

Sociology 179: Globalizing East Asia (Fall 2020)

Tuesdays, 2-5 pm

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Office Hours: by appointment

The course will survey the recent political-economic and cultural transformations in Northeast Asia, chiefly Japan, South Korea, and China (and to lesser extent North Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong). The focus will be on transcending ethnocentric and nationalistic accounts in order to arrive at a more satisfactory transnational and comparative understanding of the region.

If you have no background knowledge in modern eastern Asia, then please read Warren Cohen, East Asia at the Center, New York: Columbia University Press, 2001 (available at www.ou.edu/USChina/texts/Cohen2000EastAsiaCenter.pdf) or a similar overview.

Requirements

Class participation (20%)

Examination (40%)

Final project and presentation (40%)

Readings

All the reading assignments will be available on the Internet, except for K-pop (University of California Press, 2015), and The Dream of East Asia (Association for Asian Studies, 2018).

Schedule

1 September: Introduction

8 September: The Rise of China

John Lie, The Dream of East Asia, chap.1.

15 September: Nationalism

Benedict O'G Anderson, Imagined Communities, rev. ed., 1991, chaps.1-2.

http://www.personal.psu.edu/sam50/readings521/BA_Imagined-Communities.pdf

http://art.yale.edu/file_columns/0000/8647/anderson.pdf

22 September: Geopolitics and Conflicts

Lie, The Dream of East Asia, chaps.2-3.

29 September: The Political Economy of Growth

Robert Wade, “Introduction to the 2003 Edition,” Governing the Market, rev. ed., Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003 [1990].

<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/i4724.pdf>

John Lie, Han Unbound, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998, chap. 3.

<https://berkeley.academia.edu/JohnLie>

6 October: Education

Randall Collins, “Credential Inflation and the Future of Universities,” Italian Journal of Sociology of Education 2, 2011.

http://www.ijse.eu/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2011_2_12.pdf

Ronald Dore, “The Diploma Disease Revisited,” Sussex: Institute of Development Studies, 1980.

<https://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/dore11.2final.pdf>

13 October: The Family and Gender Relations

Ozu Yasujiro, dir., *Tokyo Story*

Kurosawa Kiyoshi, dir., *Tokyo Sonata*

20 October: Poverty and Inequality

Kore-eda Hirokazu, dir., *The Shoplifters*

Bong Joon-ho, dir., *Parasite*

27 October: Popular Culture

John Lie, K-pop, University of California Press, 2015, Prelude, Interlude, chap.2.

3 November: Contemporary East Asia

Lie, The Dream, chap.4.

10 November: Conclusion

17 November: **EXAMINATION**

24 November: Thanksgiving Holiday

1 December: **PROJECT PRESENTATION**

4 December: **PROJECT DUE**