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**Comparative East Asian Democracies: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan (POLS 4393)**  
**Spring 2018**  
**MW 10:50-12:05, ELABN 106**

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Instructor: Dr. Mi-son Kim  
Email: mison.kim@utrgv.edu  
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:30 or by appointment  
Office: ELABN 213

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**I. Course Description:**

This course introduces to students political institutions, cultures, and political behaviors in three East Asian democracies: Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. We will first look at the historical processes of political and economic development in this region after World War II. We will then survey the political institutions that shape the politics of the three countries and how the institutions interact with political cultures and behaviors of policy-makers and voters. Lastly, we will examine contemporary issues and challenges in maturing democracy in these countries. This course is designed for students to apply the theoretical studies to the comparative analysis of Japanese, South Korean, and Taiwanese politics. In particular, you are required to be able to understand how these countries vary in their (a) political institutions (electoral rules, party systems, executive-legislative relations, business-government relations), (b) patterns of political and economic development, and (c) political culture, media, and public opinion.

**II. Course Requirements:**

One of the main goals of this course is to support you to gain new perspectives, develop your ability to articulate opinions in speech and writing and to get a good understanding of East Asian politics. Therefore, it is essential that you keep up with reading assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussion. The following requirements are designed to assist you to meet these goals.

- A. Blackboard Reading Quizzes (10%):** There will be one assigned reading per class meeting. Before coming to class, you will have a short quiz to complete based on your understanding of the assigned reading via Blackboard. This activity is designed to encourage you to read the material and be prepared for class discussion.
- B. Discussion Questions (5%):** Per assigned reading, you are required to make ONE discussion question (critical question) and submit it through Blackboard. Good questions will be chosen and discussed in class.
- C. News in East Asia (5%):** At the beginning of each class for about 10 minutes, we will talk about news stories on Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. The stories can be about everything related to these countries. For this activity, you should search current news before coming to class and be ready to

share some of the stories you have found interesting. This is to help you familiarize yourself with the societies and follow the up-to-date information on them.

**Useful sources:**

- **The Korea Herald** (a daily newspaper in English): <http://www.koreaherald.com/>
- English version of Korean daily newspapers: progressive *Hankyoreh* (<http://english.hani.co.kr/>); conservative *Chosun* (<http://english.chosun.com/>) and *JoongAng* (<http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/>)
- **Taipei Times** (a daily newspaper in English; conservative): <http://www.taipeitimes.com/>
- **Taiwan News** (English version of Taiwanese daily newspaper; progressive): <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/index>
- **The Japan Times** (a daily newspaper in English): <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>
- English version of Japanese daily newspapers: center-left *Asahi Shimbun* (<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/>) and conservative *Japan News* (<http://the-japan-news.com/>)

**D. Movie (2%):** In the first week of class, we will watch a Korean movie, titled “Joint Security Area (JSA)”. This film clearly depicts the political culture and the most salient issue cleavage in South Korea: the North Korea issue. The North Korea issue also plays a major role in defining the relations and tensions among East Asian countries as well as their global roles and relationships with other parts of the world, particularly the U.S. and other major global players. After watching the film, you should write a 1-2 page reaction paper about what you learned and what questions you got from the film.

**E. Political Science Colloquium (3%):** You are required to attend at least two (2) meetings of the Political Science Colloquium, a research talk series held by the Department of Political Science semester-long. You should listen to the presentation, take 1-2 page long notes (**handwritten ONLY, NO typed-electronic file accepted**), and turn in your notes to me on site. Each attendance with notes counts for 1.5% of your course grade.

**F. Class Participation (5%):** Active participation in discussion is the most crucial requirement of this course. Developing your arguments, critically analyzing readings and other opinions, and raising critical questions are the best way to learn and understand the topics to be discussed in this course. You will be given random (factual) questions on the readings and are expected to answer them correctly. This is also part of class participation.

**G. Class Presentation (20%) and Research Paper (10%):** You will be asked to conduct in-depth research on the assigned topic (contemporary issues regarding East Asia), present your work in class and write a research paper on it after the presentation is done by incorporating my feedback. The research paper and in-class presentation are done as a group not individually.

**H. Exams (40%):** You will have two (2) essay exams in this course. Each exam counts for 20% of your course grade.

### **III. Readings:**

There is no required textbook for this course. Instead, reading material (articles, book chapters, i.e.) will be provided via Blackboard.

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## **LIST OF COURSE TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS:**

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### **Part 1. Introduction to East Asia**

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- **Jan 17 W:** Course Introduction and Overview of East Asia
- **Jan 22 M & Jan 24 W:** Film week, “Joint Security Area”

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### **Part 2. Overview of Political Development in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan**

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- **Jan 29 M:** Foundations of Japanese Politics - Political Development in Japan  
Richardson, Bradley M. 1997. Chapter 1. *Japanese Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. pp. 1-11.
- **Jan 31 W:** Political Development (Democratization) in South Korea  
Kil, Soong Hoom. 2001. Chapter 3. “Development of Korean Politics—Historical Profile.” In Kil and Moon, *Understanding Korean Politics*. pp. 33-62.
- **Feb 5 M:** Political Development (Democratization) in Taiwan  
Rigger, Shelley. 1999. Chapters 1. “Voting for Democracy” In *Politics in Taiwan*. pp. 1-33.
- **Feb 7 W: Presentation Topic 1. The China and Taiwan relations**

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### **Part 3. Business-Government Relations, Economic Development and Crisis (East Asian Miracle?)**

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- **Feb 12 M:** The Japanese Model of Economic Development  
Richardson, Bradley M. 1997. Chapter 9. *Japanese Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. pp. 200-239.

