

# Political Science 5480/6480

## International Relations of East Asia

### Spring 2025

*Online – No classroom component*

Instructor: Professor Eunbin Chung  
Email: [eunbinc@gmail.com](mailto:eunbinc@gmail.com) (also Gchat username)  
Online Office Hours: Gchat; by appointment

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#### **Course Description**

This course examines the international relations of Asia with a focus on China, Japan, and the Koreas. It is designed to introduce students to the methods and resources needed to compare and judge competing hypotheses about what motivates states and how decisions about foreign policy are taken. It unpacks the domestic politics, history of political development, political institutions, and decision-making process in Asian countries and asks students to identify the values, beliefs, and processes that drive policymaking. Students should come away from the course with a good deal of substantive knowledge about the domestic and international politics of Asian states. This class meets the International requirement, and also counts as an elective for the Korean Studies minor. There are no pre/co-requisites for the course. This course is 3 credit hours.

#### **Required Materials**

We will not be using a textbook for this class. All readings are posted on Canvas. Several readings are from prestigious books or journals in international relations or comparative politics, and some may involve technical details in their methods of research. You do not need to be afraid of these; it is more important that you understand what the authors are trying to say through those methods and what their bottom lines are. It is okay if you do not understand the statistics. If you have difficulty with the readings, please come to talk to me.

#### **Course Outcomes and Objectives**

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Become more knowledgeable about history, culture, and domestic politics in Asia - definitions, various domains of study, and methodologies.
- Identify the sources and determinants of decision-making with special attention to the international relations and foreign policy of Asian states.
- Examine the numerous factors involved in conflict and cooperation within and between Asian states
- Read and understand how current issues in and the foreign relations between Asian countries hold significance and implications within the larger international system

- Discuss the importance of peace in Asia and how it is critical for international security and cooperation

### Course Requirements

Students are expected to watch every video lecture, complete all of the required readings, and read and keep up with any materials posted to the Canvas website. Students are responsible for all of these items and should note that class lectures will sometimes cover material that is not included in the course readings; similarly, the readings may contain material that is not covered in lectures—making both crucial to your success.

There are 3 graded components to this course. These are: (1-2) 2 exams and (3) weekly quizzes. The exams and quizzes will test material covered in course readings, lectures, and any supplemental items (e.g. videos, podcasts, or readings) posted to the Canvas website. If supplemental items are posted, they will be explicitly identified as required, meaning that information from them might be included on exams or quizzes, or optional, meaning that interested students might simply find them helpful and/or informative. More information on each of these items is listed below.

The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:

Mid-Term	30%
Final Exam	35%
Weekly Quizzes	35%
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<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Extra Credit:** There are two opportunities to earn extra credit in this course. The first will be through active participation in the discussion forum, information about which is listed in the ‘Communication and Discussion’ section below. The second is through giving student course evaluations toward the end of the semester. Your evaluations are an invaluable source of information that helps instructors improve course contents based on your feedback and experience of the course. If over 70% of the whole class individually submits their online evaluations by the final exam, then everyone in the class will gain 1point extra credit.

**Lectures:** Video lectures and accompanying powerpoint slides (to ease notetaking) will be posted on Canvas each week by the end of the day on Monday. Exceptions to this are the weeks when holidays fall on a Monday. On these weeks, due to the holiday materials will be posted by the end of the day on Tuesday rather than Monday.

**Quizzes:** Weekly quizzes will be posted on Canvas each week on Tuesday. The quiz will remain available **until 11:59pm on Sunday** and can be taken **up to twice**. Taking any quiz twice for a given week however, will not guarantee the same questions you saw in the first attempt, as the questions are randomly pooled from a question bank. If a student takes a quiz twice for a given week, only the higher score will be recorded. The correct answers to each quiz will be posted after the quiz deadline. Each student therefore has the freedom to watch the lecture, complete the readings, and take the quiz at any point between Tuesday and Sunday at 11:59pm.

The lowest score for one quiz throughout the whole semester will be dropped. **No exceptions** will be made for students who miss the quiz deadline—meaning that students should use their time wisely to ensure that they can complete it on time. The quizzes are open-book and open-notes but are to be taken alone by the enrolled student; no collaboration between students is permitted. **There is a 25-minute time restriction on each quiz** – meaning that you would be wise to complete the material and ensure that your solid understanding of it prior to taking the quiz.

**Midterms and Final:** A midterm and a final will be administered through Canvas. They will be open-note and open-book but will be time-restricted, limiting the student’s ability to rely on course materials. Thus, students should prepare for these exams just as they would an in-class exam. **Missing the midterm or final will result in a failing grade.** If you need to take your exam at a different time, you must discuss this with me *before* the exam opens.

