UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA  
COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
POLS 3203 – East Asian Political Systems (3 hours credit)  
Fall 2015

**Course Meetings:** 214 Young Hall  
TR 3:30-4:45 PM  
Instructor: Dr. Xiangfeng Yang  
Office: 313 Hansford Hall  
Office Hours: TR 1-3 PM, W 2-4 PM  
Phone: 706-864-1870  
E-mail: xiyang@ung.edu

**Course Description:**
The central aim of this course is to understand the comparative dynamics of political change and development in East Asia (two Chinas, two Koreas, and Japan) after World War II. The 15 weeks of instruction will be equally divided to China (including one week for the Republic of China on Taiwan), Korea (including one week for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea), and Japan. Besides surveying the formation of their respective regimes in the five regional entities, we will examine the broad trajectory of state/nation-building and political transformation they have traversed until today. We will then move on to examine some fundamental issues in their political systems, economic development as well as pressing contemporary societies. Three films are chosen to further highlight some the Chinese, Korean and Japanese socio-economic and political experiences, respectively.

Important questions to keep in mind: What precipitated these dramatic political changes? What were the epoch-marking events and how are they still relevant today? What were the international linkages and the broad historical and regional context? Who were the key actors? What are the most pressing contemporary issues these Asian states to deal with? What does the future hold for them?

**Readings:**
Students are required to read the materials before they come to class. Students are expected to answer questions and conduct discussions based on the assigned readings. Active participation is greatly encouraged. The class is mainly composed of three segments: brief discussion of the current events in East Asia, lecture and class interaction (questions & answers, group discussions, etc.). Each student should regularly read at least one major mainstream news outlets that have substantial coverage on Asia, such as CNN, BBC, *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Economist, The Financial Times*, and *The Guardian*. The instructor will also post from time to time selected articles from these and other credible sources for public consumption.

In addition, here is a list of national newspapers in English in the respective Asian countries that provide free web access:
- *The Japan Times*, http://www.japantimes.co.jp/

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**
Students’ performance in this course will be assessed in the following manner:
- Reading Memos (5)  20%


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Map Quizzes (4) 10%
Film Reports (2) 40%
In-class Quizzes (5) 20%
Class Participation 10%

Grading System:
The grading scale for this course is as follows:

- 100 – 90% = A
- 89 – 80% = B
- 79 – 70% = C
- 69 – 60% = D
- 59% and below = F

Reading Memos (20% of the final grade):
You are required to submit 5 weekly memos based on the required readings of the week. Two things to keep in mind: First, you should synthesize the key analytical points and supporting evidence in a succinct manner with a reasonable degree of specificity. Secondly and more importantly, the memo should be a critical assessment of the readings. Engage with the readings and the authors. Was the reading compelling? Helpful? Important? Lacking in something? Relate one reading to the others, compare and contrast them. These are only suggestions. You can also focus on some aspect of the reading that caught your interests.

A memo should be between 3-4 pages, double-spaced, page-numbered, and typed in Times New Roman with 12-point font. For this exercise no need for bibliographical information except sources other than the required readings, but you must provide page numbers for all direct quotations. You should have proofread it—as with all other written assignments—before turning it in. With the exception of Week 16, a print copy of the memo is due at the beginning of Tuesday class each week. (Memos for Week 1 and Week 2 are both due on Aug 25 (T), if you choose to do them.) Each memo will be graded for its quality and is worth 4% of the final grade.

Film Reports (40% of the final grade):
We will show in class three critically acclaimed films from P. R. China, South Korea and Japan, respectively, although each film will be divided into three sessions because of its length. Students are to choose two and write a report about each of them. Each report is worth 20% of your final grade. Questions to be analyzed in the paper include: What are the themes and events depicted in the film? What are the macro-level socio-political forces that shaped these events? How are they reflected in the choices made and behavior by the individual characters? To what extent is it an accurate (or inaccurate) and fair (or unfair) presentation of the pertinent themes and Chinese/Korean/Japanese politics and history in general? What strikes you most? What might be missing that you think should have been included? How is the director’s political view reflected in the narrative and the way the story is told? What is the evidence of that? What does the reception of the film at home and in the United States tell you about politics of the country concerned?

