Course Description
East Asia is one of the most important regions in the world. Beginning as undeveloped economies during the post-World War II period, East Asian countries have achieved the most rapid and successful economic growth in the world and have become exemplary cases for other developing countries. After the rise of the Four Asian Dragons (or Tigers) in the 1970s and 80s, China is now the most rapidly growing economy and has challenged American hegemony as an emerging world power. While East Asian countries have experienced remarkable economic progress, political development has been less successful. Although South Korea saw successful democratic transition in the late 1980s, authoritarian legacies still remain in society by repressing labor rights. Despite the expansion of individual freedoms in China, political power is still monopolized by the Communist Party. Thus, East Asia contains many actual and potential points of conflict and political contestation. The goal of this course is to introduce students to important sociopolitical issues in East Asia and to provide students with basic knowledge of contemporary East Asian politics. The course will mainly cover three areas: (1) industrialization and economic development; (2) democratization and social movements; and (3) globalization and new challenges. The course will combine lectures with in-class discussions.

Course Goals and Objectives
By the end of the course, students are expected to:
- Identify the key issues and events of development and democracy in East Asia
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the causes and processes that shaped East Asian politics
- Critically assess theories of development and democracy and analyze contemporary issues of East Asian politics and their challenges

Course Requirements
1) Attendance and participation (10%): All students are expected to attend class meetings and to participate actively in discussion throughout the semester. You are allowed two (2) free absences over the course of the semester before your grade will be affected. Further absences will result in a deduction of points from your participation grade. **If you miss five (5) or more class sessions, you will get a zero for your attendance grade.**

   Students who miss ten or more classes are subject to failure in the course. You are responsible for all the readings, class discussions, and lecture material covered in your absence. Repeated tardiness will count as an absence.

2) Four response papers (40%): There will be four response papers throughout the semester. Each paper is worth 10 points. Each paper is expected to summarize the core argument and critically analyze the readings. Each paper is expected to be 750 words.
Professor will give written feedback on response papers based on rubric that gives scores in five categories. More details will be announced in class.

3) **Research proposal (10%)**: A preliminary statement of interest and an outline are required. Professor will give feedback on the structure and sources of the proposal.

4) **Final paper draft 1 (10%)**: Students are expected to write a final research paper on any topic connected to the themes of the course. This can be a paper addressing a clearly defined substantive problem from the class materials. Students will submit their final research paper draft including bibliography. The length should be about 12 pages or 3000 words. Professor will give feedback about how to improve the paper.

5) **Final research paper (20%)**: Based on the feedback and comments that students got, they are expected to submit the revised, final version of their research paper. The due date for the final paper is **May 6 (Monday)**.

6) **Student presentation (10%)**: Students will give a 10-minute presentation based on their final projects in class. It is scheduled on 5/1. More details will be handed out in class later.

Note: Late papers will lose one full letter grade per day unless accompanied by a documented medical excuse.

**Grade Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>above 94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>below 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Materials**

All the readings are available at the laulima website.

**Course Policies and Etiquette**

Please come to class and be in class on time. Tardiness, in addition to absences, will affect your grade and are strongly discouraged. Unless you become ill or speak to me about leaving early for a specific purpose, expect to stay for the entire class. **The use of any electronic devices—including laptops—will be banned in class.** If you use electronic devices inappropriately, you will be asked to leave class without hesitation (and will remain responsible for what you missed).

**Plagiarism** includes copying some or all of your work from a book, a website, or another student’s paper. Penalties range from a failing grade for the assignment to permanent expulsion from the University. As an instructor, I am obligated to report all suspected violations to the Dean and s/he then will make recommendations. Please refer to the UHM website on academic dishonesty and related issues.

<http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/students/conduct/impermissible_behavior.html>

**Disability Issues**: Please see me and refer to the UH Kokua Program on issues related to disability. <http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/> I am more than happy to make accommodations on all aspects of the course on a case-by-case basis.

**A Word of Advice**

Succeeding in this course is in part a function of your own effort. Here are some tips:
1) Do the reading. The lectures are not a substitute for the readings. Exams and papers will demand familiarity with material not covered in lecture but found in the readings.
2) Come to class. Likewise, lectures may include material not in the readings and will help you to build up critical thinking skills.
3) Read critically: Focus on the big picture to glean the main arguments in the texts. Think about the logic of the arguments and draw linkages and contrasts between the texts. This is a course on comparative politics, so think comparatively.
4) Ask questions. Do not hesitate to ask questions or raise issues in class. Your comments will enrich the course.
5) Come to the professor’s office hours. I am here to help, and I also invite you to share your responses and reactions to the material.
6) Follow relevant issues outside of class. Reading about current (or not so current) events in important journals and newspapers will help you to assess and apply the concepts you encounter in the course. Try to look at newspapers such as the New York Times, Washington Post, and/or periodicals such as the Economist, New Yorker, and Atlantic Monthly.

COURSE OUTLINE
Part I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
Jan. 7 Introduction and Overview of the Course
   No Reading

Jan. 9 Introduction and Overview of the Course


Jan. 14 Transition to Modernity in East Asia

PART II. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Jan. 16 The Japanese Economic Miracle

Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day: No Class

Jan. 23 The Rise of East Asian Tigers
Jan. 28 The Rise of East Asian Tigers, cont.

Jan. 30 The Rise of the Urban Middle Class and Consumerism in Asia

THE FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS)

Feb. 4 Labor Politics in South Korea

Feb. 6 Labor Politics in Taiwan

Feb. 11 China during the Mao Era

Feb. 13 Economic Reform in the Post-Mao Era

Feb. 18. President’s Day: No Class

Feb. 20 Manufacturing Workers in China


Feb. 25 Social Inequality and Differentiation in China

Feb. 27 In-Class Film Screening: *LAST TRAIN HOME* (2009)

THE SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS)

PART III. AUTHORITARIANISM AND DEMOCRACY IN EAST ASIA
Mar. 4 Debates on Asian Values (South Korea and Singapore)


Mar. 6 Democratic Transitions in East Asia

Mar. 11 Democratic Transitions in East Asia, cont.

Mar. 13 Totalitarianism in North Korea?

Mar. 18—Mar. 22. Spring Break

Mar. 25 Authoritarianism in China


Mar. 27 Labor Unrest in China

Apr. 1 Political Contention in China, cont.

Apr. 3 Civil Society in Japan
   Reading TBA.
Apr. 8 Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong

THE THIRD RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS)

PART IV. NEOLIBERALISM AND NEW CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION IN EAST ASIA
Apr. 10 Economic Crisis and the Rise of Neoliberalism in East Asia

Apr. 15 Insecure Japan

Apr. 17 Insecure Japan
   In-Class Film Screening: Shoplifters (2018)

Apr. 22 Social Inequality and the Decline of the Middle Class in South Korea

Apr. 24 Neoliberal Subjectivity in China

THE FOURTH RESPONSE PAPER DUE (BRING A HARD COPY IN CLASS.

Apr. 29 Catch up and Course Wrap-up

May. 1 Students’ Presentation