

Hofstra University
Department of Global Studies & Geography



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GEOG 113C – Geography of East and Southeast Asia

Objectives

This course covers a geographical overview and analysis of several modern states in East and Southeast Asia, commonly known as Pacific Asia. Pacific Asian economies have experienced various phases of economic development since the end of World War II. Some like Japan are among the most advanced economies in the world, while others have been left behind. This region has strongly been shaped by globalization and the emergence of the Chinese economic giant is likely to transform the region well into the 21st century.

Topics will include geographical and socioeconomic features of: Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and other countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Problems and prospects of Asian development in the region as well as geographical issues related to urbanization, transport systems, agriculture and resource development are covered.

The main objectives of the course are:

- Students will get an introduction about the main regions of East and Southeast Asia in terms of their uniqueness. They will thus gain a perspective about social and cultural diversity of the region.
- Students will learn the relationships between the global, the regional and the local, particularly how places are inserted in regional and global processes.
- Students will be exposed to historical, economic, cultural, social and physical characteristics of East and Southeast Asia, notably how they came to be, their main role and function and how they are changing.
- Students will see how human activities and the regional environment interact within the region, particularly how societies reflect, to an extent, their regional environment.

It is expected that at the end of the course, the student will have a good understanding of contemporary geographical issues of Pacific Asia.

Requirements

Geography 113C is part of Hofstra's cross-cultural distribution requirements. Students entering this class should thus be aware that they are expected to do all the readings and be able to write well-structured class projects.

Responsibilities

Respective responsibilities are as follows:

- The Professor's responsibilities. Provide the most up to date and accurate information concerning the class topics. Create a challenging learning environment where the students are exposed to new concepts and ideas. Be available (virtually and physically) to answer questions and discuss issues. Provide a fair and transparent evaluation of the students' work.
- The Student's responsibilities. Class attendance is the basic student's responsibility. Participation in class discussions constitutes an important dimension of the learning process in a subject where issues, rather than the mere learning of factual material, are the focus. Students are encouraged (and expected) to verbalize their ideas and views on the issues to be discussed. Students are also responsible for reading the required material before going to class and handing the assignments at the expected deadline.

Evaluations

Several means will be utilized for evaluating students' performance in the course. Three examinations appear on the schedule of class activities. The examinations will emphasize written work and the extent the students understand the core concepts introduced. Class participation or its absence will also be assessed and factored in to the semester grade. In addition, each student will be responsible for developing two class projects.

You can accumulate in this class up to 100 points. Here is the breakdown of the point value of each item you will be evaluated on:

- Examination 1. 20 points.
- Examination 2. 20 points.
- Examination 3. 20 points.
- 2 media reviews. 40 points (20 points each).
- Class attendance and participation. 5 points (bonus).

Grades

To successfully complete this class, you need to accumulate 60 points:

(A) 92 points and above.	(C) Between 74 and 77 points.
(A-) Between 89 and 92 points.	(C-) Between 70 and 74 points.
(B+) Between 86 and 89 points.	(D+) Between 65 and 70 points.
(B) Between 83 and 86 points.	(D) Between 60 and 65 points.
(B-) Between 80 and 83 points.	(F) Below 60 points.
(C+) Between 77 and 80 points.	

Grades are not negotiable and the only way a grade will be revised is if an error was made in the evaluation process. An A is considered a reward for exceptional work, and as such will not be awarded

lightly. Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures. In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is imperative that students complete the required readings before class. This amounts to about 80 pages per week, including course notes.

Penalties

Examination dates will not be changed and make-up exams will not be given except under the most compelling circumstances. A student who missed an exam is required to submit appropriate documentation before any special arrangement may be made. Without proper documentation, a student will receive a zero point for a “no-show” exam. No incomplete will be granted for this course.

Late assignments will be penalized as follows: 10% of the total points for the assignment will be deducted for each day the paper is handed in late (beginning immediately after 12 PM on due day). No assignment will be accepted 5 days after the due date. Failure to turn in assignments will adversely affect grades.

