

**Political Economy of Asia**  
**(Writing Flag)**  
Gov 365L (38790)/ANS 361 (31471)  
**Fall 2011**  
TTH 11:00-12:30, JES A203A

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Office Hours: Tues., 1:00-2:00; Wed., 9:00-11:00; or by appointment

This intensive reading and writing course explores the political economies of *East Asia*—the world’s most economically dynamic region. Focusing on Japan, China, and South Korea, we address a number of themes that have intrigued both scholars and policymakers over the years: the reasons for the region’s “miraculous” GDP growth rates; the notion of the “developmental state” and the contributions of “industrial policy” to economic development; the structure of the region’s mega-firms (*chaebol*, *keiretsu*, Chinese State-Owned Enterprises) and the nature of government-business relationships; consumer behavior and industrial relations; business contributions to social welfare; and the reactions (both positive and negative) of East Asian political economies to the 1997 financial crisis and the pressures of globalization. As we debate these themes from theoretical, comparative, and historical perspectives, we seek to enhance our understanding of political-economic concepts and of the similarities and differences between East Asia and the West.

**Prerequisites:**

Some knowledge of East Asia and or comparative politics/political economy is recommended but not required.

**Course Requirements:**

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|---|-----|
| 1. Attendance, class participation and quizzes on readings: | 15% |
| 2. Two take-home midterm exams (3-4 pages each):            | 20% |
| #1 due Sept. 27; #2 due Nov. 3                              |     |
| 3. Research paper (3,500-4,000 words) in 2 drafts:          | 40% |
| First draft due Tues., Nov. 17                              |     |
| Second draft due Tues., Dec. 6 at noon                      |     |
| 4. Final examination (Tues., Dec. 13, 9:00-12:00):          | 25% |

### **Required Course Texts (all available from University Co-op):**

1. Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (1982)
2. Meredith Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State* (1999)
3. Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transition and Growth* (2007)

Optional text: Stephan Haggard, *The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis* (2000)

All additional readings, plus a glossary of political-economic terms, will be posted under Documents on the Blackboard site for this course.

### **Note on Writing Assignments:**

As a Writing Flag course, this course is designed to help you develop your writing skills in the social sciences. You should expect to complete several writing assignments during the semester and to receive extensive feedback from me. I will pay particular attention to helping you develop clear arguments that are well supported by empirical evidence.

The research paper will be most important of your writing assignments. You are free to choose your own topic—even if they touch on East Asian countries that are not covered in this course—or to choose from the list of sample topics located at the back of this syllabus. All topics must be approved by me by Sept. 15. After we complete two seminars on research and writing (Sept. 6 & 22), you will be asked to submit a 1-2 page proposal + preliminary bibliography (due Oct. 11); no grade will be assigned to the proposal, but it must have my approval before you proceed. You will then have an opportunity to write two drafts of your paper, the first of which is due in class on Nov. 17. Only the second draft, due Dec. 6, will receive a formal grade—but that grade will reflect how well you incorporate feedback on your first draft.

### **Undergraduate Writing Center (UWC):**

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of UT's Undergraduate Writing Center, which offers free, individualized instruction on grammar, composition, and writing strategies. The UWC's trained tutors will work with you on drafts of your assignments, pointing out areas of concern and suggesting ways to improve them. Even for experienced writers, the tutors can provide useful feedback and tips on perfecting writing skills. The center is located in FAC 211. To set up an appointment with a tutor, call 471-6222 or consult the UWC website:

<http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>

**Class Guidelines:**

1. *All cell phones must be turned off and stored away. Texting and Internet browsing will not be tolerated during lectures and discussions.*
2. You are required to complete all readings by the assigned due dates and to participate actively in discussions and debates. I will also call on you from time to time to summarize readings in class.
3. Please arrive for class on time. Inform me in advance of unavoidable absences, late arrivals, and early departures from class.
4. All lectures, readings, glossaries, and films are subject to examination.
5. You *must* take the final exam during the timeslot designated by the university. Keep this in mind when you make your holiday travel arrangements.
6. You are responsible for keeping up with e-mail correspondence with me, as well as notices and other postings on the Blackboard site for this course.
7. All written assignments must be completed on schedule. Only students with documented medical or military excuses can be exempted from this rule. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.
8. PowerPoint presentations provide only rough outlines of basic concepts and themes. To do well in this course, you must take detailed notes during lectures and class discussions. Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will not be posted on the web.
9. Students guilty of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper) will receive a “0” for the assignment in question. No exceptions. A statement on the University’s honor code and an explanation of academic dishonesty can be found at: <http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html>
10. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. For more information, contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

**Grading System:**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>Percentage Score</b>
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	.67	60-63
F	0	59 & below

## LECTURE SCHEDULE

### **Aug. 25: Introduction to the Class**

No readings

### **Aug. 30 & Sept. 1: Inside the East Asian “Economic Miracle”**

★ *The East Asian Miracle*, Policy Research Report of the World Bank, 1993, pp. 1-26 (Introduction).

★ Paul Krugman, “The Myth of Asia’s Miracle,” *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec 1994): 62-78.

