21st Century Geopolitics of East Asia

Instructor: Professor Seong-Ho SHEEN
Major: International Summer Institute
Term: Summer 2023
Time: 13:00-16:00 Mon. Tue. Wed. Thu
Venue: GSIS, Seminar Room

Course Objective

This course is intended to discuss the geopolitical situation and key diplomatic and security issues of East Asia. As an introductory seminar, the course will provide students with theoretical framework to understand and analyze current security and diplomatic relations in East Asia. For this, the course will discuss three different approaches in analyzing today’s East Asian geo-political situation: realist, liberalist, and constructivist. Following theories, the course will discuss current diplomatic and security issues among major East Asian countries including rise of China, key bilateral relations in East Asia, nuclear development and alliance dynamics on the Korean peninsula. Special attention will be given to the 21st century US-China power competition and its impacts in Northeast Asia.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation (30%)
2. Midterm exam (35%)
3. Final exam (35%)

Guidelines

Attendance will be important for keeping up with class. Please be advised that questions for mid-term and final exam will be based on lecture given in class, not textbook. Good attendance and active participation will be reflected in grade.
Class Schedule and Reading Assignment

Session 1: Introduction

Theories of International Relations in East Asia

Session 2: Realism

List of Readings

Session 3: Liberalism

List of Readings
Session 4: Constructivism

List of Readings

Bilateral Security Dynamics in East Asia

Session 5: US-China Relations

List of Readings
- James Fallows, “America Is Fumbling Its Most Important Relationship,” The Atlantic May 28, 2018
  [https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/05/china-trump/561359/](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/05/china-trump/561359/)

Session 6: US-Japan Relations

List of Readings
- Mike Mochizuki and Samuel Parkinson Porter “Japan Under Abe: toward
Moderation or Nationalism?” *Washington Quarterly* Vol. 36, No. 4 (Autumn 2013), 25-41

- “Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference,” The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (April 28, 2015)

### Session 7: Japan-China Relations

List of Readings


### Session 8 –Mid-term Exam

**Korea and East Asia**

### Session 9: Korea-China

List of Readings


**Session 10: Korea-US**

List of Readings
- Seongho Sheen, “Between a Rock and a Rocket Man: South Korea’s Anxiety” Global Asia (Winter 2017)

**Session 11: Korea-Japan**

List of Readings
- Tsuneo Akaha,” Japan’s Multilevel Approach Toward the Korean Peninsula After the Cold War,” in Armstrong, Rozman, Kim and Kotkin ed. Korea at The Center: Dynamics of Regionalism in Northeast Asia, pp. 183-199
The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia

Session 12: Nuclear and Peace on the Korean Peninsula

List of Readings
- Crisis Group Report, “Deep Freeze and Beyond: Making the Trump-Kim Summit a Success,” June 11, 2018

Session 13: Two Koreas and Korean Unification

List of Readings
- Bonnie S. Glaser and Scott Snyder, “Responding to Change on the Korean Peninsula: Impediments to U.S.-South Korea-China Coordination,” a CSIS Report, May 2010
- The Data Team. “What North and South Korea Would Gain If They Were Reunified.” The Economist. The Economist Newspaper, 5 May 2016, www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2016/05/05/what-north-and-south-korea-would-gain-if-they-were-reunified.

Session 14: Final Exam