Academic Honesty

Integrity and honesty issues are taken very seriously in this class. Anyone caught cheating during an examination will be reported as an infraction to academic honesty to the provost in line with recognized university procedures. Plagiarism (see Hofstra Bulletin) in whatever form is considered a serious offence for disciplinary action. All handed material will be cross-verified on the Internet. Plagiarism will be assessed and penalties applied according to the following criteria:

- **Fraud.** Any assignment that has been written by somebody else (purchased or freely given) or recycled from another class is fraudulent. Fraud may also imply that almost all, if not the entire, contents of the assignment have been plagiarized and only a small part, such as the introduction and the conclusion, has been modified. A fraudulent assignment automatically implies a failing grade for the **WHOLE CLASS** and is reported to the Provost as a major infraction to academic honesty. No rewriting opportunities will be offered.
- **Substantial plagiarism.** A significant part of the assignment has been plagiarized with elements such as borrowed text without citations, rephrasing, inserted quotations and a failure to correctly acknowledge sources. An assignment with substantial plagiarism automatically receives a grade of zero and is reported to the Provost as a minor infraction to academic honesty. Rewriting may be permitted, at the professor’s discretion, if the student provides strong attenuating circumstances (such as admitting wrongdoing). A rewritten assignment cannot receive more than 75% of its full credit.
- **Incidental plagiarism.** A small part of the assignment has been plagiarized with omissions and some rephrasing for a few paragraphs. A penalty up to 50% can be applied and the student can rewrite the assignment at his/her request. A rewritten assignment will be given full credit.

If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, you should seek guidance from me before you hand in your assignment. If for any reason you are having problems following lectures, cannot cope with the readings, or have any other problems with the course, please bring this matter to my attention before then end of the semester. I will be more than willing to help you out if you come to me with any course related problems.

Outline

Topic 1 – The Pacific Asian Space

Pacific Asia as a Region. The global setting of Pacific Asia. East Asia: an overview. Southeast Asia: an overview.

Readings: Collinwood, pp. 13-23. Weightman, Chapter 2.

Topic 2 – Historical Geography of Pacific Asia

Pre-colonial Period. The Age of Merchants. European Colonial Empires. The Collapse of Colonial Empires.

Readings: Weightman, Chapters 1, 9 and 13.

Topic 3 – Pacific Asian Economy and Society

The Social Landscape. Pacific Asian Development.

Readings: Weightman, Chapters 3 and 4.

First Examination**Topic 4 – Japan and its Corporate Hegemony**

Geography and the Insularity of Japan. Japanese Development. The Corporate and Industrial Hegemony.

Readings: Collinwood, pp. 29-42. Weightman, Chapter 11.

Topic 5 – China, the Awakening Giant

The Chinese World. The Path to Chinese Development. Selected Problems and Issues.

Readings: Ogden, pp. 14-55. Weightman, Chapter 10.

Second Examination**Topic 6 – East Asian Tigers: Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong**

Hong Kong: China's middlemen. The other China: Taiwan. South Korea: The Shrimp between the whales.

Readings: Ogden, pp. 56-79, 80-103, 115-124. Collingwood, pp. 111-124. Weightman, Chapters 12.

Topic 7 – Southeast Asia

Maritime Southeast Asia. Continental Southeast Asia.

Readings: Collinwood, pp. 71-75, 83-86, 106-110, 125-135. Weightman, Chapters 14 and 15.

Topic 8 – The Excluded: North Korea, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia

Geopolitical Exclusion: North Korea and Burma. Socioeconomic Exclusion: Cambodia and Laos.

Readings: Collinwood, pp. 51-54, 76-79, 87-91, 97-101. Weightman, Chapters 14 and 15.

Final Examination**Bibliography****Required Readings**

Collinwood, D.W. (2007) *Japan and the Pacific Rim*, 9th Edition, Guilford, Conn: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill. 224 pages.

Ogden, S. (2007) *China*, 12th Edition, Guilford, Conn. Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 214 pages.

Weightman, B. A. (2006) *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia*, Second Edition, New York: Wiley. 464 pages.