

# Politics of East Asia

PLS 340  
Fall semester 2018

Professor: Sejin Koo

Room: 8.327

Office hours: WF 1:00-2:45, or by  
appointment

Class time: T/TH 4:30-5:45pm

Office: 6.214

Email: se-jin.koo@nu.edu.kz

*"If you were smart in 1807 you moved to London, if you were smart in 1907 you moved to New York City, and if you are smart in 2007 you move to Asia."*

Jim Rogers, global investor and co-founder of Quantum Fund

## Course Description and Purpose

This course is designed primarily to introduce students to the political institutions, democratic and economic development paths, and cultures in East Asian countries. Not only was East Asia the most dynamic region in terms of political and economic changes during the mid-twentieth century, but it is also a region exhibiting great diversity among the countries, which has fascinated students of comparative politics.

The goals of this course are:

- (1) Students will understand the differences and similarities among these countries in terms of the development paths, political institutions, and cultures.
- (2) Students will be able to explain the causes and consequences of the variations.
- (3) Students will be able to develop relevant hypotheses related to their own interest.
- (4) Students will be familiar with the latest issues facing East Asian countries.

In addition to the above academic goals, I expect that students will gain ample practical information (geography, economy, key issues, etc) about these countries and this important market.

**Required Readings:** All readings will be available in .pdf format (or online link) on Moodle.

## Course Requirements and Grading Policy

I will assign your final course grade as follows:

- **Map Quiz (5%)**

Map Quiz is scheduled for Aug 23. This Map Quiz aims to encourage students' awareness of and familiarity with Asian (not only East Asian, but also South and Southeast Asian!) countries, cities, and key geographical features. Among various ways to enjoy geography is to visit National Geographic online homepage (<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/>).

A handout on requirements for Map Quiz will be distributed on Aug 16.

- **Two In-class Tests (20% for Test 1 & 20% for Test 2; total 40%)**

The tests will be a closed-book test. Tests may include short-answer questions and essay questions. Make-up test will only be given if you have a university excused absence, and in such cases the exam will have a set of questions that are different from the original test. Lectures, your notes, readings, videos and any other class materials are the study guide.

- **Take-home Writing Assignments (5%, 5%, 5%; total 15%)**

You will be assigned to write three one-page response essays, with each written after **watching a film and reading an assigned piece of text**. These assignments are given to provide an insight into the turbulent modern political history of East Asian countries and its impact on the present politics of the countries, as well as to provide a basic training in critical and analytical thinking.

Your essays will be graded according to the following criteria: (1) your understanding of BOTH text and film, and (2) your provision of a research question that intrigues you, a hypothesis (a tentative answer that you believe is plausible), and a rationale (why/how your answer can be such a plausible answer to that question) from your understanding. (3) Be specific and clear.

The length must be 550-650 words (single-spaced; Times New Roman; 12pt; one inch margins). Be prepared to discuss your write-up in class. **An electronic copy must be submitted to Turnitin through Moodle no later than the beginning of class on the due date.**

Note: I am not asking for your opinion about a text/film. Comments like, “The film was interesting” or, “The text was boring” are not useful—they tell me nothing about what you took away from the exercise of reading/watching. Write in a form of essay, not in a list or series of bullets. I want to see how you connect topics and move from one point to the next, both within and between paragraphs. In each essay, you must reveal that you watched and read carefully. Plagiarism will be penalized as written below.

- **Creating a 5 – 7 minute video clip for “Very Political Tour” Project (15%)**

“百聞不如一見 (Seeing it once is better than hearing a hundred time).” This assignment is designed to encourage you to apply the material you will learn in this course to understand the past and current politics of East Asian countries. In order to foster cooperative learning, students will be responsible for participating in a group project on “Very Political Tours.” Each group is required to create a tour program through which students of political science (or anyone interested in Asian politics) can gain an in-depth understanding of the politics of East Asia. The destination of your group’s tour program can be any East Asian country (or countries) among China (Hong Kong), Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and Japan.

Each group will consist of 3 or 4 students. In this short video clip, you are free to use audio or video devices. **The video clip must be uploaded to Moodle at least one hour before class on the due date (Nov 22).**

If any of the information is sensitive (e.g., your home phone number), feel free to disguise it, and then perhaps delete the video from YouTube soon after the semester ends.

