

**George Bush School of Government and Public Service
(1620 L Street, NW, Washington, D.C.)**

***EAST ASIAN SECURITY*
INTA 672 – DC
SPRING 2022**

Instructor: Prof. Balbina Y. Hwang (PhD)
Course Time: Mondays, 6:15 pm – 8:55 pm

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course takes a conceptual approach to analyzing the security dynamics of the East Asia region by examining the inter-section of security, political, and economic issues involving the major and middle powers in Northeast Asia: China, Japan, and the two Koreas. Readings for the course will focus on the current policy debates as well the conceptual/theoretical issues that inform these debates, including: the role and relevance of alliances in the post-Cold War/global terrorism environments; economic growth and energy/resource needs; democratization and modernization; national memory and historical animosities; multilateralism and globalization; and the particular role of the United States in the region.

Course Prerequisites None

Credit Hours 3

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Have knowledge and fluency of the fundamental concepts and approaches in the study of relations among states, as well as the specific issues pertinent to the Northeast Asia region.
- Critically assess events and trends in Northeast Asia through the identification of dependent and independent variables, and evaluate the logical consistency of interpretations about regional events and trends.
- Understand the role of domestic and international actors that contribute to the development of diverse issues such as democratization, development, liberalization, and modernization.
- Communicate effective and persuasive oral articulation of ideas and analyses through stimulating class discussions and presentations.
- Write analytical briefs that demonstrate ability to apply contrasting conceptual models and apply them effectively to explain specific empirical cases.

Required TEXTS/Reading Assignments:

There are no required texts or books for purchase for this course as we will read excerpts from a wide variety of texts. The only requirement will be to have access to a daily newspaper (see details below). All OTHER weekly readings will be provided in advance.

Preparing reading assignments thoroughly prior to each class session is a crucial component of the learning objectives for this course, and will therefore be a significant component of the final grade. As such, students should expect to spend approximately ten to twelve hours per week (if not more) preparing the designated reading assignments for class. Students are expected to do the readings prior to each class, and to come to class thoroughly prepared to raise questions and participate actively in class discussions.

Each required reading is DUE in class for the designated class session (See: "COURSE SCHEDULE" section below). Please prepare ALL readings in advance of relevant class sessions. Readings should be prepared in the order as listed under each session.

Reading preparation includes TWO components: (1) Assigned book chapters/academic articles/essays, and (2) daily newspaper articles.

1. Reading Assignments/Requirements:

There are no required "texts" for purchase for this course. All assigned readings (except daily newspaper articles) will be provided in advance.

2. Newspaper articles:

Since one of the main objectives of the course is to be able to analyze and understand the complexities of Northeast Asian domestic, regional, and global developments, a crucial component of the assigned readings is keeping up with the daily news.

Therefore, each student is required to obtain a DAILY SUBSCRIPTION to at least ONE of the following periodicals:

- *New York Times*
- *Washington Post*
- *Wall St. Journal*
- *Financial Times*

Note: if you already regularly read one of the above papers, you are strongly encouraged to consider adding another one to your daily reading.

It is also highly recommended that each student select a major domestic news source from one of the Northeast Asian countries we are studying: (China, Japan, and ROK) and browse it on a regular basis. These can include: *Xinhua News* (China); *Asahi* or *Yomiuri Shimbun* (Japan); *Chosun* or *JoongAng Ilbo* (ROK), among others.

The purpose here is to learn the crucial skill of discerning and extracting what is crucial knowledge from the sea of available "information." In addition, we will develop the ability to contrast and compare domestic interpretations with western/international assessments of

developments in the region. It is crucial to be able to consider the inherent ideological and political biases of each news/information source in today's age of "fake news."

In addition, students are highly recommended to subscribe to/read *The Economist* on a regular basis for more in-depth analysis of current events. Other reputable news sources are of course also recommended for regular browsing, but are not acceptable sources for this course's requirements.

If at all possible, students should read the "paper" rather than the "electronic" version of one of the above required sources.

Note: Detailed instructions regarding the Newspaper Assignment will be discussed and explained during the FIRST Class Session.

Grading Policy and Course Grade

Evaluation standards for grading in this course are as follows:

A/A+ = 93-100 (points)	Outstanding: Excellent mastery of readings and classroom material; presents clear arguments supported by an in-depth understating of empirical details; strong command of concepts and theories as well as concrete examples; offers critical and fresh insights.
A- = 90-92	Excellent: Strong command of material but lacking in some minor details or clarification of key ideas and concepts.
B+ = 88-89	Very Good: Solid understanding of essential concepts and issues, and ability to incorporate insights from readings, lectures and discussions; some minor weaknesses in argumentation and elucidation of ideas.
B = 83-87	Good: Basic understanding of key concepts but some weaknesses in mastery of readings and classroom material; insufficient clarification of ideas backed by illustration.
B- = 80-82	Basic grasp of subject matter but some conceptual weaknesses, incoherence in argumentation and factual errors
C+ = 78-79	Satisfactory: Substantial conceptual and factual weaknesses, incoherence in argumentation and factual errors
C/C- = 70-77	Adequate: Major weaknesses in understanding of basic concepts and ideas, inaccurate facts and erroneous application of illustrative examples.
D = 60-69	Unsatisfactory: Inadequate grasp of basic concepts and course materials; assigned work is not completed; inability to craft a coherent argument.
F = 0-59	Failure: Failure to submit or meet minimum standards or requirements of assignments and lacks no understanding or knowledge of course content

There are NO formal Mid-term or Final exams, nor “traditional” research papers in this class. Instead, the final course grade will be comprised of the following elements:

- Class Participation and Class Attendance (*see below for further details*): 20%
- Four short written analytical assignments based on relevant reading assignments and daily analysis of news events: 40% total (10% each)
 - #1, Due date (TBA)
 - #2, Due date (TBA)
 - #3, Due date (TBA)
 - #4, Due date (TBA)
- In-class Crisis Simulation, Final Class Session: 20%
- One “Policy Memo,” (based on Crisis Simulation); DUE date after last class session (TBA): 20%

Detailed explanations and requirements of each of the above graded assignments will be distributed separately in class, and discussed thoroughly at time of distribution.

