Asian Pacific Political Economy

JTW Program
Tue. 10:30-12:00
Spring 2017
Hong Pyo LEE

Outline:
This undergraduate level course is devoted to exploring and understanding political economy of the East Asian region. The region as a whole has undergone rapid economic development and varying degrees of democratization in the postwar period. Accordingly, special emphasis will be placed on the theme of political and economic development in the region with focus on main actors such as the U.S., Japan, China and the East Asian Newly Industrialized Economies (NIEs). Then this course goes on to consider the changing configuration of regional cooperation. Throughout the course the interplay between international forces and domestic politics will be considered. This course provides through lectures and discussions, systematic coverage of the principal events and interactions in the region over time.

This course begins by considering questions on the possible emergence of the region as the nucleus of the world economy and politics in the 21st century. This is not a course on current events, although contemporary issues and the post-Cold War environment will be seriously considered. In this connection, the final sessions of the course are devoted to an analysis of prospects for regional cooperation and what they mean for the future of the Asian Pacific region. This course will also consider the newly-emerging regional order in the post-Cold War period focusing on the changing role of three main actors when the occasion arises.

Evaluation: Class Attendance and Participation 30%
Term Paper
or
Final Exam 70%
(Details will be announced in the first class)

Reading: Ming Wan, The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth
Topics and Schedule:

Session 01 Introduction: A Thumbnail Sketch of the East Asian Region in the Post-Cold War Period

I. Contours of the East Asian Political Economy
Session 02 The Rise of the Asian Pacific Region
Session 03 The East Asian National Systems of Political Economy
Session 04 Economic Dynamism: Sources and Consequences
Session 05 Development Trajectory and Patterns of Interaction(1): Trade and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

II. Economic Development and Socio-Political Issues
Session 06 The Role of the State in Economic Development
Session 07 Economic Growth: The Labor Market in the Region
Session 08 Political Development & Cultural Relativism: The Issue of Democracy

III. Regional Cooperation: Economic and Security Dimensions
Session 09 Economic Development and Patterns of Interactions(2): Economic Integration
Session 10 East Asia and Beyond: APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) and ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting)
Session 11 TPP and East Asian Community

IV. The Regional Order in the 21st Century: Main Actors and Future
Session 12 Washington Consensus vs. Beijing Consensus
Session 13 G-20 vs. G-2
Session 14 Student Presentations
Session 15 Final Exam