

Georgia Institute of Technology

**International Affairs 2230/8803
GOVT and POLITICS OF ASIA**

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COURSE OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION

This course will be devoted to a *problem-based learning* exercise. You will be assigned to work in a multidisciplinary, multicultural group tasked with researching and explaining the political system of a chosen country.

In order to better understand the cultural setting that each country's political system arose from, we will also examine linguistic, cultural, and ethnographic factors in their development.

You will be expected to choose a country in East Asia in order to do a full study of its political and governmental system. The goal of this course is to use information and learning from other courses in the study abroad to broaden your understanding of the different country systems. You are not only going to find answers but also to learn processes and methods to help you become a better academic writer and presenter.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will describe the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.
- Students will identify how social, political, technological, economic, and environmental factors that influence national sustainability develop, persist, and change.
- Students will analyze the social, political, and economic forces that interact with scientific and technological factors to shape sustainable development-related policymaking at the national, regional, and supranational levels.
- Students will be able to express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and class discussions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course grades will be determined by student performance as part of a group. Course grades will be weighted as follows:

- 15-20-page group research paper on the country's political and governmental system: 50%
- oral presentation (group exercise): 50% (includes submission of PPT slides)

Honor Code: Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Special Accommodations: If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

There are no required textbooks for this course.

This course will meet once a week for four hours. The day might change during weeks due to travel or site visits for this or other courses.

TOPICS

Week #1: Introduction to Korea

- introduction to Korean culture, language, cuisine, history

Week #2: Group work

- class will be split into groups for the five different countries to be examined
- discussion of resources and expectations

Week #3: Group work

Week #4: Group work

Week #5: Japan (Week One)

- visits to Hiroshima, Osaka, Nara, and Kyoto
- discussion of Japanese language, culture and identity and its influence on the development of the Japanese political system as seen today

Week #6: Japan (Week Two)

- visits to Sendai, Fukushima, Tokyo
- how have major natural events shaped Japanese resiliency and policy

Week #7: Introduction to Taiwan

- introduction to Korean culture, language, cuisine, history

Week #8: Final week of group work

- recommended check of paper rough drafts

Week #9: Presentations and feedback

Week #10: Finals comparisons, comparative politics

- Final papers due