

Case Studies in East Asian Politics and International Relations 2015/2016

Code: 101530
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500244 East Asian Studies	OT	4	0

Contact

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Teachers

Montserrat Crespí Perales

Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Prerequisites

In order to follow the course pace, it is not necessary to have studied Political Science or International Relations, but it is necessary to have studied Introduction to Political Science and International Relations, East Asian Politics and East Asian International Relations courses, and to have learnt Political Science and International Relations specific tools. For this purpose, students should review theoretical and methodological contents learnt during 1st, 2nd and 3rd years.

Likewise, since most of the readings will be written in English, it is absolutely necessary to have a minimum level of reading comprehension in English in order to understand compulsory and complementary readings. If the student lacks this ability, he will not be able to really follow the course pace.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Once previous contents from courses regarding Political Science and International Relations has been assimilated, this course's objective is go deeper in those topics and debates which have a significant impact in East Asian region's political reality.

By means of Political Science and International Relations discipline's own approach-but also by considering tendencies in mainstream academy when analysing Asian reality-in this course we will learn to analyse this reality both using prevailing theory's tools (mainly, European and North American) and non-Western author's contributions (Chinese, Japanese and Korean).

In order to do so, the course is divided into two different parts.

In the first part, we will analyse some of the most important aspects of the reality of the zone's different political systems, emphasizing Chinese, Japanese, Taiwanese or Korean cases.

In the second part, the student will learn some of key aspects determining, from the end of the Cold War, the new Asian regional order. In order to do so, we will study, in a first part, different non-Western, theoretical debates from International Relations discipline challenging the hitherto dominance of the Western academy.

The students will debate some of the specific aspects regarding international relations of the zone in the regional order, which has been shaped after 9/11 events. Specially, some of the problems-both cooperative and conflictive-affecting the zone will be considered: China's rise, Japanese foreign policy's standardisation or conflicts in Korean Peninsula.

Skills

- Comparing and critically assessing the different social environments in the field of East Asia.
- Designing and managing projects.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
- Following the characteristic code of ethics of the professional practice.
- Knowing and using the information and communication technology resources (ICT) in order to collect, produce, analyse and present information related to the East Asian Studies.
- Knowing the history, values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia in order to understand and critically assess social issues, phenomena, and processes related with that region.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Solving problems of intercultural communication.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
- Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.
- Working in teams in an international, multilingual and multicultural context.

Learning outcomes

1. Assessing the obtained results in the search information process in order to update the knowledge about political sciences, economy and sociology.
2. Comparing and critically assessing the different social environments in the field of East Asia.
3. Designing and managing projects.
4. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
5. Developing self-learning strategies.
6. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
7. Following the characteristic code of ethics of the professional practice.
8. Knowing the history, values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia in order to understand and critically assess social issues, phenomena, and processes related with that region.
9. Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
10. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
11. Solving problems of intercultural communication.
12. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
13. Using different tools for specific purposes in the fields of political sciences, economy and sociology.
14. Using the specific terminology of political sciences, economy and sociology.
15. Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.
16. Working in teams in an international, multilingual and multicultural context.

Content

The course is divided into two different parts corresponding to Political Science and International Relations areas. During the first days of the course, the teacher in charge of each part will tell the students some of the issues which will be considered in class.

Some of the proposed topics are divided into topics regarding political system, power, modernization, the role of the prevailing trend and of non-Western theories in International Relations course, 9/11 events and their effect in the new regional order's shaping, or China and Japan's regional rise.

Methodology

The assessment is divided into theoretical and practical classes in which the students must actively participate. Campus Virtual will be the common space to exchange information regarding the course (information, supplementary material and resources, readings, etc.)

Organization of the course: During the course's development, objectives, contents and activities will be interrelated. Students should organize their time to independently read and study in order to follow the assessment system in a profitable and adequate way.

Learning is based on solving proposed educational activities and practical cases proposed by the teacher. The teacher will guide and help the students in all the problems raised during their learning process, continuously paying attention to them and checking-by means of different educational activities-that the student accomplishes the course's objectives and develops the course's general, transversal and specific competencies.

Continuous evaluation: The course's competences are acquired basing on the course's general plan in theoretical and practical classes, as well as in the development of all the educational activities.

The course's specific methodology is based on the following elements: reading texts and other teaching resources; strengthening cooperative work in class-including the analysis of different employed teaching resources (texts, images, etc.)-by means of guided debates; case studies; strengthening the reflection of the student's own independent learning process, and employing Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T.).

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Class	45	1.8	1, 2, 5, 4, 13, 14
Debates	9	0.36	2, 8
Review on Readings	18	0.72	7, 1, 2, 8, 5, 4, 13, 14, 6
Type: Autonomous			
Elaboration of a Working paper	18	0.72	7, 1, 2, 8, 5, 4, 3, 9, 13, 14, 6
Readings	55	2.2	8, 5, 13, 14
Review	5	0.2	1, 2, 4

Evaluation

Activity 1: During the course, the student will write a personal reading guide in which he will add his own thoughts about readings being read and commented during the course. The reading guide's objective is to be used as a critical map of the reading of texts, as well as of their main ideas (hypothesis proposed by the authors, arguments they used and conclusions they arrived to. it represents 25% of the final grade.

Activity 2: The student will write a brief academic work developing his familiarization with the academic research within a university level. In order to prepare and write the work, the student must do the following:

Choose a specific topic and object of study to be analyzed and exposed in writing.

Search and delimit bibliographical sources and different resources forming part of the work's theoretical framework.

Follow a coherent methodological outline taking into account the following: text analysis-identifying the document's extra-textual factors: author, objective, gender, sociocultural context, date, received influences, etc.; identifying how the text is organized-structure, parts, concepts or key ideas-. Synthesis of the text's ideas-identifying and formulating the texts' main ideas-.

Interpreting the texts: commenting and interpreting the text, valuing expressed ideas, the author's approach/most important contributions to the context it belongs to; balancing the text, basing on the interpretation basis and justifying his opinion with reasoning being coherent and bringing together his own critical argumentation. It represents 37,5% of the final grade.

Activity 3: The student will have to pass a written exam at the end of the semester consisting of a text comment about some of the aspects learnt in the course's syllabus. It represents 37,5% of the final grade.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Exam	37,5	0	0	1, 2, 8, 5, 4, 3, 9, 11, 10, 12, 16, 15, 13, 14, 6
Reading Guide	25%	0	0	7, 1, 2, 8, 5, 4, 3, 9, 11, 10, 12, 16, 15, 13, 14, 6
Working paper	37,5%	0	0	7, 1, 2, 8, 5, 4, 3, 9, 11, 10, 12, 16, 15, 13, 14, 6

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