- **Feb 14 W & Feb 19 M:** Variations of the Development Models—South Korea and Taiwan  
Haggard, Stephan. 2000. “Business-Government Relations and Economic Vulnerability.” In his *The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis*. Washington, D.C.: Institute for International Economics. pp. 15-46.
- **Feb 21 W: Presentation Topic 2. The Korean Wave (*Hallyu*)**

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#### Part 4. Social Cleavages and Electoral Politics

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- **Feb 26 M:** Social Cleavages in South Korea  
Kim, Jiyeon. 2014. “The Party System in Korea and Identity Politics.” In *New Challenges for Maturing Democracies in Korea and Taiwan*, eds. Larry Diamond and Gi-wook Shin. Stanford: Stanford University Press. pp. 71-105.  
  
\*\* *Recommended reading:*  
Choi, Jang J. 1993. “Political Cleavages in South Korea.” In *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, ed. Hagen Koo. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. pp. 13-50.
- **Feb 28 W:** Social Cleavages in Taiwan  
Rigger, Shelley. 2014. “Political Parties and Identity Politics in Taiwan.” In *New Challenges for Maturing Democracies in Korea and Taiwan*, eds. Larry Diamond and Gi-wook Shin. Stanford: Stanford University Press. pp. 106-34.  
  
\*\* *Recommended reading:*  
Rigger, Shelley. 1999. Chapters 4 and 5. *Politics in Taiwan*. pp. 81-130.
- **Mar 5 M: Presentation Topic 3. The North Korea Crisis**

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#### Midterm Exam: March 7 Wednesday

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- **Mar 12 M & Mar 14 W: Spring Break. No Classes.**

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#### Part 5. Electoral Laws and Party Systems: Theory

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- **Mar 19 M:** Electoral Laws and Party Systems (Theory)  
No Required Readings  
  
\*\* *Recommended reading:*  
Duverger, Maurice. 1963 [1954]. *Political Parties: Their Organization and Activity in the Modern State*. New York: John Wiley and Sons. pp. 206-55.

- **Mar 21 W:** Electoral Politics in Japan  
Ramseyer, J. Mark and Frances M. Rosenbluth. 1997. Chapter 2. In *Japan's Political Marketplace*.
- **Mar 26 M:** Electoral Politics in South Korea  
Jun, Hae-Won, and Simon Hix. 2010. "Electoral systems, political career paths and legislative behavior: evidence from South Korea's mixed-member system." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 11(2): 153-171.
- **Mar 28 W:** Electoral Politics in Taiwan  
Stockton, Hans. 2010. "How rules matter: electoral reform in Taiwan." *Social Science Quarterly* 91(1): 21-41.
- **Apr 2 M: Presentation Topic 4. Japan's One-Party Dominant Democracy**

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## Part 6. Political Culture: Civil Society, Confucianism, and Corruption

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- **Apr 4 W: Dr. Kim to MPSA 2018 Annual Conference. No Class.**  
\*\* **Homework:** Read Chapter 2 of Confucianism and Democratization in East Asia, written by Shin, Doh Chull (2012), Cambridge. pp. 53-70. Then, take the Blackboard Reading Quiz on it by April 5 Thursday, 11:59PM.
- **Apr 9 M:** Who is the culprit for corruption in East Asia? Culture or Institutions?  
Cox, Gary W. and Michael F. Thies. 1998. "The Cost of Intraparty Competition: SNTV and Money Politics in Japan." *Comparative Political Studies* 31 (3): 267-291.
- **Apr 11 W:** Participatory Democracy versus Representative Democracy: South Korea and Taiwan Compared  
Lee, Yoonkyung. 2014. "Diverging Patterns of Democratic Representation in Korea and Taiwan: Political Parties and Social Movements." *Asian Survey* 54(3): 419-444.
- **Apr 16 M:** The Impact of State-Civil Society Relationships on Public Policy—Case Study of South Korea and the U.S.  
Yoon, Jiso. 2016. Chapter 6 "Comparative Policy Advocacy: Korea and the United States" In *Advocacy and Policymaking in South Korea*. pp. 107-132.
- **Apr 18 W:** Interest Groups in Japan  
Naoui, Megumi and Ellis Krauss. 2009. "Who Lobbies Whom? Special Interest Politics under Alternative Electoral Systems." *American Journal of Political Science* 53(4): 874-892.

- **Apr 23 M: Presentation Topic 5. Candlelight Protests in South Korea (focusing on 2016)**

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**Part 7. Conflicts: Territorial, Historical**

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- **Apr 25 W: Historical Background—Japanese Colonial Legacies in East Asia**  
No Required Readings
- **Apr 30 M: Presentation Topic 6. Korean Comfort Women (Sex Slaves for the Imperial Japanese Army during WWII)**
- **May 2 W: Presentation Topic 7. Territorial Conflicts and Consequences in Northeast Asia**

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**Final Exam:** May 7-11; The exact schedule will be announced later

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- Research Papers due **May 5 Saturday, 11:59PM**

## UTRGV Policy Statements

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

**Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

### MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

### ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and will be dropped from the course for excessive absences, **more than eight (8) absences**. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

### SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

### SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

### COURSE DROPS:

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the "3-peat rule" and the "6-drop" rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.