East Asian Economic Development

SOSC 3410
Fall, 2019
Mon, Wed 12:00PM - 1:20PM
Rm 4502, Lift 25-26

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a comparative political economy course focusing on issues related to East Asian economic development. This course targets toward advanced undergraduate students. Main purpose of this course is to explore the political, cultural and historical aspects behind the rapid economic growth in the past decades in the region. This course will also examine the challenges that the East Asian Economies, especially the Chinese economy, are facing and tries to help students to have a better understanding of the political economy of East Asia. In other words, the course will be about the economic success of the region. However, our discussion will not be limited by the story of success. We will discuss much about what is left or hidden behind the East Asian economic success and what politics and society can do about the failure and challenges.

The course consists of four sections related to political economy of East Asian economic development. Each topic is broad and complex. Due to time constraints, we will focus on several key subtopics in each section. First, we will discuss the basic logic and methodologies of social science. Second, the course will cover basic theories of economic development. We will then survey the literature on so called East Asian model of economic growth. The model ranges widely from government control over the economy to political economic connections and corruption. In the final section, the class will focus on idiosyncrasy of each country. We will discuss five countries: Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong and China.
GRADING

1. Presentation: 30% of the grade will be determined by contributions to in-class presentation. The presentation should aim to provide innovative and intelligent answers to given question, concise summary and critical assessment of the related literature. One team will consist of 4-6 people (Not all of you need to present). Team will be organized and the first meeting opportunity will be provided in class on September 16, 2019. Presenters are required to prepare a proper presentation with slides, not exceeding 20 minutes. Final presentation slides should be sent to the instructor 24 hours prior to the presentation. You are encouraged to consult to the instructor (as a group) in the process of preparation. The team grade will be decided based on presentation materials and presentation. To avoid free-riding, attach detailed division of labor on the last page of the slide. Individual’s grade will be adjusted by the division and quality of labor. READING SCRIPT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED during the presentation.

2. Mid-term and final examination: Mid-term exam will take 20% of the grade. Final exam, taking 40% of grades, will be scheduled by the school. Both exams will be a mixture of multiple choices, true or false, short answers, and short essays. Final exam will be cumulative. Mid-term will be one hour and the final will be two hours. Essential readings and lectures are the subjects of exams. You MUST sit these exams at the scheduled time. Two exceptions are family emergency (such as sudden fatal illness or death) and your emergent surgery. In any case, you must provide a doctor’s note with his or her contact information. Upon a proper doctor’s note and contact information, a make-up exam may be scheduled.

3. Class attendance and participation: 10% of the grade will depend on attendance and participation. Attendance check will be randomly conducted about 5 times during the semester. One absence will be waived. Active participants will be noticed and considered.

Failure to complete any of the tasks above (presentation, mid-term exam, final exam, final paper or attendance) may result in a failure grade for this course.

TEXTBOOKS


TOPICS & READINGS

I. Introductory Materials

Sep. 4: Overview

*Essential Readings*

Easterly, Chapter 1

*Recommended Readings*


Sep. 9 and 11: Research Methods

*Essential Readings*


*Recommended Readings*


Sep. 16: team organization and discussion

II. Theoretical Discussions of Economic Development

Sep. 16, 18: History

*Essential Readings*

Wan Chapter 3 and 4.

*Recommended Readings*

Cai Chapter 2.


### Sep. 23, 25: Development Theory 

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


### Sep. 30, Oct 2: Regime Type and Economic Growth

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


III. East Asian Model

Oct. 9: Economic Miracle in East Asia

Essential Readings


Recommended Readings


Oct. 14: Components of Miracle

Essential Readings

Rethinking, Chapter 1.


Recommended Readings


Oct. 16: East Asian Model: Government/Bureaucracy

Essential Readings

Recommended Readings


Oct. 21: East Asian Model: Industrial Policy

Essential Readings

Wan Chapter 7.

Recommended Readings


Oct. 23: East Asian Model: Human Capital

Essential Readings


Recommended Readings


**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Raymond Fisman and Yongxiang Wang, “The Mortality Cost of Political Connections”


Oct. 30: Asian Economic Crisis

**Essential Readings**

Wan Chapter. 6

Rethinking Chapter. 13

**Recommended Readings**


Nov. 4: Mid-term

- In-class exam in different classroom
- 60 minutes (early leave is allowed)
• Multiple choice, short answers (1-3 words), True or false, short essays

IV. Countries

Nov. 6: Japan

**Essential Readings**

Cai, Chapter 4.


**Recommended Readings**


Nov. 11: South Korea

**Essential Readings**

Cai Chapter 5.

*Rethinking* Chapter 9.

**Recommended Readings**


Nov. 13: Taiwan

**Essential Readings**

Cai Chapter 6.


**Recommended Readings**

Nov. 18: Hong Kong

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


Johannes Chan. 2014. “Hong Kong’s Umbrella Revolution” Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs 103(6).

Nov. 20, 25: China

**Essential Readings**

Cai Chapter 7.


**Recommended Readings**


Nov. 27: North Korea

**Essential Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


**TBD: Final Exam**

**Presentation subjects**

1. Life of East Asian Students [Oct 23]
2. Anti-corruption Campaign [Oct 28]
4. Abenomics [Nov 6]
5. Will Chaebol die? [Nov 11]
7. Economic Relationship between China and Hong Kong [Nov 18]
8. Start-ups in Silicon Valley and China [Nov 20]
10. North Korean Economy [Nov 27]