Graded Class Attendance*

**** Note: “Attendance” defined as: sessions In-Classroom and/or via Remote Access –STATUS to be determined by the University/Administration as circumstances allow at time of course meeting.***

University Attendance Policy:

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

If you are unable to attend class due to a medical emergency, or for a religious observation, you must contact the professor as soon as possible PRIOR to class session. If you fail to do so, the absence will be deducted automatically from the final grade. It is the student’s responsibility to “make-up” materials covered during a missed class. For every ONE unexcused absence of class (in accordance with “University Attendance Policy”) there will be “Zero” grade equivalent for “Class Participation” (see below); for every TWO unexcused class absences, there will be an automatic one-half letter grade final grade course deduction.

Graded Class Participation:

Approximately one-fifth (20%) of your final grade will consist of active class participation. This course emphasizes class participation as a key component of the overall learning objectives and is therefore given great significance.

Participation for each class session will be comprised of the following components:

- Brief summary/analysis of the week’s news events
- Providing responses to study questions prepared in advance based on each week’s reading assignments

- Raising questions and discussing issues arising from discussions during course session.
- Participation is evaluated on a **qualitative, not quantitative** basis. In other words, students who babble on ceaselessly and pointlessly will be downgraded on par with those who contribute nothing. (Obviously, class attendance is a pre-requisite for participation).

Each student's class participation during each session will be assessed according to the following rubric:

- 5 points = **Excellent** articulation revealing thorough preparation and mastery of readings; clear presentation of arguments supported by an in-depth understanding of concepts and theories; ability to offer new insights; exhibits ability to listen carefully to others and thoughtfulness through an open-mindedness to new ideas and arguments.
- 4 points = **Good** preparation and command of material but lacking some ability to provide details or clarification of key ideas and concepts. Satisfactory understanding of key concepts, but some weaknesses in mastery of readings and classroom material; ability to communicate ideas backed by clear arguments somewhat tentative.
- 3 points = **Satisfactory** grasp of subject matter and sufficient understanding of concepts and ideas; decent preparation of reading materials; basic argumentation and with some application of illustrative examples.
- 2 points = **Adequate**, but weak understanding of concepts and ideas; partial or cursory preparation of reading materials; partially coherent argumentation with erroneous or missing illustrative examples, and some factual errors
- 1 point= **Unsatisfactory**: Mmjor weaknesses in understanding of basic concepts, ideas and course materials; poor to no preparation of assigned reading materials
Inadequate grasp of basic concepts and course materials; assigned work is not completed; inability to craft a coherent argument.
- 0 points = **Failure**: to attend session; to submit or meet minimum standards or requirements of assignments and lacks no understanding or knowledge of course content; exhibits disruptive, disrespectful or unruly communication/behavior during class

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that respects their fellow classmates and Instructor. This means restraining from holding side conversations or engaging in otherwise distracting behavior that interferes with listening when others speak. This also includes learning to respect others' opinions even if you might disagree, and developing skills to engage in thoughtful, and analytically critical rather than merely rhetorically accusatory or inflammatory speech. Thoughtful and respectful debate and even disagreement will be highly encouraged in this class, but disruptive and intolerant speech will not be tolerated.

Please respect your fellow classmates by arriving to class promptly so that we can start class on time. Repeated tardiness will also be deducted from the final grade.

Late Work Policy

Class policy is to **NOT** accept late assignments, so please plan your schedule accordingly. *If you have an unavoidable conflict with the scheduled due date of an assignment, you must make PRIOR arrangements with me. Any assignment submitted past the due date without prior exception will be deducted 1/2 letter grade per day (24 hours) that it is late.*

University Policy on Makeup Work:

- Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in [Student Rule 7](#), or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.
- Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.
- Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).
- "The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).
- Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Section I: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Week 1: Course Introduction and Overview

Week 2: Review of Theoretical Concepts:

The Political and Economic Nexus (Realism, Liberalism, Interdependence, Democratic Peace Theory, and Hegemonic Stability Theory)

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 2: Review of Theoretical Concepts (continued)

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Section II: THE ACTORS IN NORTHEAST ASIA

Week 3: China, Part I: Domestic Sources of Behavior

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 4: China, Part II: Peaceful Rise or Powerful Threat?

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 5: Japan, Part I: Empire of the Past - Rising Sun

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 6: Japan, Part II: Empire of the Future – Fading Sun?

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 7: Korea: The Middle Kingdom

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 8: Republic of (South) Korea: Middle or Global Power?

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 9: Democratic People 's Republic of (North) Korea

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 10: The United States and Alliances

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

SECTION III: FUNCTIONAL ISSUES in NORTHEAST ASIA

Week 11: History and Nationalism

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 12: The Security and Economic Nexus: Interdependence, or Conflict?

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 13: Regionalism/Regionalization vs. Globalism/Globalization

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Other – TBA

Week 14: In-Class CRISIS SIMULATION

Required Readings:

- Daily news articles
- Simulation Preparation – TBA

*** Final Policy Memo Due – Date TBA**

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Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, you will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.