DRAFT SYLLABUS -- PS 460/560: Political Economy of East Asia

Spring 2017

Classroom: 111 Lillis

Class meeting time: 8:30-9:50 am, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Professor Tuong Vu, PhD

Office hours: TBA or by appointment

Office location: 918 PLC

Email: thvu@uoregon.edu

Course website: through https://canvas.uoregon.edu

Course description: East Asia is a dynamic region, housing the second and third largest economies in the world (China and Japan), and having four countries in the G-20 (China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia). The region has achieved remarkable economic success since the postwar period but is facing many challenges partly due to its very success. This course examines the model of economic development in East Asia and explanations for its success. In the second part of the course, we consider more recent challenges facing the countries in the region, and turn to the relationship between states and classes during and after economic transformation. Geographically, about half the course will be devoted to Southeast Asia and half to Northeast Asia.

Evaluation: The class will be organized as a seminar. Students are expected to attend all sessions, read the course materials carefully before class, participate actively in class discussion, and make one presentation that summarizes and synthesizes the readings for a class session. Grades will be based on presentation (5%), class participation (15%); five short one-page reflection papers (20%); a 6 page (double-spaced) theory paper (25%); and a 10-12 page (double-spaced) take-home final exam (35%). Guidelines for writing reflection papers and presenting are posted separately on blackboard.

Absence and laptop/cell phone use policy:

Please give 24 hours advance notice or doctor’s letter for excused absence. No other extensions will be excused.

Use of laptops is allowed in class only for taking note, not for accessing the internet. Cell phone and tablet use is forbidden except in emergency case with advance notice provided to instructor. Students found to have violated these rules will be asked to leave class immediately for the rest of the class.

Additional requirements for graduate students: you are expected to read not only required but also recommended materials, discuss them during class, write longer (2-page) reflection papers, and write a 12-15-page final exam (or research paper if you prefer, but please discuss the topic with me during week 2 at the latest. Research papers can be of any topics of interest to students but must be related to the main themes of the course, with prior approval by the instructor).
Writing Assignments

Theory paper: due in class on Monday, April 27. This paper is aimed to test your understanding of theories about economic development learned in the first four weeks of class. Guideline for this paper will be posted on blackboard in the second week to give you enough time for writing.

Final take-home exam: due Thursday, June 11, at noon. The exam will ask you to compare different patterns of economic development, state involvement, and class transformation in different national contexts. Guideline for this paper will be posted on blackboard by the eighth week to give you enough time for writing. Please put a hard copy in the instructor's mailbox by the PS Office (no need for stamp from the office). No late or emailed exam accepted.

Grading criteria: (1) understanding of reading materials and lectures; (2) ability to make clear, informed and convincing arguments; (3) ability to organize materials and arguments into a coherent essay; and (4) ability to deploy theories and cases from the readings to support their arguments.

Cheating or plagiarism: will result in failing the class and in most cases will be reported to the University.

Readings: Except the required books below, other required or recommended readings are available from Blackboard, marked by the sign [B] in this syllabus. To avoid confusion, required readings are shown in Blackboard in green color; recommended readings in black.

- Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* (Harvard, 2006)
- Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation* (Cornell, 2001)

Course schedule:

WEEK 1

April 4: Overview of class

April 6: Theories of late development

- Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 2, pp. 32-55

RECOMMENDED:


WEEK 2

April 11: The art and science of developmental policies
• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 6, pp. 123-151
• Ha-joon Chang, *The East Asian Development Experience*, chapter 2, pp. 63-102

RECOMMENDED:
• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 10, pp. 231-256

April 13: Role of culture and social institutions
• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 3, pp. 56-74

RECOMMENDED:

WEEK 3

April 18: Role of the state, state ideology, and institutions
• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 5, pp. 105-122

RECOMMENDED:

April 20: Colonial origins of the Korean state


**RECOMMENDED:**


**WEEK 4**

April 25: War, state formation, and development


**RECOMMENDED:**


April 27: Varieties of capital

• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapters 7 & 8, pp. 152-199

**RECOMMENDED:**


**WEEK 5**

May 2: State and capital

**THEORY PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 9, pp. 200-230


**RECOMMENDED:**


May 4: The financial crisis of 1997
• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 4, pp. 75-102
• Ha-Joon Chang, *The East Asian Development Experience*, chapter 6, pp. 207-225

**RECOMMENDED:**
• Ha-Joon Chang, *The East Asian Development Experience*, chapter 5, pp. 179-206

**WEEK 6**

**May 9: Japan’s lost decade**
• Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry Are Reforming Japanese Capitalism* (Cornell, 2006), chapter 2, pp. 22-50

**RECOMMENDED:**
• Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled*, chapter 1, pp. 1-21

**May 11: Challenges to Reform**
• Ha-Joon Chang, *The East Asian Development Experience*, chapter 9, pp. 279-310
• Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled*, chapters 3 & 7, pp. 51-77, 205-224

**RECOMMENDED:**
• Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled*, chapters 4 & 6, pp. 78-114, 157-204

**WEEK 7**

**May 16: Socialist states: China & Vietnam**
• Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition*, chapters 1 & 3, pp. 17-44, 96-131

**RECOMMENDED:**

**May 18: Socialist states 2**
• Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition*, chapters 4 & 5, pp. 132-205

**RECOMMENDED:**
• Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition*, chapter 2, pp. 45-95

WEEK 8

May 23: Workers and economic transformation 1

• Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers*, 23-99

RECOMMENDED:

• Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 11, pp. 257-284

May 25: Workers and economic transformation 2

• Teri Caraway, *Assembling Women*, pp. 36-131

RECOMMENDED:

• Teri Caraway, *Assembling Women*, pp. 1-35
• Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers*, pp. 1-22, 188-217

WEEK 9

May 30: Memorial Day--No class

June 1: The peasantry under economic transformation 1

• Andrew Walker, *Thailand’s Political Peasants*, chapters 1-2, pp. 34-85

RECOMMENDED:

• Andrew Walker, *Thailand’s Political Peasants*, introduction, pp. 3-33
• James Scott, *The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia* (1976), 1-55

WEEK 10

June 6: The peasantry under economic transformation 2

• Andrew Walker, *Thailand’s Political Peasants*, chapters 4 & 7, pp. 111-142, 190-218

RECOMMENDED:


June 8: The peasantry under economic transformation 3

• Andrew Walker, *Thailand’s Political Peasants*, Conclusion, pp. 219-232

RECOMMENDED:


TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE THURSDAY, JUNE 15, AT NOON

Please put a hard copy in the instructor’s mailbox by the PS Office (no need for stamp).

No late or emailed exam accepted.