Japan in East Asia

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Time: Mondays
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Course Description
The East Asian region is perhaps the success story of post-World War Two economic development. First Japan, then the Asian Tiger economies, then China and the Tiger Cub economies all experienced periods of sustained economic growth that transformed their societies. Japan was a key player in transforming the East Asian region. As the economies of East Asia have become increasingly integrated, linkages between these societies have also become both deeper and broader.

However, the region is also facing considerable challenges. Security issues are dominant, examples being the Korean peninsula, and territorial disputes. Environmental/natural resource issues provide another set of key challenges. How do we understand these challenges and how do we assess Japan’s responses? This course will begin by outlining the prominent theories of international relations, which will then become the tools we use to analyze the important issues and challenges facing Japan in East Asia. We will pick up a number of prominent case studies from contemporary East Asia, and investigate from the perspective of Japan’s international relations.

Course Objectives
By the end of the course, students will be able to both understand, and apply, the primary theories of international relations. In this way, students will become familiar with the theories and concepts of international relations as an academic subject. Students will also gain an understanding of the international relations of East Asia, focusing on Japan.

Students are expected to be masters of their own learning. All students will be expected to do a considerable amount of reading. Students will also be expected to take turns in making in-class presentations on the reading. The purpose of these presentations is to give students practice in presenting complex concepts in a clear and stimulating manner. Discussions will be centered around these student presentations. Students will be expected to participate fully in class discussions and presentations.

Students will be expected to write a number of short discussion papers, as well as a longer academic essay.

Grading Criteria
30% Presentations
20% Participation
30% Discussion Papers
20% Final Essay
Schedule
What follows is a tentative schedule. It includes the topic for each class, as well as the necessary reading for each class.

PART ONE: Theories of International Relations

Sept 5 - **Introductions; us and our subject**
- “The significance of Japan’s international relations”, pp. 3-22 in *Japan’s International Relations: Politics, economics and security* (3rd Ed), Glenn D. Hook, Julie Gilson, Christopher W. Hughes, Hugo Dobson. (Routlledge, 2012).

Sept 12- **International Relations Theory: Realism**
- “Area Studies and Discipline Area Studies, Regional Studies, and International Relations” - Peter J. Katzenstein, pp. 35-42 in *International Relations Theory in Northeast Asia Vol. I* - Stephan Haggard (Sage, 2010)

Sept 19 – no class

Sept 26- **International Relations Theory: Liberalism**

Oct 3- **International Relations Theory: International Society**
Oct 10- **International Relations Theory: International Political Economy**

Oct 17- **International Relations Theory: Social Constructivism**

PART TWO: Issues and Case Studies

Oct 24- **Political relations**

Oct 31 – no class

Nov 7- **Economic relations**
Nov 14- **Security relations**

Nov 21- **Japan and China**

Nov 28- **Japan and the Korean Peninsula**

Dec 5- **Japan and Southeast Asia**

Dec 12- Final Review, general discussions and tentative conclusions