THE PACIFIC CHALLENGE

Professor Min Ye

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COURSE CONTENT

This course provides undergraduates with a broad introduction to the diversity and development in Asia Pacific. The course is divided into three parts. Part I introduces historical and political legacies in Asia before WWII. It focuses on the rise and decline of a Sino-centric and a Japan-centric order in East Asia and discusses the impacts of these two historical periods on today’s domestic politics and international relations in the region. Part II focuses on political-economic developments in Pacific Asia after WWII. It first examines the economic miracles in Japan and the four “Asian tigers,” and then discusses democratization in these high-growing regions. Part II also presents the process and nature of economic reform in China and explains how China’s economic resurgence challenges the existing order in the Pacific region. Part III focuses on the 1997/8 Asian financial crisis and its impacts on individual countries in the region as well as transnational regional politics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be an in-class midterm exam, one paper and a final exam in the regularly scheduled exam period. The midterm exam will be on March 5, Wednesday, in-class. The paper will be about 10 pages long (double-space) and will be due on April 28, Monday. Paper topics will be distributed and discussed in class. They are intended to give students an opportunity to think critically about an important topic covered in the course and to hone their analytical writing. The paper ought to be written independently. The final exam will be held on the time decided by the university.

NOTE: The paper must be submitted on time. “On time” means the start of class on the day the paper is due. Late papers will be downgraded.
Important Dates!!
FIRST DAY OF CLASS: JANUARY 15, WEDNESDAY
FIRST MIDTERM: MARCH 5, WEDNESDAY
SPRING RECESS: MARCH 8-16
DUE DATE OF ESSAY: APRIL 28, MONDAY

GRADING
Grades will be determined on the following basis:
- Midterm exam 30%
- Paper 30%
- Final Exam 30%
- Participation 10%

COURSE READING
Most readings will be assigned from the following books available for purchase at the BU Bookstore:

Mark Borthwick, Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2007)

You are expected to finish required reading before the lectures.

POLICY ON ABSENCES
You are expected to attend all classes. Absences may be excused for medical, religious, official and personal reasons. The stated University policy reads: “Any student who has been excessively absent from a course may be required to withdraw from that course without credit.” I define “excessively absent” for this course to be six absences, excused or not.

POLICY ON “INCOMPLETES”
No incomplete grades will be reported.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is the passing off of the ideas or words of another as your own. It is taken very seriously at Boston University. I reserve the right to use computer software for plagiarism detection. Consult http://www.bu.edu/cas/academics/programs/conductcode.html for a systematic discussion of Academic Conduct Code of the College of Arts and Sciences.
SESSION SCHEDULE  
(subject to change)

Week 1: INTRODUCTION

Jan 15, Wed: Introduction

Jan 17, Fri: Qin Dynasty and Ancient Intellectual Thinking
Reading: Borthwick, 1-13 (1-21)

Week 2: THE RISE AND DECLINE OF CHINA IN PRE-MODERN ASIA

**Jan 20, Mon:** NO CLASS

Jan 22, Wed: Han and Tang Dynasty
Reading: Borthwick, 13-38 (21-55)

Jan 24, Fri: China and the Impact of the West
Reading: Borthwick, 80-108 (90-117)

Week 3: THE RISE OF MODERN JAPAN

Jan 27, Mon: China’s Reaction to the Western Impact
Reading: Borthwick, 132-135 (142-145)

Jan 29, Wed: Japan and the Impact of the West
Reading: Borthwick, 109-130 (119-140)

Jan 31, Fri: The Rise of Japan in Asia
Reading: Borthwick, 130-150 (140-160)

Week 4: NATIONALISM, COMMUNISM, AND FASCISM

Feb 3, Mon: Nationalism and Communism in Asia
Reading: Borthwick, 151-175, 183-190 (161-184, 190-201)

Feb 5, Wed: Japanese Militarization
Reading: Borthwick, 191-201 (201-211)

Feb 7, Fri: The Pacific War & US Occupation
Reading: Borthwick, 203-219 (213-230)
Week 5: THE COLD WAR IN ASIA PACIFIC

Feb 10, Mon: “The Loss of China”
Reading: Borthwick, 365-376

Feb 12, Wed: The Korean War
Reading: Borthwick 376-387, 401-405

Feb 14, Fri: The Vietnam War
Reading: Borthwick 387-401 (388-402)

Week 6: ECONOMIC MIRACLES IN THE POST-WWII PACIFIC ASIA

Feb 17, Mon: NO CLASS

Feb 19, Wed: SUBSTITUTE MONDAY CLASS
   Japan’s Resurgence in Post-WWII era
   Reading: Borthwick, 241-270

Feb 21, Fri: Political Development in Japan
Reading: Morley, 275-312

Week 7: DEMOCRATIZATION IN ASIA

Feb 24, Mon: Variety of Asian Experiences
Reading: Morley, 3-34

Handout: Study Guide for the Mid-term Exam on March 5. The remaining classes are included in the test.

Feb 26, Wed: South Korea
Reading: Morley, 197-223

Feb 28, Fri: Taiwan
Reading: Morley, 224-251

Week 8: DEMOCRATIZATION, CONTINUE

March 3, Mon: Singapore
Reading: Morley, 255-274

March 5, Wed: Midterm Exam
Mar 7, Fri: Philippines  
Reading: Morley, 142-160

**SPRING RECESS**

Week 9: CHINA OPENS ITS DOOR

Mar 17, Mon: Pre-reform China  
Reading: Borthwick, 409-419 (403-413); Morley, 83-91

Mar 19, Wed: China’s Economic Reform  
Reading: Borthwick, 422-471 (323-362)

Mar 21, Fri: Tiananmen Crisis and the Aftermath  
Reading: Borthwick, 420-422 (449-453); Morley, 91-119

Week 10: ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mar 24, Mon: China’s Democratic Future?  
Reading: Morley, 313-354

*Mar 26, Wed: Discussion  
*Are there a pattern of economic and political development in Pacific Asia?

March 28, Fri: Asian Financial Crisis  
Reading: Reading: Kim, 1-27; Kim, 28-51

Week 11: JAPAN AND CHINA DURING THE AFC

Mar 31, Mon: AFC, Japan  
Reading: Kim, 55-74

Apr 2, Wed: AFC, China  
Reading, Kim, 105-128

Apr 4, Fri: AFC, South Korea  
Reading: Kim, 81-100

Week 12: AFC’S IMPACTS

Apr 7, Mon: AFC, Taiwan  
Reading: Kim, 151-177

Apr 9, Wed: AFC, Hong Kong
Reading: Kim, 133-149

Apr 11, Fri: AFC, Malaysia
Reading: Kim, 233-253

Week 13: REGIONALISM IN EAST ASIA

April 14, Mon: APT
Reading: Article

Apr 16, Wed: CMI
Reading: Article

Apr 18, Fri: Discussion, Regional Security in East Asia: Are they manageable?

Week 14: Regional Security

Apr 21, Mon: No Class

April 23, Wed: Regional Security
Reading: Kim, 255-272

Apr 24, Thur: Substitute Monday
Cross-Straits Relations

Apr 25, Fri: North Korea

Week 15:

April 28, Mon: Paper Due
Discussion: Big Themes in the region
   (1) History Issues
   (2) Economic-political development
   (3) Security Hotspots
Handout: Study Guide for the final exam

April 30: Q&A on final exam, and course evaluation

FINAL EXAM: TBA