

PSC 407B & AIS407B
Political Systems of East Asia

Dr. Austin Horng-En Wang

Fall 2020

Th 4:00 PM-6: 45 PM

Classroom: Remote Learning - Synchronous

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Virtual Office Hour: Mo 2 PM – 4 PM, Fr 9:30 AM-10:30 AM,
and by appointment (scheduled through the email.)

Teaching Assistant: Ruth Boitel, ruth@unlv.nevada.edu. Office hour Fr 10:30 AM – 11:59 AM

Course Description

This upper-division course is designed to bring students an eye-opening perspective on East Asian politics by examining a wide range of issues within and beyond this region. East Asia accounts for about 30 percent of the world's population and 30 percent of the world's GDP. However, this region is nonetheless profoundly divided within its political aspects, despite its rapid intra-regional economic integration.

This course tries to help you make sense of the politics in East Asia, mostly Northeast Asia. How does the rise of China impact the region and our understanding of democratization? What is the Chinese dream, and why is it matter to the ongoing US-China trade war? When it comes to trade, why were Japan and South Korea in another trade war since 2019? Who is "Chinese Taipei"? Why do some no-man islands – or even rocks under the sea – cause serious conflict between the great powers?

It is an upper-division course. Students registered in this course are assumed to be interested in the topics. Students are also expected to complete all assigned readings before each class.

Course Format

This course is assigned to be taught as synchronous learning. It means that you have to log in to the Webcampus at 4:00 PM each Thursday and follow my instruction through Webex (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KRrWrqKm8-6qxKSXE5tGYkZ0XLwul-cV/view>). You do not

need to turn on your camera unless you wanted to, or unless you want to ask questions. You can also ask the questions by typing comments. I will upload the slides before each class. I will also try to upload the recorded video at the end of the class, but it is not guaranteed because of the technical complexity. I know that the time is hard, and I will try my best to provide the flexibility and rearrangements upon requests.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to understand the historical background and public opinion driving the international and domestic politics among countries in East Asia. They will equip with in-depth knowledge to analyze what happened, what is happening, and what will happen in East Asia and their implication to the United States. The course materials are chosen from various sources, including academic literature, think tank publications, and newspapers, which will help the student think more about job opportunities in related fields.

Required Textbooks

The following books are required for the course. Used and new copies are all available on your favorite Internet sites.

Hayes, Louis D. 2012. *Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Japan*. Routledge. ISBN 9780765617866 (Hayes hereafter)

Diamond, Larry, Marc F. Plattner, and Yun-Han Chu. 2013. *Democracy in East Asia: A New Century*. Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN 978-1-4214-0968-9 (DPC hereafter)

Grades and Exams

Your grade is based on the quality of your performance on three dimensions:

- **News Memos: 40% (8% × 5 = 40%)**

The politics in East Asia is changing rapidly, especially after 2016, and no textbook could catch the change and update the content timely. From Week 2 to Week 15, you are required to submit five to eight news memos to TA. News memos (or action memo) are widely used in think tanks and the State Department. It is not an easy task, and you should try to submit your first news memo as soon as possible.

Each submission can get at most 8%, and only the top five scores will be counted to your final grades (that is, if you submitted eight news memos, only the five submissions with the highest scores will be counted). The news should happen within one week before your submission, or it will not be evaluated. Here is what I expect to see in the news memo:

1% The title should be the same as the news you cited

1% The news link

2% Two sentences explaining what was happening

1% One sentence explaining its importance/impact on East Asia

2% One sentence explaining its potential impact on the United States

1% Grammar and writing style

Only four sentences were allowed in the news memo, beyond the news title and news link.
The deadline for submitting the last news memo is 11:59 PM, December 5, 2020.

Tip 1: Sign up for the newsletter of *Foreign Policy*, including the Morning Brief, China Brief, and South Asia Brief. <https://foreignpolicy.com/newsletters/>

Tip 2: If you cannot explain why the news article you chose is important to East Asia or the United States, you chose the wrong one.

Tip 3: Examples can be found on the Webcampus.

