The aim of this lecture course is to introduce and analyze the international relations of East Asia. With four great powers, three nuclear weapons states and two of the world’s largest economies, East Asia is one of the most dynamic regions in world politics. During the Cold War, East Asia witnessed intense competition and conflict between the superpowers and among the states in the region. In the post-Cold War era, the region has been an engine of the global economy while undergoing a major shift in the balance power whose trajectory and outcome remain uncertain. This course will examine the sources of conflict and cooperation in both periods, assessing competing explanations for key events in East Asia’s international relations. Readings will be drawn from international relations theory, political science and history.


Requirements for 17.433 (U)

There will be one in-class short-answer exam. The exam will draw on material from both the readings and lectures. Students will also be required to write two analytical take-home essays on questions that will be assigned during the course. The first essay will be approximately 1,500 words in length, while the second essay will be approximately 3,000 words. Attendance is mandatory.

Grades will be determined as follows: three quizzes (15%), essay I (15%), in-class exam (30%), essay II (30%) and participation (10%, including unannounced map quiz).

Key Dates

- 29 September reading quiz
- 25 October essay I due
- 27 October reading quiz
- 22 November reading quiz
- 6 December in-class exam
- 13 December essay II due

Requirements for 17.434 (G)

Students may enroll in the graduate version of this course only with the instructor’s permission. Graduate students are expected to read an additional 150-200 pages per week listed as
“recommended” (for 17.433) in the syllabus. These readings will assist students in mapping the academic literature on East Asia’s international relations in preparation for further study or research projects.

Graduates must write two essays as well as two book précis. These 3,000-3,600 word essays will be synthetic, integrating the empirical data and the theories introduced in the course, and require students to think broadly about the key variables shaping the international relations of the region. A précis is a concise book summary of approximately 600 words to be selected from the list at the end of syllabus.

Grades will be determined as follows: essay I (30%), essay II (30%), précis I (15%), précis II (15%) and participation (10%, including unannounced map quiz).

**Key Dates**

- 13 October      précis I due in class
- 15 November     essay I due in class
- 29 November     précis II due in class
- 1 December      essay II due in class

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**Course Information and Policies**


**Disabilities.** If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact me immediately so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**Extensions.** Make-up exams or extensions will not be granted except in case of emergency and in all cases require a note from the Dean or your doctor. Late work will be penalized by one third of a grade for each day that the assignment is late (e.g., a B to B-). The key dates for assignments in this course are outlined above.

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is “a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work.” This includes ideas as well as specific phrases, sentences or paragraphs. **Do not misrepresent your own work.** See Avoiding Plagiarism from MIT's Writing Center ([web.mit.edu/writing/Citation/plagiarism.html](http://web.mit.edu/writing/Citation/plagiarism.html)) and MIT’s rules regarding academic honesty ([web.mit.edu/policies/10.0.html](http://web.mit.edu/policies/10.0.html)).

**Writing.** The Writing and Communication Center (12-132) offers you free professional advice from published writers about oral presentations and about all types of academic, creative, and professional writing. To schedule an appointment, go to [http://web.mit.edu/writing](http://web.mit.edu/writing) and click on the yellow sunburst. The Center’s hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 5:00-9:00 p.m.
I. BACKGROUND

8 September  Introduction

Steven M. Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” Foreign Policy, (Spring 1998), pp. 29-46

Recommended


13 September  International Relations Theory and East Asia


Recommended


15 September  Historical Legacies


Recommended

*Jack Snyder, Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition (New York: Columbia UP, 1991), pp. 112-152
II. EARLY COLD WAR

20 September  Origins of the Cold War in East Asia


Recommended


*Andrew J. Rotter, The Path to Vietnam: Origins of the American Commitment to Southeast Asia (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1987), Ch. 3


22 September  Korean War I


Recommended

Cumings and Weathersby, “An Exchange on Korean War Origins,” CWIHP Bulletin 6/7, p. 120-3


27 September  Korean War II


William Stueck, “The Road to Chinese Intervention, July-November 1950,” Rethinking the Korean War, p. 87-117

Thomas J. Christensen, Useful Adversaries, pp. 148-176, 192-3

Recommended


Shen Zhihua “Sino-North Korean Conflict and its Resolution during the Korean War,” Cold War International History Project Bulletin, Issue 14/15

29 September  Containment in East Asia

*** reading quiz ***


Recommended

*Thomas J. Christensen, Useful Adversaries, pp. 194-241


Marc Gallicchio, “Best Defense is a Good Offense,” in *The Great Powers In East Asia*, pp. 63-85