Each group project will be assessed based on the following criteria: (1) Does your travel plan have **a clear theme and goal**? What do you want to learn from your travel? (2) Does the travel plan provide an appropriate itinerary to learn about **a specific topic** of the politics of the area(s)? Specify the sites to visit and state how much each fits to your group’s

theme. Your presentation need to provide correct and appropriate explanations on each of the sites to visit. Why is including a particular site essential in your travel project? (3) Is the travel itinerary reasonable and realistic? Students are assumed to have a flexible budget and time for their political tour, as long as the itinerary is reasonably organized (for an example, let's say you want to learn about the experience of the Long March of the Communist Party of China between 1934 and 1935. You wouldn't be able to travel 6,000 miles within three days!). Maps showing the route will help. (4) Quality of the video clip matters. Is it **interesting and creative?**

The URLs below provide a partial listing of useful websites to get some travel information in Asia.

Lonely Planet (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/>)

CNN Travel (<http://www.cnn.com/TRAVEL/index.html>)

- **Short Assignments (10%)**

During class, I will assign various exercises or short assignments that reinforce the class material. Most of these exercises will be completed in class. They will not necessarily all be announced ahead of time.

Hopefully, everyone will make a good effort on the assigned readings, podcasts, and/or videos before class, as well as class lectures. If so, **this can be a free 10%.**

Short assignments include pop quizzes. If students consistently come to class unprepared, then I'll start giving pop quizzes at a frequency that seems appropriate.

All of the exercises will simply be graded satisfactory (S) or not. You will receive credit only for those that you complete on time and in a satisfactory manner.

If you are not in class that day without a University excused absence, you will receive a score of zero (**you must be physically present in the classroom**). If a student misses an assignment as a result of a University excused absence, he or she will receive an "E" for that assignment.

The final short assignment grade will be calculated as the number of S scores received out of all non-E assignments. There will be NO MAKE-UPS for short assignments.

- **Class Attendance (15%)**

In order to learn, it is imperative that you attend class, read the material, and participate actively in class discussion. As explained above, many of the exercises will be completed in class only. **If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the missed material from your classmates.** In addition to attending class, students are highly encouraged to ask and answer questions, and to make appropriate comments on issues covered in class.

- **Participation (Extra 5%)**

Engaging with the readings, practices, and assignments, both in-class and out-of-class, are crucial to success for you and the class as a whole. I'll award up to five points extra credit for students who consistently engage with the material **in a productive and respectful manner.**

Any decision with respect to extra credit (e.g., judgement on whether a student deserved an extra credit or whether to offer an extra credit assignment) is made solely by me. **If I feel any implicit or explicit coercion on your part regarding extra credit as well as final grade, it will be treated as an academic misconduct (category B offense).**

## World Wide Web Resources

The URLs below provide a partial listing of useful websites to keep track of political developments in Asia.

*New York Times* Online (<http://nytimes.com>)  
*Economist* Online (<http://www.economist.com>)  
*BBC World* ([http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia\\_pacific/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/asia_pacific/))  
*CNN Asia news* (<http://www.cnn.com/ASIA/>)  
Brookings Institution (<http://www.brook.edu>)  
CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook>)  
World Bank Data by Country (<http://data.worldbank.org/country>)  
UN Human Development Indicators (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/humandev/>)

South Korea's *The Hankyoreh* (<http://english.hani.co.kr>)  
South Korea's *Yonhapnews* Agency (<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>)  
Korea Focus (a monthly magazine and a quarterly journal published by the Korea Foundation)  
(<http://koreafocus.or.kr>)

China's *People's Daily* (<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/>)  
The Communist Party of China (<http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/>)

Taiwan's *Taipei Times* (<http://www.taipeitimes.com/>)

Japan's *Asahi Shimbun* (<http://www.asahi.com/english/>)

Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* (<http://www.scmp.com/portal/site/SCMP/>)

Official webpage of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (<http://www.korea-dpr.com/>)

Official webpage of the Worker's Party of Korea (DPRK) (Rodong Sinmun)  
(<http://www.rodong.rep.kp/InterEn/>)

38 North (<http://38north.org>)

NK News (<http://www.nknews.org>)

Radio Free Asia (<http://www.rfa.org>)