The midterm exam will be available **Tuesday, Feb 18 at 8am through Sunday, Feb 23 at 11:59pm**. You will take the exam online through Canvas. Note that unlike the quizzes, you are only allowed one attempt of taking the exam. Questions on this exam will be multiple choice and true/false, very similar to your weekly quizzes. There will be a total of 35 questions to answer. Once you begin the exam, you will have a 70-minute time limit. I will prepare and post a study guide for you. The study guide is meant to help your preparation, but you will meet with the most success if you've taken good, well-organized notes on both the lecture and reading material throughout the semester.

The final exam will be available on Canvas **Tuesday, April 22 at 8am to Sunday, April 27 at 11:59pm**. During this window, you should start your exam and complete it within 70 minutes. There are 35 questions on the exam. All questions are multiple-choice. The final exam will cover material from Week 8 through the end of the course (though as noted on the study guide, since many of the concepts from early in the course carry over until the latter section, you should be familiar with them).

Note that unlike the weekly quizzes, you will be allowed **only one attempt** each at taking the midterm and final exams, so make sure you study the material well enough before starting the exams.

## Grading Scale and Policy

Grades will be given in accordance with the following grading scale (see table). Depending on the class grade distribution, I will curve the grade as necessary. For example, in the rare case that there are far too many Ds and Es and not enough As in our class, I will curve the grade by adding an equal number of points to everyone's grade.

You are able to monitor your progress on the weekly quizzes and exams throughout the whole semester. Therefore, you have ample time to ask any questions you may have on your grades before the last week of class. Your grade should either correspond with the grade cut-points on the right, or might be slightly altered from there if I applied a curve. After grades are finalized and posted, only contact me with questions if you think there is a severe discrepancy between your class performance and final letter grade. Otherwise, after the final grades have been posted I will not respond to student inquiries on grades as it can bias my grading.

Grade	Range
A	100% to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0% to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0% to 87.0%
B	< 87.0% to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0% to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0% to 77.0%
C	< 77.0% to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0% to 70.0%
D+	< 70.0% to 67.0%
D	< 67.0% to 64.0%
D-	< 64.0% to 61.0%
F	< 61.0% to 0.0%

**Finally, during the semester or especially after exams, do not email me to ask about “anything more you can do” to improve your grade.** The course policies for grading and extra credit are specified on the syllabus, and I am unable to create extra opportunities for particular students in the middle of the semester.

## Communication and Discussion

I will use emails and Canvas to communicate with students in the class. Please check Canvas frequently throughout the quarter, as students are responsible for reading and understanding information and announcements. If I post it to Canvas or put something in an email to the class, I expect that you have read and understood the information.

You should feel free to email me with any questions about course materials or logistics (just like you would ask questions before, during, or after a normal class meeting). Please treat your email as a professional correspondence—be as clear and specific as possible. If I feel that the question and answer would be of interest to the class, I will post it on Canvas (but without pasting your email and without identifying information).

Additionally, I will hold online office hours using Gchat. You should email me so we can set up a mutually convenient time to talk. My Gchat user name is [eunbinc@gmail.com](mailto:eunbinc@gmail.com).



Finally, each week on the Discussion forum of Canvas I will post a topic for discussion. Participating in this forum is encouraged but not required. However, students who do participate consistently and constructively will be eligible for up to 1-2 extra credit percentage points added to their final grade at the end of the semester. I highly recommend that you participate early and often in the discussion forum – it will enhance your learning experience as well as help your grade at the end of the term. Please see the class announcements on Canvas for information on how your participation in the weekly discussions will be graded for extra credit.

## **University Policies**

### **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the [Center for Disability & Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. Prior notice is appreciated. To read the full accommodations policy for the University of Utah, please see Section Q of the [Instruction & Evaluation regulations](#).

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should never be made publicly available. In addition, recordings must be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

If you will need accommodations in this class, or for more information about what support they provide, contact:

Center for Disability & Access

801-581-5020

[disability.utah.edu](http://disability.utah.edu)

65 Student Services Building

201 S 1460 E

Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Safety at the U**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more safety information and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).

To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, contact:

Campus Police & Department of Public Safety

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)

[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)



1735 E. S. Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Addressing Sexual Misconduct**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to university officials:

#### **Title IX Coordinator & Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action**

801-581-8365  
[oeo.utah.edu](http://oeo.utah.edu)  
135 Park Building  
201 Presidents' Cir.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

#### **Office of the Dean of Students**

801-581-7066  
[deanofstudents.utah.edu](http://deanofstudents.utah.edu)  
270 Union Building  
200 S. Central Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

To file a police report, contact:

#### **Campus Police & Department of Public Safety**

801-585-COPS (801-585-2677)  
[dps.utah.edu](http://dps.utah.edu)  
1735 E. S. Campus Dr.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

If you do not feel comfortable reporting to authorities, the U's Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence.

