

**Political Economy of Asia**  
**(Writing Flag)**  
Gov 365L (38790)/ANS 361 (31595)  
**Fall 2012**  
TTH 11:00-12:30, MEZ 2.124

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Office Hours: Tues., 12:30-2:00; Thurs., 1:30-3:00; 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 North 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; the social welfare state; and the reactions (both positive and negative) of East Asian political economies to the 1997 financial crisis and the pressures of globalization. All of these themes will be explored from theoretical, comparative, and historical perspectives in the hopes of acquiring a deeper understanding of what makes the region “distinctive.” Along the way, we will strive to master fundamental concepts in the fields of political economy and economics.

**Prerequisites:**

Students with 6 or more hours of Government have priority access to this course.

**Course Requirements:**

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| 1. Quizzes on assigned readings (min. 6):  | 10% |
| 2. Attendance and class participation:   | 10% |
| 3. Paper proposal (due Sept. 20):  | 5%  |
| 4. Two take-home essay exams (about 4 pages each):<br>#1 due Oct. 9; #2 due Oct. 30. | 15% |
| 5. Research paper (about 4,000 words):   | 40% |
| First draft due Nov. 15  |     |
| Student feedback due Nov. 20   |     |
| Second (final) draft due on Dec. 6   |     |
| 6. Final examination (Wed., Dec. 12, 7:00-10:00 pm):                                 | 20% |

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

1. Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (1982)
2. Ming Wan, *The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth* (2008)
3. Barry Naughton, *The Chinese Economy: Transition and Growth* (2007)

All additional readings will be available under Documents on the Blackboard site for this course.

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

As a Writing Flag, this course is designed to help you develop your social-science writing skills. You will complete several writing assignments over the course of the semester and receive extensive feedback from me.

The research paper will be the most important of your writing assignments. You are free to choose your own topic or select one from the list located at the back of this syllabus. You may also explore East Asian countries that are not addressed in the lectures. After we complete a short seminar on research and writing (Sept. 11), you will be asked to submit a 1-page proposal + preliminary bibliography (due Sept. 20). You will then have an opportunity to write two drafts of your paper, the first of which is due in class on Nov. 15. 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 and whether you submitted that draft on time.

In addition to researching and writing your own paper, you will also be asked to critique the first drafts of two other students in the class. The quality of your critiques, which are due Nov. 20, will be reflected in your participation grade.

### **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. Laptops are not permitted for use in the classroom. Cell phones must be turned off and stored away during class.**

2. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and the instructor for further information.

3. Students guilty of academic dishonesty (ex., cheating on an exam or

plagiarizing a paper) will receive a “0” for the assignment in question. No exceptions. Students are strongly urged to refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis\\_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php).

4. You are expected to keep up with all readings and to participate actively in class discussions. These discussions, as well as all lectures, readings, and films, will be subject to examination.

5. All quizzes will be administered precisely at 11.00. *Make-up quizzes cannot be accommodated.* At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from your total quiz score. If 8 or more quizzes are completed during the semester, your two lowest grades will be dropped.

6. You are responsible for keeping up with e-mail correspondence with the instructor, as well as notices and other postings on the Blackboard site for this course.

7. All assignments must be completed on time. Only students with documented illnesses or military excuses can be exempted from this rule. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.

8. PowerPoint presentations will provide you with 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 their corresponding PowerPoint presentations will not be posted on the web.

9. You *must* take the final exam during the time-slot designated by the university. Don’t make travel arrangements for the day of the final exam for this course.

10. I respectfully ask you to arrive for class on time. Please let me know well in advance of unavoidable absences, late arrivals, and early departures from class.

**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. 30: Introduction to the Class**

No readings

### **Sept. 4 & 6: Understanding Political Economy: Theories, Concepts & Controversies**

★Wan, *The Political Economy of East Asia*, chapters 1-2.

### **Sept. 11: Research and Writing**

In this session, we explore the basic skills needed to write good research papers in the social sciences, including devising “research questions” or “hypotheses”; distinguishing between theories, arguments, and empirical descriptions; developing arguments that make effective use of empirical data; and writing proposals. We also explore the UT library’s many resources, including on-line search engines and the Interlibrary Loan Service (ILS).

### **Sept. 13, 18 & 20: The History of the Political Economy of East Asia: A Capsule Overview**

*Sept. 20: Paper proposal due in class.*

★Wan, *The Political Economy of East Asia*, chapters 3-4.

### **Sept. 25, 27 & Oct. 2: Demystifying the East Asian “Economic Miracle”**

*Oct. 2: First take-home essay assignment distributed; due Oct. 9.*

★Wan, *The Political Economy of East Asia*, chapter 5.

★*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.

### **Oct. 4 & 9: The Theory of the Developmental State**

*Oct. 9: Essay assignment due.*

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

★Chalmers Johnson, "The Developmental State: Odyssey of a Concept," in Meredith Woo-Cumings, ed., *The Developmental State* (Cornell University Press, 1999), pp. 32-60.

### **Oct. 11, 16, 18 & 23: The First "Miracle Economy": Japan**

**Oct. 23:** *Second take-home essay assignment distributed; due Oct. 30.*

★Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, chapters 2-7 and 9.

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

### **Oct. 25, 30, Nov. 1 & 6: China: A New Developmental Model?**

**Oct. 30:** *Second essay assignment due.*

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

★Naughton, *The Chinese Economy*, Chapters 2-8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17 & 20. (Other chapters recommended but not required.)

### **Nov. 8, 13, 15 & 20 (22<sup>nd</sup>: Thanksgiving holiday): Economic Development in South Korea**

**Nov. 15:** *First draft of research paper due.*

**Nov. 20:** *Peer feedback on first drafts due.*

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

★Sang Min Lee, "A Comparative Study of the Automobile Industry in Japan and Korea," *Asian Survey*, 51:5 (Sept./Oct. 2011): 876-98.

★Seok-Choon Lew, Woo-Young Choi, and Hye Suk Wang, "Confucian Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism in Korea: The Significance of Filial Piety," *Journal of East Asian Studies* 11 (2011): 171-96.

### **Nov. 27 & 29: The North Korean Anomaly**

★Ralph Hassig and Kongdan Oh, *The Hidden People of North Korea: Everyday Life in the Hermit Kingdom* (Roman & Littlefield, 2009), chapters 3-4.

## **Dec. 4 & 6: The 1997 Financial Crisis and Its Aftermath**

*Dec. 6: Final draft of research paper due.*

★Wan, *The Political Economy of East Asia*, chapter 6.

**Suggestions for Research Paper Topics (final drafts due in class on Thursday, 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.

The impact of culture on economic development in the region.

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 protection of 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.

The fate of agriculture during economic development in East Asian economies.

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.

Regional institutions and the promotion of free trade in East Asia.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).