## Grading Scale

A	95%-105%	Excellent, exceeds the highest standards in the assignment or course
A-	90%-94.9%	Excellent; meets the highest standards for the assignment or course
B+	85%-90.9%	Very good; meets high standards for the assignment or course
B	80%-84.9%	Good; meets most of the standards for the assignment or course
B-	75%-79.9%	More than adequate; shows some reasonable command of the material
C+	70%-74.9%	Acceptable; meets basic standards for the assignment or course
C	65%-69.9%	Acceptable; meets some of the basic standards for the assignment or course
C-	60%-64.9%	Acceptable, while falling short of meeting basic standards in several ways
D+	55%-59.9%	Minimally acceptable
D	50%-54.9%	Minimally acceptable; lowest passing
F	0%-49.9%	Did not satisfy the basic requirements of the course

## Academic misconduct policy

Students must obey the requirements and procedures in the Student Code of Conduct for

Nazarbayev University. **The penalty for any type of plagiarism or cheating will be an “F” on the test or the paper/assignment.** As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off one’s own ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarism destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct.

Plagiarism is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student’s original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. Plagiarism occurs when a person:

1. Directly copies one or more sentences of another person’s written work without proper citation. If another writer’s words are used, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and include a footnote or other indication of the source of the quotation. This includes cut and paste from the internet or other electronic sources;
2. Changes words but copies the sentence structure of a source without giving credit to the original source, or closely paraphrases one or more paragraphs without acknowledgement of the source of the ideas, or uses graphs, figures, drawings, charts or other visual/audio materials without acknowledging the source or the permission of the author;
3. Submits false or altered information in any academic exercise. This may include making up data for an experiment, altering data, citing nonexistent articles, contriving sources, etc.;
4. Turns in all or part of assignment done by another student and claims it as their own;
5. Uses a paper writing service, has another student write a paper, or uses a foreign language translation and submits it as their own original work.

(Nazarbayev University Student Code of Conduct)

### **Grade Appeals**

Students who believe they have received an incorrect test grade should formally appeal in to me. The appeal should consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents concrete reasoning to substantiate why the test should be re-evaluated. Note that a request for re-evaluation means that I will examine your entire test for a second time and may lower your grade upon closer examination of your work.

### **Penalties for missed exams and late papers**

If you miss a test because you have a university acceptable excuse (such as sickness with a note from your doctor) you must contact me by the end of the second working day after the absence to ensure full rights to take a makeup exam. Preferably contact me before the test. If you know you will miss a test in advance because of scheduled university excused travel, talk

to me as far in advance as possible. If you do not have a university acceptable excuse for missing a test, you will not be allowed to take the test and your grade will be 0. Assignments turned in past due date will receive no credit, unless you have a university acceptable excuse for your paper being late.

**Should you have any question about any aspects of this course or experience difficulty, do not wait until the last minute to discuss it with me. You may reach me either during my office hours or by appointment (appointment is preferred; If you cannot see me during my office hours, make an appointment via email)**

### **Copyright on Course Materials**

All handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, exams, and in-class materials. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

### **Commitment to Diversity**

This course welcomes individuals from any racial, ethnic, religious, age, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability, and nationality. In the spirit of this vital commitment, in this course each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to all discussions. Everyone is expected to respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by fellow students and the instructor, and will engage in reasoned discussion that refrains from derogatory comments about other people, culture, groups, or viewpoints.

### **Other Class Policies:**

While you are welcome to email anytime about any issue you may be having in the class, please use proper email etiquette. Start your email “Dr. Koo,” Dear Dr. Koo,” or Dear Professor Koo” for initial contact. I will not answer emails that use improper salutation. I will also not answer emails that can be answered by looking at the syllabus.

Second, **your final grade is final. It is not a basis for negotiations. If you plan to graduate this spring, or if you need a good grade from this course for whatever reason, the only possible way is working hard. Awarding a student a better grade than she/he deserves based on her/his official course grading record is a violation of job ethics for me. Also, it is a crime deceiving your government and tax-paying fellow citizens.**

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed, including adding and subtracting assignments and changing due dates. I will notify you in class, via Moodle, or via email about changes (this means you are responsible for checking your email and for being in class to hear about changes).

## **Tentative Course Outline**

Aug 14 **Course Introduction**

Aug 16 **Overview: Understanding East Asian Politics**

Readings:

Map of Asia.

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities*. New York: Verso (pp.1-9).

Charlton, Sue Ellen. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Ch. 6 (pp. 104-125).

Aug 23 **China's Modern Nation-State Building: Opium War and the Period of Reform**

**Map Quiz**

Readings:

Charlton, Sue Ellen. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Ch. 6 (pp. 104-125).

