

## **East Asian International Relations (Spring 2025)**

Professor, Yukyung Yeo

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Office hour: by appointment

This course is designed to introduce and analyze international relations in East Asia. Clearly, East Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in world politics. During the Cold War, East Asia has gone through intense competition and conflicts between hegemonic powers and among states in the region. In the post-Cold War era, East Asia has been not only the engine of the global economy thanks to Japan and China, but also the center of major power shift, such as rising China, declining the US, and the escalating US-China competition and tension. This course will explore some emerging key issues that would affect international relations in East Asia, such as the US-China strategic competition, the security of supply chains, North Korea nuclear threats, South Korea-Japan's relations, cross-strait crisis between China and Taiwan, the upcoming US president elations and its impact on East Asia, and climate change.

### **Assessment:**

Group project and presentation	15%
Discussion leading and participation	15%
Mid-term exam	35%
Final exam	35%

### **Readings:**

Will be posted in e-campus, <https://e-campus.khu.ac.kr/index.php>

### **Course readings:**

All reading materials will be available in e-campus.

## Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

**March 5**                      Introducing the course and requirements

**March 10**                    Historical legacies in East Asia

Wareen I. Cohen, "The Foreign Impact on East Asia," in *Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia* (Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2000), pp. 1-21.

**March 12**                    Historical legacies in East Asia

Wareen I. Cohen, "The Foreign Impact on East Asia," in *Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia* (Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 2000), pp. 22-40.

**March 17/19**                East Asia after the Cold War

Aaron L. Friedberg, "Ripe for Rivalry: Prospects for Peace in a Multipolar Asia," *International Security*, Vol. 18, no. 3 (1993/1994), pp. 5-33.

## US-China relations and the rising China

**March 24/26**

Thomas J. Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (New York, NY: Norton, 2015), ch. 1.

**March 31**

Harry Harding, "Has U.S. China Policy Failed?," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 38, no. 3 (2015), pp. 95-122.

Group discussion

## North Korea nuclear threats and Korean peninsula

### **April 2**

Nicholas D. Anderson, "America's North Korean Nuclear Trilemma," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 40, no. 4 (Winter 2018), pp. 153-164.

### **April 7**      Group discussion

## South Korea-Japan relations (past, present, future)

### **April 9**

Nicholas Kristof, "The Problem of Memory," *Foreign Affairs*

Isabel Reynolds and Shinhye Kang, "Why South Korea-Japan ties are plagued by history" *Washington Post*, August 18, 2023

### **April 14**

Kristi Govella and Bonnie Glaser, "How to mend the rift between Japan and South Korea" *Foreign Affairs* (May 17, 2022).

Group discussion

### **April 16**

Review session for the mid-term exam

### **April 21**      Mid-term exam

April 23      NO CLASS

## US-Japan alliance

### **April 28/30**

Adam P. Liff. 2018. "Japan's Security Policy in the 'Abe Era': Radical Transformation or Evolutionary Shift?" *Texas National Security Review*, Vol. 1, No. 3: 8-34

**May 5**      **No Class (holiday)**

**May 7**

Michael Green, "Japan and US-China Strategic Competition," in edited by Avery Goldstein and Jacques deLisle, *After Engagement* (2022).

Cross-Strait Crisis

**May 12**

John J. Mearsheimer, "Say Goodbye to Taiwan," *The National Interest*, March/April 2014

**May 14**

Scott Kastner, "The Taiwan Issue in US-China Relations," in edited by Avery Goldstein and Jacques deLisle, *After Engagement* (2022).

Maritime Disputes in the East and South China Seas

**May 19**

M. Taylor Fravel. 2010. "Explaining Stability in the Senkaku (Diaoyu) Islands Dispute." In Gerald Curtis, Ryosei Kokubun, and Wang Jisi, eds., *Getting the Triangle Straight: Managing China-Japan-US Relations* (2010)

**May 21**

M. Taylor Fravel and Kacie Miura, "Stormy Seas: The South China Sea in US-China Relations," in edited by Avery Goldstein and Jacques deLisle, *After Engagement* (2022).

ASEAN as Regional Economic Institution

**May 26**

Mark Beeson. 2016. "Can ASEAN Cope with China?" *Journal of Current Southeast Asian Affairs*, Vol. 35, no. 1: 5-28

**May 28**

Hong Yu. 2017. "Motivation behind China's 'One Belt, One Road' Initiatives and Establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank," *Journal of Contemporary China*, Vol. 26, issue 105: 353-368.

Supply Chain Resilience and Future of East Asia

**June 2**

Elsa B. Kania and Adam Segal, "Globalized Innovation and Great Power Competition" in *After Engagement*

**June 4**

Alastair Iain Johnston. 2019. "The Failures of the 'Failure of Engagement' of China," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 42, no. 2: 99-114.

Yan Xuetong. 2019. "The Age of Uneasy Peace: Chinese Power in a Divided World," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, no. 1: 40-49.

**June 9/11**

**Student presentation**

**June 16**      **Final Exam**