Political Economy of East Asia: Introduction and Guidance

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Outline of the Lecture

• Self-introduction

• East Asia as a region: past and present
• Why study the political economy of East Asia?

• An overview of the course
• Textbooks and references
• Teaching and grading methods
• Q & A
Brief Self-Introduction

• SHU, Min (舒 曜)

• Research Interests:
  • Comparative regionalism
  • International political economy
  • IR of Historical East Asia

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East Asia as a Region: Past and Present

• Defining East Asia
  • Geography
  • Economic ties
  • Regional security
  • Cultural commonalities
  • Religious beliefs
  • Politico-economic space

• East Asia in history
  • Silk road, tributary system
  • Trading ports, money circulation, migration

• East Asia today
  • Developmental state, production networks
  • Economic growth and development
  • Regionalism, global value chains
Why study the political economy of East Asia?

- Political economy of East Asia
  - Close government-business relations
  - East Asian miracle
  - The dollar hegemony
  - The rise of China
  - Regional production networks
  - TPP vs. RCEP vs. FTAAP
  - ...

- Unique experiences, but generalizable cases
- At the forefront of the current debates
An Overview of the Course

• [week 1] Introduction: East Asia as a Region

• [week 2] The Silk Road: Political Economy of Trade Routes

• [week 3] Tribute, Trade and Regional Hierarchy in Pre-Colonial East Asia

• [week 4] Transnational Circulation of Money: Silver, JMY and USD

• [week 5] Spice, Opium, Oil, and Colonialism in East Asia

• [week 6] Opening to the World: Japan, Korea and Thailand

• [week 7] Migration and Diasporas in East Asia: Past and Present
An Overview of the Course

- [week 8] The Developmental State: Miracle, Crisis and Restructuring
- [week 9] ‘Flying Geese’ and Regional Production Networks
- [week 10] The Rise of China and Its Implications
- [week 11] Varieties of Capitalism in East Asia
- [week 12] East Asian Regionalism
- [week 13] East Asia and the World Economy

- [week 14] Guidance on Term Essay
- [week 15] Summary and Conclusion
Textbooks


*Additional reading materials will be assigned in the class.*
References


References


Teaching and Grading Methods

• Teaching methods
  • Lecture
  • Group work

• Grading methods
  • Attendance (20%)
  • Group work, class discussions (30%)
  • Term Paper (50%)

• Questions and Answers