Understanding International Relations in East Asia

Instructor: Professor Seong-Ho SHEEN  
Major: International Summer Institute  
Term: Summer 2018  
Time: 13:00-16:00 Mon. Wed. Thu  
Venue: GSIS, Seminar Room

Course Objective

This course is intended to discuss geopolitical situation and key security issues of East Asia. As an introductory seminar, the course will provide students with theoretical framework to understand and analyze currents security and diplomatic relations in East Asia. For this, the course will discuss three different approaches in analyzing today’s East Asian geo-political situation; realist, liberalist, and constructivist. Following theories, the course will discuss current diplomatic and security issues among major East Asian countries including rise of China, key bilateral relations in East Asia, nuclear development and alliance dynamics on the Korean peninsula. Special attention will be given to the power transition and its impacts in Northeast Asia.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation (30%)  
2. Midterm exam (35%)  
3. Final exam (35%)

Guidelines

- **Attendance** will be important for keeping up with class. Please be advised that questions for mid-term and final exam will be based on lecture given in class, not textbook. Good attendance and **active participation** will be reflected in grade.
Class Schedule and Reading Assignment

Session 1: Introduction

Theories of International Relations in East Asia

Session 2: Realism

List of Readings

Session 3: Liberalism

List of Readings
Session 4: Constructivism

List of Readings

Bilateral Security Dynamics in East Asia

Session 5: US-China Relations

List of Readings

Session 6: US-Japan Relations

List of Readings
- Mike Mochizuki and Samuel Parkinson Porter “Japan Under Abe: toward
Moderation or Nationalism?” Washington Quarterly Vol. 36, No. 4 (Autumn 2013), 25-41
- “Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference,” The White House, Office of the Press Secretary (April 28, 2015)

Session 7: Japan-China Relations

List of Readings

Session 8 –Mid-term Exam

Korea and East Asia

Session 9: Korea-China

List of Readings
- Jae Ho Chung, Between Ally and Partner: Korea-China Relations and the United States (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007), Ch. 1,7,8.

Session 10: Korea-US

List of Readings
- Seongho Sheen, “Between a Rock and a Rocket Man: South Korea’s Anxiety” Global Asia (Winter 2017)

Session 11: Korea-Japan

List of Readings
- Tsuneo Akaha,” Japan’s Multilevel Approach Toward the Koran Peninsula After the Cold War,” in Armstrong, Rozman, Kim and Kotkin ed. Korea at The Center: Dynamics of Regionalism in Northeast Asia, pp. 183-199
The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia

Session 12: Nuclear and Peace on the Korean Peninsula

List of Readings

Session 13: Two Koreas and Korean Unification

List of Readings
- Bonnie S. Glaser and Scott Snyder, “Responding to Change on the Korean Peninsula: Impediments to U.S.-South Korea-China Coordination,” a CSIS Report, May 2010

Session 14: Final Exam