Students are expected to tie their discussions of the films to the reading materials and class lectures, and cite other credible sources when appropriate. The report must be between 1,500-2,000 words, typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins, and page-numbered. Unless previously approved by the instructor, no late reports will be accepted. All borrowed, quoted, paraphrased, and unoriginal material must be cited appropriately (otherwise it is plagiarism.)
and you will be punished for it). Your grade will be determined by the quality of your presentation and discussion of the subject matter as well as the strength of your argument and analyses.

Students must hand in a physical copy of their film report in class on the day it is due. In addition, the identical paper must be submitted through Turnitin.com before class. Log-in information for Turnitin.com is below.

Class ID: 10253926
Password: fall2015

Four Map Quizzes (10% of the final grade):
There will be one map quiz for Japan, one for the Koreas, and two for greater China. Students should be able to identify major cities, administrative regions as well as geographical features and natural barriers of significance. Examples include the border river between the PRC and North Korea, disputed territories between Japan and South Korea as well as between Japan and both the PRC and ROC/Taiwan.

In-class Quizzes (20% of the final grade):
There will be five pop quizzes from which you may drop the lowest score. Four quizzes will count for 5% each, and the questions (short-answer identification) will come mostly from the day’s assigned readings of the week.

Class Participation (10% of your grade):
Class lectures are designed as a supplement rather than as a summary of the readings, so you must attend lectures having already read the assigned materials. Classroom discussion is crucial both as a component of your final grade and as a way of enhancing your understanding of the course content. Be ready to discuss the readings, recent events, and carefully prepare your arguments before class meetings. You earn a “C” for basic description or summary of material, a “B” for showing an understanding of arguments and their implications, and an “A” for critically analyzing material on a regular basis.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance in class is required. At your seventh absence, I have the right to drop you from the class (before October 12th, a “W” in your records; after October 12th, it becomes a “WF”). Arriving late to class or leaving early without prior permission from the instructor will count as an absence.

Syllabus Changes:
Minor changes to the syllabus may be necessitated by circumstances. If changes are made during the term of the course, I will immediately notify you of such changes both by announcing it in class, emailing you, and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board in D2L.

Policy Regarding Make-up Exams and Incomplete Grades:
Make up opportunities and incomplete grades will be given at my discretion and in accordance with UNG policy. You should make every effort to contact me before the time of the scheduled assignment (mid-term or final exam) to arrange a make-up. I will require proof of suitable and valid documentation (medical, legal, or administrative) to make up the missed assignment. My phone number and e-mail address are printed on this syllabus.
Disruptive Behavior Policy:
Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt the class or its learning activities are subject to sanctions under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which may be considered inappropriate in the classroom include, but are not limited to, sleeping, coming in late, talking out of turn, inappropriate use of laptops or mobile devices, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:
University of North Georgia is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities, and welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations and services must register with Disability Services and submit supporting documentation. Disability Services provides accommodation memos for eligible students to give to their instructors. Students are responsible for making arrangements with instructors, and must give reasonable prior notice of the need for accommodation.

Contact Information for Disability Services:
§ Gainesville Campus: Carolyn Swindle, Assistant Director, carolyn.swindle@ung.edu, Dunlap-Mathis Building, Room 107, 678-717-3855
§ Dahlonega Campus: Thomas McCoy, Assistant Director, thomas.mccoy@ung.edu, Stewart Student Success Center, Room 313, 706-867-2782
§ Oconee Campus: Erin Williams, Assistant Director, erin.williams@ung.edu, Administration Building, Room 112, 706-310-6202
§ Cumming Instructional Site: Nicola Doyer, Director, nicola.doyer@ung.edu or Beth Bellamy, Test Facilitator, beth.bellamy@ung.edu 678-717-3855. (For on-site assistance, contact Rebecca Rose, Head Librarian, rebecca.rose@ung.edu, Library University Center 400, 470-239-3119.

Academic Integrity Policy:
Student Code of Conduct: Please review the Student Code of Conduct located on the Dean of Students website.

Plagiarism and Turnitin.com: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or a failing grade for the course (“F”) depending on the severity of the offense and to be determined by the instructor.

Copyright: Both Federal and State laws forbid the unlawful duplication of copyrighted computer software or other reproductions of copyrighted material. In accordance with these policies, University of North Georgia expressly forbids the copying of such materials supplied by or used in the University. Unlawful duplication of copyrighted materials by a user may result in disciplinary action by the University under the Student Code of Conduct (Non-Academic Infractions--Prohibitions, Theft), and/or possible criminal action by the owner of the copyright.