- **Midterm Exam, October 15, 2020: 30%**

Since the in-class, closed-book format is not available, the midterm examination will be composed of three to four short essays. For each question, you are expected to read a news article about East Asia, and use what you have learned in the course material to explain the behaviors people took and the choices people selected in the news article. The word limit for each question is 500 words, including the citations with the proper academic format. I will upload the questions to Webcampus at 4:00 PM, and you should upload your answers to Webcampus before 11:59 PM.

- **Final Exam, December 10, 2020: 30%**

Once again, the final examination will be composed of three to four short essays. For each question, you are expected to read a news article about East Asia, and use what you have learned in the course material (after the midterm exam) to explain the behaviors people took and the choices people selected in the news article. The word limit for each question is 500 words, including the citations with the proper academic format. I will upload the questions to Webcampus at 4:00 PM, and you should upload your answers to Webcampus before 11:59 PM.

Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of extreme circumstances. The student must be able to provide documentation that the absence is for a reason recognized by the university (e.g., illness, death in the family, observance of a religious holiday) and make pre-arrangements with me **prior** to the scheduled exam time. If it is absolutely impossible to make prior arrangements with me, students must contact me as soon as possible about the situation. Students who represent UNLV at any official extracurricular activity shall also have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es). **Please notify me of any planned absences for religious holidays by September 8, 2020.**

Subject to Change

I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus. Students will be responsible for knowing any changes made to the syllabus during class time whether they were in attendance or not.

Course Schedule

Week 1

8/27

Read the syllabus - your first take-home exercise.

Fukuyama, F. 2013. "The pattern of History." DPC Chapter 1.

Week 2

9/3

Confucianism and the Middle Kingdom

Hayes, Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 3

Chang, Y. T. & Chu, Y. H. (2002). Confucianism and democracy: Empirical study of mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. *A comparative survey of democracy, governance, and development*, 3-32.

Week 3

9/10

Mao and Deng

Hayes, Chapter 4, Chapter 6

Bruce Gilley, 2014 "Deng Xiaoping and His Successors" in William Joseph (eds.) *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Chapter 4.

Week 4

9/17

Xi Jinping

Davis, Bob, and Wei, Lingling. 2020. *Superpower Showdown* Chapter 8, p. 148-158 (The Leaders: Trump's China, Xi's America, read the sections about Xi's life)

BBC, "His own words: The 14 principles of 'Xi Jinping Thought'" available at <https://monitoring.bbc.co.uk/product/c1dmwn4r>

China Change, "China Pushes 'Human Rights With Chinese Characteristics' at the UN" available at

<https://chinachange.org/2017/10/09/china-pushes-human-rights-with-chinese-characteristics-at-the-un/>

Pei, M. (2012). China and East Asian Democracy: Is CCP Rule Fragile or Resilient?. DPC Chapter 5.

Week 5

9/24

Taiwan, Republic of China?

Rigger, S. 2014. "Taiwan." in William Joseph (eds.) *Politics in China: An Introduction*. Chapter 18.

Goldstein, Steven M., 2018. "(WHEN) WILL TAIWAN REUNIFY WITH THE MAINLAND?" In J. Rudolph (eds.) *The China Questions: critical insights into a rising power*. Harvard University Press.

Wang, A. H. E. et al. 2017. "The Taiwanese see themselves as Taiwanese, not as Chinese." *Washington Post* July 2, 2017

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/01/02/yes-taiwan-wants-one-china-but-which-china-does-it-want/>

Week 6

10/1

Hong Kong

Lo, Sonny Shiu-Hing. 2014. "Hong Kong." In *Politics in China: An Introduction* 2nd, edited by William Joseph.

Fong, B. C. 2019. Stateless nation within a nationless state: The political past, present, and future of Hongkongers, 1949–2019. *Nations and Nationalism*. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/nana.12556>

"Glory to Hong Kong: Singing a new protest anthem" - BBC News September 15, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY_hkbVQA20 (Full song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUIDL4SB60g>)

Week 7

10/8

The South China Sea

Fravel, M. Taylor. 2019. "Threading the Needle: The South China Sea Disputes" in Ross and Tunsjo (eds.) *Strategic Adjustment and The Rise of China*, Chapter 8.