To privately explore options and resources available to you with an advocate, contact:

#### **Center for Campus Wellness**

801-581-7776  
[wellness.utah.edu](http://wellness.utah.edu)



350 Student Services Building  
201 S. 1460 E.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

### **Academic Misconduct**

It is expected that students comply with University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: [Policy 6-410: Student Academic Performance, Academic Conduct, and Professional and Ethical Conduct](#).

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on an individual assignment, and/or failure in the course. Academic misconduct, according to the University of Utah Student Code:

*"...Includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information...It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct."*

For details on plagiarism and other important course conduct issues, see the U's [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).

## **Course Outline and Readings** (\*Subject to change at the instructor's discretion; advanced notification will be provided for any changes)

### Part I. The Domestic and International Politics of Asian States

#### **Week 1 (Jan 6)**

#### **Introduction**

- Introduction to the course
- Review syllabus
- East Asia: The region and the people

Readings: Desnoyers, "Patterns of East Asian History," ch. 1. *The Region and People*.

#### **Week 2 (Jan 13)**

#### **How do we study the politics of other countries?**

- Democratization and development
- National identity
- The role of government

Readings: Powell et al., “Comparative Politics Today: A World View,” ch. 1. *Challenge and Change in Comparative Politics*.

**Week 3** (Jan 21)  
(Jan 20 is a holiday)

**Japan I**

- Article 9, The “Peace Clause”
- Social conditions
- Structure of government

Readings: Rosenbluth and Thies, ch. 10. *Politics in Japan – Part I*.

**Week 4** (Jan 27)

**Japan II**

- Political culture and socialization
- Political institutions and the iron triangle
- Territorial disputes

Readings: Rosenbluth and Thies, ch. 10. *Politics in Japan – Part II*.

**Week 5** (Feb 3)

**China I**

- Economic success and challenges
- Political history
- “Rule by law”

Readings: Manion, ch. 12. *Politics in China – Part I*.

**Week 6** (Feb 10)

**China II**

- Political culture
- Policymaking
- The Hong Kong issue

Readings: Manion, ch. 12. *Politics in China – Part II*.

**Week 7: Mid-Term Exam** Available Tuesday, Feb 18 at 8am through Sunday, Feb 23 at 11:59pm

Part II. Asian States within the International System

**Week 8** (Feb 24)

**International Relations**

- Studying international relations



- Thinking systematically about international relations
- Order in the global system

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 1. *Studying International Relations*.

**Week 9 (Mar 9)**

**The International System**

- Structure in the international system
- The Prisoner’s Dilemma
- The Iranian Nuclear Accord

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 2. *The International System*.

**March 10-14**

**Enjoy Spring Break!**

**Week 10 (Mar 17)**

**Korea and Nuclear Deterrence**

- Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)
- Defensive capabilities
- Deterrence (extended, general, immediate)
- North Korea

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 13. *Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Deterrence*.

Watch optional music videos (posted on Canvas):

- Video 1: Feel the Rhythm of KOREA: SEOUL
- Video 2: Feel the Rhythm of KOREA: JEONJU
- Video 3: Feel the Rhythm of KOREA: BUSAN

**Week 11 (Mar 24)**

**North Korea and Nuclear Proliferation**

- Threats to credibility
- Missile defense
- Nuclear proliferation and forbearance
- Nonproliferation and counterproliferation

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 14. *Threats to Nuclear Deterrence: Credibility, Missile Defense, and Nuclear Proliferation*.

**Week 12 (Mar 31)**

**China and Democracy**

- China and the Democratic Peace?
- Regime types and democratic diffusion

-Liberal democracy

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 19. *Democracy in International Relations*.

**Week 13 (Apr 7)**

**US-China Relations and Great Power Politics**

-Polarity  
-Hegemonic Stability  
-Power Transition

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 20. *Great Power Politics*.

Nye, Joseph S. *Will the Liberal Order Survive? The History of an Idea*, in Handler and Person, “International Politics.”

**Week 14 (Apr 14)**

**Collective Identity in International Relations**

-Nuclear deterrence in India-Pakistan relations  
-Threats of China’s “peaceful rise” in East and Southeast Asia  
-North Korea’s threats to regional stability

Readings: McDonald et al., “An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System,” ch. 24. *Collective Identity in International Relations*.

Chung, Eunbin. “National Identity, Social Preferences, and Foreign Policy Attitudes: Experimental Evidence from Japan,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*.

**Final Exam: available on Canvas Tuesday, April 22 at 8am to Sunday, April 27 at 11:59pm.**