Course Description: This course explores the major issues in the international relations of Korea from a theoretical and historical perspective in the context of its relations with East Asian neighbors as well as the broader global security environment. We will examine various analytical perspectives on the sources of stability and conflict in East Asia and evaluate them by using empirical evidence from Korea and the East Asian region since the “clash of civilizations” in the nineteenth century up to the current regional order. Topics for discussion include U.S. strategy in East Asia, the impact of the rise of China on regional security, nuclear proliferation, territorial disputes, nationalism, economic interdependence and regionalism.

Course requirements:
The requirements for this course are as follows:

- Mid-term exam (30%)
- Final exam (40%)
- Policy analysis paper (20%)
- Class attendance and participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend all sessions, to have carefully read and considered the required readings, and to actively participate in class discussions. Students are also strongly encouraged to raise questions or concerns about difficult concepts in lectures/readings both during sections and office hours.

Required textbooks:


Course Schedule

Part I. Historical and Theoretical Overview

Week 1: Introduction  Lecture dates: Jan 6, 8

Week 2: The Cold War in East Asia  Lecture dates: Jan 13, 15

Week 3: U.S. Strategy in Post-Cold War Asia  Lecture dates: Jan 20, 22

Week 4: The Rise of China and the Future of Regional Order  Lecture dates: Jan 27, 29

*** Mid-term exam (in-class): February 3, 2009 ***
Part II. Sources of Conflict and Cooperation in Contemporary East Asia

Week 5: Changing Alliance Relations  
Lecture date: Feb 5

Week 6: North Korea and the Nuclear Crisis  
Lecture dates: Feb 10, 12

[There will be no lecture on February 17, 2009.]
*** Policy analysis paper due: February 19, 2009 ***

Week 7: Territorial Disputes  
Lecture date: Feb 19

Week 8: Nationalism and Historical Legacies  
Lecture dates: Feb 24, 26

Week 9: Economic Interdependence  
Lecture dates: Mar 3, 5

**Week 10: Regionalism and Multilateralism**

- Lecture dates: Mar 10, 12


*** Final Exam: Wednesday, March 18, 2009 8:30-11:30am ***