International Political Economy of East Asia

WWS 477/POL 478 (Spring 2011)
Wednesday 1:30-4:20
Robertson Hall 020

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Sign up at http://wass.princeton.edu, or e-mail to request appointment at another time.

Course description

This course examines conditions that support open markets and economic growth with a focus on the East Asian experience. How have the countries of East Asia responded to the constraints and opportunities of the world economy? The path to export-led rapid growth in Japan, Korea, China, and Southeast Asia will be compared to assess the “East Asian Miracle” and the role of state-led industrial policy. The 1990s in which Japan’s growth stalled and the region went through a major financial crisis will be discussed to determine policy lessons. What implications does China’s emergence as economic powerhouse hold for the region and global economy?

Course requirements

Seminar participation: 25 percent
Take-home Midterm I: 15 percent (due by 4pm March 11)
Take-home Midterm II: 15 percent (due by 4pm April 22)
Term paper: 45 percent (due by 4pm May 10)

Seminar participation includes regular engagement with discussion and one short presentation during the semester. Term papers will encourage independent research that looks more deeply at a question raised in the course and presents a policy recommendation about a “lesson” from the East Asian experience. The paper should concisely present the problem, background material on pros and cons, and your opinion about the applicability of the lesson for other countries. 8-10 pages length (double-spaced), plus bibliography listing sources.

All readings will be available through e-reserves on the course blackboard website.
• **Week 1 (Feb. 2) Introduction**


• **Week 2 (Feb. 9) Governments and Markets**


• **Week 3 (Feb. 16) Historical and Systemic Roots of Institutions for Growth**


• **Week 4 (Feb. 23) Japan Model: The Developmental State**


**Week 5 (March 2)** Diffusion of Export-led Growth: South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong


**Week 6 (March 9)** Market Socialism: China and Vietnam path to reform


**Week 7 (March 23)** Organization of Business, Labor, and Society


• Week 8 (March 30) TRADE RULES AND MANAGING TRADE FRICTION


• Week 9 (April 6) REVERSAL OF FORTUNE: SLOWING GROWTH IN JAPAN


• Week 10 (April 13) GLOBAL FINANCE AND EAST ASIA


• Week 11 (April 20) Why is there no East Asian Union? Regional Institutions and Informal Cooperation


• Week 12 (April 27) Lessons from East Asia