---READ AGAIN.

Manion, Melanie. 2012. "Politics in China." in G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strøm, eds., *Comparative Politics Today* (10<sup>th</sup> edition). (pp. 380-392)

Aug 28 **Guest Lecture, by Prof. Jiewei Wu (Peking University, China)**

Sep 4 **China's Modern Nation-State Building: the Period of Revolution**

Readings:

Charlton, Sue Ellen. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*. Ch. 6 (pp. 104-125).

---READ AGAIN.

Manion, Melanie. 2012. "Politics in China." in G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strøm, eds., *Comparative Politics Today* (10<sup>th</sup> edition). (pp. 380-392) ----READ AGAIN

Sep 6, 11 **China: Mao's Thought and the Maoist Era**

Readings:

"The *Sixteen Points*: Guidelines for the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" (1966)

([http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/cup/sixteen\\_points.pdf](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/cup/sixteen_points.pdf))

Manion, Melanie. 2012. "Politics in China." in G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strøm, eds., *Comparative Politics Today* (10<sup>th</sup> edition). (pp. 380-392)----- READ AGAIN

Sep 13, 18 **China: Deng and the Reformist Era**

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Take-home Writing Assignment DUE**

Readings:

"The Present Situation and the Tasks Before Us" (Speech, January 16, 1980)

([http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/china/deng\\_xiaoping\\_present\\_situation.pdf](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/china/deng_xiaoping_present_situation.pdf))

Manion, Melanie. 2012. "Politics in China." in G. Bingham Powell, Jr., Russell J. Dalton and Kaare Strøm, eds., *Comparative Politics Today* (10<sup>th</sup> edition). (pp. 393-425)

Podcasts:

BBC Documentary – China's Economy: the Insider's View

(Listen Episode 1 (23 min) & 2 (23 min) at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00t7x2r>)

Supplementary:

Brockmann, Hilke, et al. "The China puzzle: Falling happiness in a rising economy." *Journal of Happiness Studies* 10.4 (2009): 387-405.

## Sep 20 **China: the Party-State System**

Readings:

Li, Cheng. 2012. "Leadership Transition in the CPC: Promising Progress and Potential Problems." *China: An International Journal* 12(2): 23-33.

(<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Articles/2012/8/leadership%20transition%20cpc%20li/leadership%20transition%20cpc%20li.pdf>)

Washington Post. The Chinese government fakes nearly 450 million social media comments a year. This is why. (about King, Pan and Roberts' study in 2017, titled "How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, not Engaged Argument")

([https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/19/the-chinese-government-fakes-nearly-450-million-social-media-comments-a-year-this-is-why/?utm\\_term=.4b9a167c8984](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/19/the-chinese-government-fakes-nearly-450-million-social-media-comments-a-year-this-is-why/?utm_term=.4b9a167c8984))

Supplementary:

Dickson, Bruce J. and Maria Rost Rublee. 2000. "Membership has its privileges: the socioeconomic characteristics of Communist Party members in urban China." *Comparative Political Studies* 33 (1): 87-112.

## Sep 27 **Hong Kong as an Anomaly of Modernization Theory: the Process of Handover**

Readings:

Sing, Ming. 2004. Hong Kong's Tortuous Democratization Ch. 9 (pp. 191-223).

Hong Kong: the Facts [The Basic Law]

([http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/basic\\_law.pdf](http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/factsheets/docs/basic_law.pdf))

Oct 2 Review

Oct 4 Test 1

## Oct 16 **Hong Kong: Political System and Major Cleavages**

**The 2nd Take-home Writing Assignment DUE**

Readings:

"Hong Kong's Democracy Debate" (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-27921954>)

"How the Hong Kong's Chief Executive is Elected"

(<http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2014/10/17/how-hong-kongs-chief-executive-is-elected/>)

Sing, Ming. 2004. Hong Kong's Tortuous Democratization Ch. 9 (pp. 191-223)--READ

AGAIN

Hong Kong: the Facts [The Basic Law]---- READ AGAIN

## Oct 18 **Taiwan: Before and Under KMT Rule**



Readings:

Copper, John. 2003. *Taiwan: National-State or Province?* Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (pp. 29-30, 37-61).

Oct 23 **Taiwan's Democratic Transition & One China Policy**

Readings:

Copper, John. 2003. *Taiwan: National-State or Province?* Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (109-112, 132-146).