### **Sept. 6: Session on Research and Writing, Part I**

This session explores the basic skills required to write good research papers in the social sciences, including crafting a “research question” or hypothesis; distinguishing between theories, arguments, and empirical descriptions; developing an argument that makes effective use of empirical data; and writing proposals.

### **Sept. 8, 13, 15 & 20: The Theory of the Developmental State**

\*Sept. 15: Deadline for choosing research paper topic

\*Sept. 20: 1<sup>st</sup> take-home midterm distributed

★ Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, chapter 1.

★ Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State*, chapters 1-4.

### **Sept. 22: Session on Research and Writing, Part II**

This session is designed to give you the tools to conduct research using a variety of different sources. Using student research topics as a point of departure, we explore the UT library’s offerings, including on-line search engines and the Interlibrary Loan Service. We will also take a look at the informational offerings of non-UT libraries, international and government organizations, and the like.

## **Sept. 27, 29, Oct. 4, 6, 11 & 13: The World's First "Miracle Economy": Japan**

\*Sept. 27: 1<sup>st</sup> take-home midterm due in class

\*Oct. 11: Research paper proposals due in class

★Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, chapters 2-7.

★Edward J. Lincoln, "The Heisei Economy: Puzzles, Problems, Prospects," *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 37:2 (Summer 2011): 351-75.

★"A Culture of Complicity Tied to Stricken Nuclear Plant." *New York Times* (April 27, 2011):

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/27/world/asia/27collusion.html?sq=TEPCO&st=nyt&scp=17&pagewanted=all>

## **Oct. 18, 20, 25 & 27: The "Little Dragon": South Korea**

\*Oct. 27: 2<sup>nd</sup> take-home midterm distributed

★Ezra Vogel, *The Four Little Dragons: The Spread of Industrialization in East Asia* (Harvard University Press, 1991), chapter 3.

★Byung-kook Kim and Ezra Vogel, ed., *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea*, chapters 1 (Yong-Sup Han), 4 (Chung-in Moon and Byung-joon Jun), 10 (Nae-Young Lee).

★Thomas Kalinowski and Hyekyung Cho, "The Political Economy of Financial Liberalization in South Korea: State, Big Business, and Foreign Investors," *Asian Survey*, vol. 49, no. 2 (March/April 2009): 221-242.

## **Nov. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 & 17: China: A New Developmental Model?**

\*Nov. 3: 2<sup>nd</sup> take-home midterm due in class

\*Nov. 17: 1<sup>st</sup> draft of research paper due in class

★"Rising Power, Anxious State," *The Economist Special Report* (June 25-2011).

★Naughton, *The Chinese Economy*, Chapters 3, 4, 6, 8, 13, 17, 18 & 19.

## **Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 1: Causes & Consequences of the 1997 Financial Crisis**

\*Thurs., Nov. 24: Thanksgiving –no class

★Haggard, ed., *The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis*, chapter 1.

★Katada, S.N., "Political Economy of East Asian Regional Integration and Cooperation," *ADB Working Paper 170* (Tokyo: Asian Development Bank Institute, 2009).

**Suggestions for Research Paper Topics (final drafts due at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 6):** You may choose a topic on any subject you wish, so long as it pertains to the political economy of East Asia. Avoid speculative topics: e.g.: “What will happen to the Chinese banking system?”; “What is the future of the South Korean *chaebol*?” Note that the following are simply “topics” that will have to be redefined as viable “research questions”.

The contributions of authoritarian states vs. democratic states to economic development.

A comparison of the origins and evolution of Japanese and South Korean business conglomerates.

The role of banks in East Asian (or pick one or two countries) economic development.

South Korean and/or Japanese policies (government and/or corporate) toward female workers.

The role of anti-trust (anti-monopoly) regulations in Japanese economic development.

The functions and economic significance of foreign labor in (pick a country or compare 2 countries).

The incentives, processes and repercussions of Japanese “hollowing out” during the 1980s.

The changing white-collar worker in Japan and/or South Korea.

A comparison of Anglo-American and East Asian (or pick a country) capitalism.

The role of consumers in China’s transition to a market economy.

Consumer rights in Japan, South Korea, or China.

The effects of the 1997 financial crisis on South Korean consumers.

The public’s reaction to rapid growth in Japan, South Korea or China.

Agriculture and Chinese economic development.

China, Japan, or South Korea in a globalized economy.

Chinese investment in Africa.

The evolution of Chinese SOEs.

Developmental states in East Asia and Latin America.

The effects of international security threats on Chinese or South Korean economic development.

A study of government-business relations in the \_\_\_\_\_ (automobile, steel, shipbuilding, etc) sector of Japan and/or South Korea.

An analysis of Chinese, South Korean, or Japanese social welfare programs.

An assessment of popular attitudes toward government involvement in the economy in \_\_\_\_\_ (pick a country).

The effects of the 1965 normalization of Korean-Japanese relations on South Korean economic development.

Hong Kong’s economic performance after reversion to Chinese sovereignty.

The Olympics and economic development.