

Readings are expected to be done by the end of the lecture date of the topic.

1. **January 19**
   **Topic:** Course overview

2. **January 26**
   **Topic 1:** Introduction to East Asia
   - Mark Beeson, *Regionalism & Globalization in East Asia*: Chapter 1.
   - Schirokauer Conrad and Donald Clark, “Foundations, Traditions, and Commonalities,” in *Modern East Asia: A Brief History*, pp. 4-21.
   - “Destinations in Asia,” Rough Guides, Link. (Glance through pages on Taiwan, China, Japan, and South Korea)
   - “The great diversity of East Asian Religion,” OMF International, Link. (Read pages on Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto)

3. **February 2 & 9**
   **Topic 2:** Historical Development before 19th Century
   **Required readings:**
   - Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Area*: Chapter 1. (February 2)
   - Mark Beeson, *Regionalism & Globalization in East Asia*: Chapter 2. (February 9)

4. **February 16 & 23**
   **Topic 3:** Disposition of States and Colonialism during 19th and 20th Century
   **Required readings:**
   - Warren Cohen, “The Great Qing Empire,” in *East Asia at the Center*, pp. 216-244. (February 16)
   - Warren Cohen, “Triumph of the West,” in *East Asia at the Center*, pp. 245-272. (February 16)
   - Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, “Korea 1896-1945,” in *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, pp. 454-500. (February 23)
   - Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, “War and Revolution, China (1927 - 1949),” in *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, pp. 501-528. (February 16)

5. March 2 & 9  
Topic 4: New States Emerge  
Required readings:

• Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Area*: Chapter 6. (March 2)  
• Dennis Roy, *Taiwan: A Political History*, pp. 76-104. (March 9)  
• Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, “China Under Mao (1949-1976),” in *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, pp. 546-564. (March 2)  
• Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, “China Since Mao (1976-present),” in *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, pp. 565-583. (March 2)  
• Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Area*: Chapter 10. (March 2)  
• Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, “Korea (1945-present),” in *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, pp. 584-603. (March 9)

6. March 23 & 30  
Topic 5: States, Regimes, and Development  
Required readings:

• Timothy Lim, “Political Change in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan,” in *Politics in East Asia: Explaining Change and Continuity*, pp. 183-230. (March 23)  
• Mark Beeson, *Regionalism & Globalization in East Asia*: Chapter 4 & 5. (March 30)

7. April 6 & 20  
Topic 6: International Relations in East Asia  
Required readings:

• Robert Sutter, “The United States in Asia: Durable Leadership,” in David L. Shambaugh and Michael B. Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*, pp. 93-114. (April 6)  
• Phillip C. Sanders, “China’s Role in Asia: Attractive or Assertive,” in David L. Shambaugh and Michael B. Yahuda (eds.), *International Relations of Asia*, pp. 147-172. (April 20)
8. April 27 & May 4  
Topic 7: Foreign Policy Issues  
**Required readings:**

- “China’s Maritime Disputes,” Council on Foreign Relations, [Link](#) (April 27)
- “Promise and Potential Peril: Japan’s Military Normalization,” *The Diplomat*, [Link](#) (April 27)
- “U.S. Policy Toward North Korea,” Council on Foreign Relations, [Link](#) (April 27)
- “China-Taiwan Relations,” Council on Foreign Relations, [Link](#) (April 27)
- “Taiwan’s 2016 Elections and Cross-Strait Relations,” Foreign Policy Research Institute, [Link](#) (April 27)
- Mark Beeson, *Regionalism & Globalization in East Asia*: Chapter 7 & 8. (May 4)

9. May 11 (6:00-8:30 pm)  
The Final Exam