Hsiao, Hsin-Huan, and Hagen Koo. 1997. "The Middle Class and Democratization." In *Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University (pp. 312-333).

Oct 25 **Political Cleavages in Taiwan & Comparing KMT and CCP**

Readings:

*Gilley & Diamond (eds) Political Change in China: Comparisons with Taiwan*, Ch. 8 (pp.161-183).

The Economist. 2016. "A series of unfortunate events: the new president faces troubles at home and abroad" (<http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21702808-new-president-faces-troubles-home-and-abroad-series-unfortunate-events?zid=306&ah=1b164dbd43b0cb27ba0d4c3b12a5e227>)

Supplementary:

The Economist. 2018. "Taiwan's president has upset both business and workers"

<https://www.economist.com/asia/2018/05/26/taiwans-president-has-upset-both-business-and-workers>

Oct 30, Nov 1 **Divided Korea and the Trauma of War**

Readings:

Armstrong, Charles. 2013. "North Korea: The Logic and Limits of Self-Reliance." In *The Koreas*. New York and London: Routledge. pp. 40-61. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)

Bruce Cumings. 2011. "Why did so many Influential Americans Think North Korea would Collapse?" in *Survival of North Korea*. (pp. 54-62, only)

Nov 6 **North Korea: Kim Il-sung and Juche Ideology**

**The 3rd Take-home Writing Assignment DUE**

Readings:

Kim, Il Sung. "On Eliminating Dogmatism and Formalism and Establishing Juche in Ideological

Work" (Speech, 1955) (<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/korea/juche.pdf>)

Bruce Cumings. 2011. "Why did so many Influential Americans Think North Korea would Collapse?" in *Survival of North Korea*. (pp. 54-62, only)---READ AGAIN

Armstrong, Charles. 2013. "North Korea: The Logic and Limits of Self-Reliance." In *The Koreas*. New York and London: Routledge. pp. 40-61. (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)---READ AGAIN

Nov 8 **North Korea: the Arduous March in 1990s, Kim Jung-Il and Sun-gun-Jung-chi**

Readings:

Suk Hi Kim. 2011. "North Korea: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" in *Survival of North Korea*. (pp. 11-26)

Supplementary:

CNN Special Report: Secret State: Insider North Korea (released on Sep 15 2017)  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9C0zTmjMxEg>)

### Nov 13 **North Korea's Nuclear Program and the Responses of International Community**

Readings:

Agreed Framework between the United States of America and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (signed on Oct 1994)

(<http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infocircs/Others/infocirc457.pdf>)

UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)

(<http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1718/>)

Joint Statement of President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America and Chairman Kim Jong-un of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Singapore Summit

(<https://www.cnbc.com/2018/06/12/full-text-of-the-trump-kim-summit-agreement.html>)

Watching:

Google Tech Talk, "What I Saw in North Korea and Why it Matters," presented by Dr. Siegfried Hecker (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIIdRS17Dc88>)

### Nov 15 **Japan: Meiji Restoration, War, Democratic Constitution**

Readings:

Curtis, Michael. 2006. *Introduction to Comparative Government*. Ch. 5. (pp. 264-276)

Morris-Suzuki, Tessa. 2015. "You Don't Want to Know About the Girls? The "Comfort Women," the Japanese Military and Allied Forces in the Asia-Pacific War.'" *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 13.

#### <The Constitution of Japan>

**Article 9.** Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

### Nov 20 **Japan: Developmental State and Recent Challenges & Student Presentations 4**

Readings:

Curtis, Michael. 2006. *Introduction to Comparative Government*. Ch. 5. (pp. 264-276)---  
READ AGAIN

Supplementary:

Peckanen, Robert. 2004. "After the developmental state: Civil society in Japan." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 4 (3): 363-388.

Nov 22 **Japan: Revising Its Pacifist Constitution and its Ambition for “Normal” Statehood**

***The Very Political Tour DUE***

Readings:

“Japan to allow military role overseas in historic move”( <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34287362>)

“Japanese students protest against expansion of militarism”  
(<http://www.wsj.com/articles/students-lead-protests-against-expanding-japans-military-role-1442345400>)

Supplementary:

Christopher W. Hughes. 2009. “Japan's Military Modernisation: A Quiet Japan–China Arms Race and Global Power Projection.” *Asia-Pacific Review*, 16 (1): 84-99.

**Test 2: TBA**