

East Asian Politics and Development

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China University of Political Science and Law Summer Course, 2013

Teaching Times and Dates

Dates:

Times:

Location:

Course summary

This course introduces students to the major debates in the field of East Asian politics. The course is arranged around a number of prominent themes that focus on politics and government in East Asia including political history and culture, major institutions and policy processes, economic and social development and foreign policy.

Course aims

Students completing this course should be familiar with the major debates in East Asian politics, have a good understanding of theoretical perspectives on East Asian development and be able to conduct research on a topic in East Asian politics.

Course assessment

TBA

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered over 18 hours of seminars. Seminars will include lecturing and group discussion. Each seminar will run for 1 hour with 9 seminars per week scheduled over two weeks.

Schedule of Class

Seminar 1 Introduction to the politics of East Asia

What is East Asia? What are the major debates in East Asian politics? How do we study the politics and governance of the region? What is comparative politics? Where are the similarities and differences over East Asian countries?

Seminar 2 Early states, colonialism & nationalism

How do East Asia's early states compare to state formation in Europe? What impact did colonialism have on modernization in East Asian countries? What role did nationalism play?

Seminar 3 Politics and Governance in East Asia during the Cold War

What types of states existed in the post-war years? What impact did the cold war have on political development? How did the cold war regimes change in the 1980s and 90s?

Seminar 4 Structures of Polity

How do East Asian countries structure their polity? What are the major differences in the institutional arrangements of government? How did these differences come about?

Seminar 5 Organisation of Government

What organising principles underpin the organisation of government in East Asia? How do presidential, parliamentary and people's republics differ? How are they the same? How do forms of government in East Asia compare to other parts of the world?

Seminar 6 Rule of Law

How is law made in East Asia? How do the executive, the legislature and the judiciary function? Have East Asian governments moved from a rule by law to a rule of law system of governance? Are East Asian governments unified and organic?

Seminar 7 Bureaucracy

What is the role of the bureaucracy in government? Why is meritocracy important? What is the legacy of scholar-officialdom?

Seminar 8 Good Governance

What is good governance? How has good governance improved in East Asia as states have developed? Why is this important?

Seminar 9 Developmental States

How have East Asian states developed their economy? What role has the state played in promoting economic development in East Asia? What is economic activism? Is East Asian growth really different to how other states have developed? How can we explain the East Asian economic miracle?

Seminar 10 An East Asian Model of Economic Development

What is industrial policy? Is there an East Asian model of economic development? What is the role of law in economic development over time? If there is a model, do East Asian states grow out of it? How do development strategies change over time?

Seminar 11 Political Parties in East Asia

Why are political parties important in the modern state? How are they organised? What role do members play? What is the relationship between type of political party and form of government/type of state? What is intra-party democracy?

Seminar 12 Electoral Systems

How have electoral systems changed in East Asia? How do elections function in the overall political order? What are functional groups?

Seminar 13 State and society

What is the relationship between state and society in East Asian states? What is the difference between state-centric, society-centric and state-in-society views of state-society relations? How do people become politicians?

Seminar 14 Civil Society

What is civil society? What is citizenship? How do civil society groups strengthen the overall political order?

Seminar 15 Ethnicity, Gender and the Media

How are ethnic groups integrated into the nation-state in East Asia? Are social roles gendered? What role do the media play facilitating the relationship between state and society?

Seminar 16 Modern state building and East Asian Modernity

What is modern state building? What are the different approaches taken across East Asia? What is modernity? Are there multiple modernities? Is there an East Asian form of modernity? What are Asian values?

Seminar 17 East Asian Politics and the Region

How has the interstate system changed in East Asia? What are the differences between the postwar and post-cold war structure of the region? What visions of regional cooperation and organisation exist? How do these compare to Europe?

Seminar 18 World Politics and East Asian Countries

What is globalisation? How has globalisation touched East Asia? What position do East Asian states occupy in the international system? How is this changing and why?

