CONTEMPORARY POLITICS IN EAST ASIA
(JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA)

Poli381 Winter 2018
(Last Updated on Dec 6, 2017)

Time: 10:05am -11:25am, Tue/Thur
Jan 9 - Apr 12, 2018
Location: SADB 1/12

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to key issues of contemporary politics in Japan and the South Korea. It will cover the politics and economic development of the Post-WWII Japan and Post-Korean War South Korea. Throughout this course, we will discuss the following themes: How were the contemporary political systems established in Japan and South Korea? How have these systems changed over time? What are the impacts of political institutions on the political and economic development in the two countries? How do social actors and political and economic institutions interact with each other? What are the foreign policymaking strategies in the two countries?

The course is organized into five main topics: political history and legacy, establishment and changes of political institutions, political economy of development, state-society relations, and foreign policymaking.

Learning outcomes
Successful completion of the course will enable students to:
- Be familiar with the development process of democratic institutions in Japan and the South Korea;
- Acquire knowledge on the dynamic interactions between political institutions and economic development;
- Evaluate the role of key players and contentions in democratic politics;
- Locate the priorities of foreign policy making in the two countries;
- Have an informed perspective of the current events and foreign relations of the countries.

Required texts:
For Purchase: Paragrahe bookstore. Both books are reserved in the library. (12-hour).

Prerequisite
Introduction to comparative politics

Requirements and Grading

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>In-class Final Exam</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge Quiz</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<td>2 Op-eds</td>
<td>30%</td>
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1. Class Attendance (5%) and Participation (5%)

Attendance (5%) will be taken in conferences, starting from the end of the add/drop period. One point will be deducted from your 5 points attendance grade for each absence, unless you are distracted by a serious medical or family emergency (formal proof needed).

2. In-class Midterm (20%) and Final Exam (28%)

Both exams will be composed of short-answer questions (2-3 paragraphs, 3-5 sentences each). If you are distracted by a serious emergency and cannot attend the exam (formal proof needed), please schedule a make-up oral exam with me within one week of the exam date.

3. Knowledge Quiz (12%)

- Knowledge Quiz (12 points, Yes/No answer, multiple choices, or one-word answer). There will be 5 in-class knowledge quizzes (accumulative) throughout the semester based on lectures and assigned readings, four of your best grades will count, 3 points each. If you are distracted by a serious emergency and cannot attend the exam (formal proof needed), please schedule a make-up quiz with me within one week.

4. Op-ed (30%)

You are expected to analyze current events using knowledge acquired in classrooms. There are two Op-eds assignment (15% each), one focusing on domestic politics and another one foreign policy. You are expected to find related news (within the past 12 months) and provide informed and educated analysis. [More instruction on MyCourse]

Submission: by Midnight on Due date to Assignment Section on MyCourse

Penalty for late submission: For each day you submit the assignment late, 5% of this assignment grade (i.e. 5% * 15 points = 0.75 point/per day) will be deducted.

For News on Japan:
http://www.japantimes.co.jp/ (The Japan Times)
http://thediplomat.com (The Diplomat: online news magazine covering current events in East Asia, including Japan)
http://newslet.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ (Social Science Japan Newsletter, from the University of Tokyo)

For News on Korea:
http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/ Korea Herald (a daily newspaper in English)  
English version of Korean daily newspapers:  
http://english.hani.co.kr progressive Hankyoreh  
http://english.chosun.com/ conservative Chosun  
http://joongangdaily.joins.com Conservative JoongAng

**Miscellaneous Reminders**

A. **Re-grading policy:** Students who wish to contest a grade for an assignment or exam must do so in writing (by email) providing the reasoning behind their challenge to the grade received within two weeks of the day on which the assignments are returned. I will then re-evaluate the assignment or exam, but also reserve the right to raise or lower the grade. Please see the political science student association regarding policy  

B. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

C. In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

D. If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.

E. McGill has policies on sustainability, paper use and other initiatives to promote a culture of sustainability at McGill.

**Class Schedule and Readings:**

**Topic I: Historical Background**

Jan 9 Course Overview

Jan 11 Japan and South Korea: Political History  
S. Korea: Heo & Roehrig, Chapter 1 (until 1980)  
Japan: Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapters 2 & 3

Watch at your own time:  
Documentary, “Recent History of Japan and Korea” on Youtube, 50 mins.

**Topic II: The Political Institutions and National-Local Politics**

I. Structure of Government and Institutional Foundations  
Jan 16 Japan:  
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 4.  
John C. Hickman and Chong Lim Kim, “Electoral Advantage, Malapportionment, and

Jan 18 S. Korea

Jan 23: last day of Add/Drop

2. Leadership Transition
Jan 23 Japan:
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 6.

1st Knowledge Quiz

Jan 25 S. Korea: Heo&Roehrig, Chapters 2&3

3. Local and Regional Politics
Jan 30 Japan

Feb 1 S. Korea:

Topic III: The Political Economy of Development

1. The stage of takeoff
Feb 6 Japan
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 5.

2nd Knowledge Quiz
Feb 8 S. Korea:
[For responses to Kohli’s article and rebuttle from Kohli, see:

Watch at your own time: Asia Rising pt2, on Youtube (9 mins).

2. Struggles during and after the Financial Crisis
Feb 13 Japan

Feb 15 S. Korea
Heo&Roehrig. Chapters 4&5.

3. Interest Groups and Structural Corruption
Feb 20 Japan: 6

3rd knowledge quiz
Feb 22 S. Korea:

Feb 27: midterm review
Feb 29: In-class midterm

March 3 –March 9 Study Break
March 11, midnight: 1st Op-ed due on MyCourse
**Topic IV: The State and Society**

Political Participation and Resistance

Mar 13 Japan:

Mar 15 S. Korea:

**4th Knowledge Quiz**

Watch at your own time: Asia Rising pt3, on Youtube (1'-3'35")

**Topic V: Foreign Policy**

1. Bilateral Relations

Mar 20 Japan:
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 8.

Mar 22 Korea:
Heo&Roehrig, Chapter 8.

2. Relationship with the US:

Mar 27 Japan

Mar 29 S. Korea
3. Regional integration  
Heo&Roehrig, Chapter 6

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Apr 5  Comparison between Japan and the South Korea; final exam review  

5th Knowledge quiz

Apr 10 In-class final exam

April 12 final exam and final assignment Q& A

April 15/Sunday, midnight: 2nd Op-ed due on MyCourse