HUFS – International Summer Session 2019
Inter-Korean and East Asian Foreign and Security Policy

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Course Description and Objectives:
East Asia represents one of the most important regions in the world in terms of population, natural resources, trading and investment opportunities. In recent years, the region has been characterized by outstanding economic performances. At the same time, several hotspots in terms of international security and foreign policy still remains, creating a somehow unstable environment for the countries in the region. Several security concerns – such as the division of the Korean peninsula, territorial and maritime disputes, the Taiwan issue, the rivalry between China and Japan, without mentioning the contested role played by the United States – still represent an obstacle for regional cooperation and political stability.

This course’s main objective is to provide students with a comprehensive portrait of East Asian international relations from the perspective of foreign and security, defined broadly to include not only military security but also economic, political, human security, energy security and environmental security. Beyond the traditional military and economic concerns, the new challenges to national identity presented by globalization and the rapid changes of the post-Cold War world combine to make East Asia an intricate space in which many critical variables are changing all at once. To help students appreciate the complexity, we will devote the first part of the course to analyse the key concepts that we will use throughout the classes and the historical context of post-WWII East Asia. Subsequently, the main focus of the course will be on the analysis of the relations among the main regional actors and the existing sources of tension, focusing on the current regional situation. Particular attention will be devoted to the Korean peninsula: its role in the regional system of international relations, the different foreign policy strategies pursued by the two Koreas and the development of inter-Korean relations.

Every class will be a mix of lecture, leading discussion based on the required readings, and students’ activities which means that students will always have to come in having prepared the reading in advance and be ready to discuss it. Everyone will be expected to speak and make informed observations about the reading content. Please never check the Internet or your cell phone in class. If you do, you’ll lose participation points. If you do it regularly you’ll lose all your participation points.

To foster a good appreciation of understanding security issues in East Asia, a prior basic knowledge of the Asia-Pacific countries and of the basic concepts and theories of International Relations would be very helpful.

Assignments and Grading:

Grading
30%: Class Participation
30%: Midterm Assignment (1,800 words essay)
40%: Final Exam (short answers and essay questions)
**Class Participation**
As class participation is an important part of the final course grade, regular participation in the discussion sections is expected of all students. The emphasis in participation will be on the *quality* rather than quantity.

**Mid-Term Assignment**
For the mid-term assignment students are required to write a short essay (1,800 words), analysing one relevant aspect of inter-Korean and East Asian foreign and security policy.

**Final Exam**
The final exam will assess the students’ command of the material covered in the classroom, through short answer and essay questions.

If you have a *documented* medical emergency, the sooner you talk to the professor the better. The only extensions will be given for documented illness that are brought to the professor *before* the assignment due date. **Retroactive extensions will not be given.** There will be no makeup exams, no re-grading of assignments, and no allowances for missed assignments.

**Readings:**
Recommended readings:


In addition to the book, the readings for each class are listed in the course schedule and made available to the students online.

**Course Schedule:**

**Day 1: Introduction to the course and Syllabus**

**Day 2: Key concepts and approaches to International Relations and Security Studies**


**Day 3 & Day 4: East Asian Foreign and Security Policy: historical development and characteristics**


**Day 5: The US role in East Asia**


**Day 6 & Day 7: China’s role in the regional and global balance of power**


**Day 8: The Korean Peninsula and regional relations**

[Deadline for Mid-term essay submission]


**Day 9 & Day 10: South Korea’s foreign and security policy challenges**


Day 11: The ‘North Korean Issue’: the nuclear crises and beyond


Day 12: Inter-Korean relations


Day 13: Japan’s Normalization and the Evolution of Japan’s Security Policy


Day 14: Northeast Asia’s regional cooperation and integration

• Scott Snyder, “South Korea struggles with the Asian Paradox”, World Politics Review, May 20, 2014.

Day 15: Final Exam

Day 16: Course Conclusion