COURSE DETAIL

UNDERSTANDING EAST ASIA
Country Korea, South
Host Institution Yonsei University
Program(s) Yonsei University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Political Science
UCEAP Course Number 113
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title UNDERSTANDING EAST ASIA
UCEAP Transcript Title UNDERSTAND E ASIA
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

This course covers major issues and historical backgrounds of contemporary East Asian politics, with a particular focus on Northeast Asia.

Students explore regional politics and the unique development paths and key issues shaping East Asia today. Upon completion of the course, students may be better prepared for careers in East Asia-related fields, including government, diplomacy, defense, the private sector, and academia.

The course covers a range of topics, including the early 20th-century historical background, postwar decolonization, political transformation and democratization in East Asia, China’s assertive foreign policy and its challenges to the current regional order, the reemergence of nationalism and historical disputes, the US–China rivalry and its regional impact, and territorial disputes in East Asia.

This course is structured in three parts. First, it introduces the key concepts, structures, and historical backgrounds that underpin contemporary East Asian dynamics. Second, it examines various issues and case studies related to the politics, defense, and diplomacy of South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and China, as well as their bilateral and multilateral relations. Third, it explores the future of East Asia in terms of regional power dynamics. Students are expected to develop a foundational yet comprehensive understanding of contemporary East Asian power dynamics, the policies of major countries (South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and China), and their historical contexts.

Additionally, the course addresses the historical roots of current territorial and diplomatic disputes among major East Asian powers, political transformations in East Asian democracies, and China’s assertive challenge to the existing regional order. Through this course, students develop the ability to form their own perspectives on East Asian regional dynamics and political systems, as well as their implications for both East Asia and global politics.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ISM3537

Host Institution Course Title
UNDERSTANDING EAST ASIA

Host Institution Course Details
https://underwood1.yonsei.ac.kr/

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed
2025-2026

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