Please review the Supplemental Syllabus for the following information:
1. Academic Exchange
2. Academic Success Plan Program
3. Class Evaluations
4. Course Grades and Withdrawal Process
5. Inclement Weather
6. Smoking Policy

Textbooks:
Both books are on reserve in the library (one copy for each).

Course Schedule:

Part I. CHINA

Week 1 (Aug 18/20): Political History of Modern China

- Thursday (20th): meet in the Library Classroom 163.

**Required:**
- Hayes, Ch. 1-4, pp. 3-54.

**Suggested:**
- Joseph, Ch. 2-3, pp.51-118.
- Film: “To Live.” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7HYhUpDz8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7HYhUpDz8)

Week 2 (Aug 25/27): From Deng to Xi

- Tuesday (25th): Reading memos for both Week 1 and 2 due in class (optional)
- Thursday (27th): Map Quiz #1, the Great China (Major metropolises)

**Required:**
- Hayes, Ch. 5, pp. 55-68.
- Joseph, Ch. 4, pp.119-146.
  [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-dd0c66f5-12fc-4a4a-a0eb-4ef064900f92](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-dd0c66f5-12fc-4a4a-a0eb-4ef064900f92)

**Suggested:**

Week 3 (Sept 1/3): Contemporary Issues in China

- Thursday (3rd): Map Quiz #2, the Great China (provinces)

**Required:**
• Hayes, Ch. 6, pp. 69-82.

Suggested:
• Joseph, Ch. 8, pp.254-291.

Week 4 (Sept 8/10): Film: “American Dreams in China”

Week 5 (Sept 15/17): Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC)
Required:
• Joseph, Ch. 8, pp. 367-381.
Part II. KOREA

Week 6 (Sept 22/24): From Colonialism to Partition

❖ Thursday (24th): Map Quiz #3, the Korean Peninsular
❖ Thursday (24th): First film report due in class.

Required:

• Hayes, Ch. 7-8, pp. 83-107.

Suggested:


Week 7 (Sept 29/Oct 1): Miracle on the Han River

Required:

• Hayes, Ch. 10 & 12, pp. 108-115, 131-139.

Suggested:


Week 8 (Oct 6/8): Contemporary Issues in South Korea
Required:
  [link](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/13/world/mers-tarnishes-korean-presidents-image-as-leader.html)
  [link](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/10/world/asia/south-korea-split-over-how-to-react-to-attack-on-us-ambassador-mark-lippert.html)

Suggested:

Week 9 (Oct 13/15): Film: “The Attorney”

Week 10 (Oct 20/22): North Korea: The Hermit Kingdom

Required:
- Hayes, Ch. 11, pp.116-130.
  [link](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/north-korea-is-stepping-up-uranium-production--but-for-power-or-nukes/2015/08/13/0238f8f6-413f-11e5-9f53-d1e3ddfd0cda_story.html)

Suggested:
- Habib, Benjamin. 2015. “Balance of Incentives: Why North Korea Interacts with the UN
Part III. JAPAN

Week 11 (Oct 27/29): Japan's History with the World

- Thursday (29th): Map Quiz #4, the Japanese archipelago
- Thursday (29th): second film report due in class

Required:

- Hayes, Ch. 13-15, pp.143-171.

Suggested:

- Film: “Grave of the Fireflies,” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hjc7E7A6Ufk]
Week 12 (Nov 3/5): The Japanese Model and Thereafter
Required:
- Hayes, Ch. 16, pp.172-181.

Suggested:

Week 13 (Nov 10/12): Government & Politics in Japan
Required:
- Hayes, Ch. 17, pp.182-197.

Suggested:

Week 14 (Nov 17/19): Film: “Senkyo (Campaign)”

Week 15: Thanksgiving Break
Week 16 (Dec 1/3): Contemporary Issues in Japan

Required:

- Hayes, Ch. 18, pp.198-208.
- Harding, Robin. 2015. “World of work: Japan’s lost generation struggles to catch up.” Financial Times. August 9. [http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/6f1a7626-0ade-11e5-9df4-00144feabde0.html](http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/6f1a7626-0ade-11e5-9df4-00144feabde0.html)

Suggested:


Final Exam Week

- Thursday (Dec 10th): Third film report due by noon in D2L Dropbox.