CSIS, 2018, *Defusing the South China Sea Disputes: A Regional Blueprint*, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/defusing-south-china-sea-disputes>

Review Session**Week 8**

10/15

Midterm Exam (Deadline: 11:59 PM)**Week 9**

10/22

One Belt, One Road

Xing, Li. 2019. "Understanding the Multiple Facets of China's "One Belt One Road" Initiative" in *Mapping China's 'One Belt One Road' Initiative*, eds. Li Xing. Chapter 2

Passi, R. 2019. "Unpacking Economic Motivations and Noneconomic Consequences of Connectivity Infrastructure Under OBOR" in *Mapping China's 'One Belt One Road' Initiative*, eds. Li Xing. Chapter 7

Giles Mohan and Frauke Urban, 2019, "China and Global Resources" in *The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary International Political Economy* eds. Timothy M. Shaw et al.

Week 10

10/29

Korea(s)

Hayes, Chapter 8, and Chapter 9, Chapter 10, Chapter 11

Byman, D., & Lind, J. (2010). Pyongyang's survival strategy: tools of authoritarian control in North Korea. *International Security*, 35(1), 44-74.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40784646>

Week 11

11/5

Japan

Hayes, Chapter 15, Chapter 16, Chapter 17

Article 9: http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan_1950_usjapan.htm

Week 12

11/12

Democratization in Comparative Perspective

Andrew Wedeman, 1997, "Looters, Rent-Scrapers, and Dividend Collectors: The Political Economy of Corruption in Zaire, South Korea, and the Philippines," *Journal of Developing Areas*, vol. 31, no. 4

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4192713>

Wong, Joseph. 2013. "From Developmental States to Welfare States" DPC Chapter 3.

Park and Chang. 2013. "Regime Performance and Democratic Legitimacy" DPC Chapter 4.

Week 13

11/19

Authoritarian Resilience

Slater, D. 2012. Southeast Asia: strong-state democratization in Malaysia and Singapore. DPC Chapter 11.

Pan, Jennifer. 2020. *Welfare for Autocrats: How Social Assistance in China Cares for its Rulers*. Chapter 5 Repressing with Social Assistance.

Hobbs, W. R., & Roberts, M. E. (2018). How sudden censorship can increase access to information. *American Political Science Review*, 112(3), 621-636. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/how-sudden-censorship-can-increase-access-to-information/A913C96E2058A602F611DFEAC43506DB>

Week 14

11/26

Thanksgiving Day Recess**Week 15**

12/3

The Future of East Asian Politics

Kostka, G. (2019). China's social credit systems and public opinion: Explaining high levels of approval. *New media & society*, 21(7), 1565-1593.

Wang et al. (2020). "Analyzing the Support for #TweetforTaiwan" *E-IR*, <https://www.e-ir.info/pdf/86334>

Medcalf, R. (2019). Indo-Pacific Visions: Giving Solidarity a Chance. *Asia policy*, 26(3), 79-95.

Review Session**Week 16**

12/10

Final Exam TBA

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Public Health Directives

Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom. Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at <https://www.unlv.edu/coronavirus/health-requirements>. Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the UNLV Code of Student Conduct, https://www.unlv.edu/sites/default/files/page_files/27/StudentConduct-Code.pdf, including being administratively withdrawn from the course.

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the Student Conduct Code, <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

Auditing Classes

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of electronic devices such as pagers, cellular phones, or recording devices, or potentially disruptive devices or activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established

requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright) is available at <https://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](https://www.unlv.edu/drc) (SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars), <https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy), <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy>, which states that "acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment" is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy, <https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy>, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student's control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of "F" will be recorded, and the student's GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the "I" grade.

Library Resources

Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the Libraries' Research Consultation website, <https://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian>. You can also ask the library staff questions via chat and text message at <https://ask.library.unlv.edu/>.

Missed Classwork

Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Missed Work policy, under Registration Policies, on the Academic Policies webpage, <https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=29&navoid=7326>.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have

the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a "Drop one" option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate's policy, and an infringement on the student's right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could be reasonably avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/School Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](https://www.unlv.edu/asc), <https://www.unlv.edu/asc>, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the [Writing Center](https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/), <https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3-301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, telephone 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

If you find this paragraph, it means that you really read this syllabus, as is assigned in the first class. To prove that you read this syllabus, you should send an email to TA's email account with your Full name as the subject before 8:00 AM, September 2, 2020. You will receive extra 2 points to your final grade at the end of this semester. Hooray.