4 October, 6 October  Vietnam War

George C. Herring, *America's Longest War*, pp. 53-169, **skim** 1-51


*Recommended*


11 October  NO CLASS (Columbus Day)

13 October  Collapse of the China-Soviet Alliance

John Garver, *Foreign Policy of the People's Republic of China*, pp. 120-131, 136-41


Xue Mouhong, *The Diplomacy of Contemporary China*, (Hong Kong: New Horizon Press, 1990), pp. 138-150  [NOTE: this is an official diplomatic history from the PRC]

*Recommended*


18 October  US-China Rapprochement

1972 “Shanghai” Communiqué

1972 Sino-Japanese Joint Communiqué

III. LATE COLD WAR


**Recommended**


20 October       China-Soviet Cold War


**Recommended**


25 October       US-China Normalization and Beyond

**** Essay I due ****

1979 Communiqué

1979 Taiwan Relations Act

1982 Communiqué


Harry Harding, *Fragile Relationship*, p. 82-87


**Recommended**


27 October  

**Maintaining Regional Order I: ASEAN**

**** reading quiz ****


**Recommended**


Michael Leifer, *ASEAN and the Security of South East Asia*, pp. 17-88 (reserve)

ASEAN Secretariat

1 November  

**Financial Miracles**


**Recommended**


**Reference**


World Bank, *Rethinking the East Asian Miracle* (2001)

**3 November   Japan’s Emergence**

Christopher W. Hughes, *Japan’s Re-emergence as a ’Normal’ Military Power*, Adelphi Paper No. 368 (2004), Ch. 1


**Recommended**


**IV. POST-COLD WAR**

**8 November   Ripe for Rivalry?**


**Recommended**


Department of Defense, *The United States Security Strategy For The East Asia-Pacific Region 1998*

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**10 November   Maintaining Regional Order II: Beyond ASEAN**


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**Reference**

[ARF Concept Paper (1995)]

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**Recommended**


**15 November  Financial Crisis and Regionalism**

Shaun Narine, *Explaining ASEAN: Regionalism in Southeast Asia*,(Boulder: Lynne Reiner, 2002), pp. 139-159


Paul Bowles, “Asia’s Post-Crisis Regionalism: Bringing the State Back In, Keeping the (United) States Out,” *Review of International Political Economy*, Vol. 9, No. 2 (Summer 2002), pp. 244-270

**Reference on the Crisis**


*Asia Financial Crisis webpage*

**Recommended**


17 November  Crisis in the Taiwan Straits


Reference


2005 Anti-Secession Law

*Four-Point Guidelines on Cross-Straits Relations Set Forth by President Hu*

*Hu Jintao’s Report at the 17th Party Congress, “X. Carrying Forward the Practice of “One Country, Two Systems” and Advancing the Great Cause of Peaceful National Reunification”*

Alan Romberg, *Rein in at the Brink of the Precipice: American Policy Toward Taiwan and US-PRC Relations* (Washington: Henry J. Stimson Center, 2003) (skim, but this is a key work)

Recommended


22 November  Crisis on the Korean Peninsula

**** reading quiz ****


Reference

*Larry A. Niksch, North Korea’s Nuclear Weapons Program, CRS Report, October 2006*

*Denuclearization Action Plan (February 2007)*
Recommended


Christopher Hughes, “North Korea’s Nuclear Weapons: Implications for the Nuclear Ambitions of Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan” *Asia Policy*, No. 3 (January 2007), pp. 75-104


24 November NO CLASS – Thanksgiving break

IV. CHINA’S RISE

29 November China’s Rise


Reference


Recommended


1 December A New Security Dilemma?

Christopher W. Hughes, *Japan’s Re-emergence as a ‘Normal’ Military Power*, Adelphi Paper No. 368 (2004), Ch. 2

John J. Mearsheimer, “China’s Unpeaceful Rise,” *Current History*, (April 2006),


Recommended


6 December  **** In-class Exam ****

8 December  The U.S. in East Asia


Recommended


13 December  Conclusion and Warp-UP

**** Essay II Due ****
Précis Assignment

A précis is short and concise summary of a scholarly book, approximately 600 words in length. A précis should capture the essence of a longer argument, summarizing the argument, theory and data presented by the work’s author. A précis is not a book review or a critique. Each précis will be shared with the rest of the class and posted on Stellar.

Précis I Book List

- Chen Jian, *Road to the Korean War* (New York: Columbia UP, 1994)
Précis II Book List

- Michael J. Green, *Japan’s Reluctant Realism*, (New York: Palgrave, 2001)
- David C. Kang, *China Rising: Peace, Power and Order in East Asia* (New York: Columbia, 2007)


