Course description:
This course explores the major theoretical and empirical issues in the international relations of East Asia. We will examine various analytical perspectives on the sources of stability and conflict in East Asia and evaluate them by using empirical evidence from 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.

Prerequisite:
GOVT 102 Introduction to International Politics (or permission of the instructor)

Course requirements:
The grading criteria for this course are as follows:
- Mid-term exam (25%)
- Policy analysis paper (25%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Discussion handout assignment (10%)
- Class attendance and participation (10%)

The three major assignments are the two exams (one midterm and one final) and the policy analysis paper (due on November 9). Each student must also act as a discussant for weekly discussion sessions at least once during the semester. The job of the discussant is to prepare and circulate in advance a one page handout which briefly summarizes the assigned group of readings and raises two or three questions that engage and/or critique the authors’ arguments.

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.
Students who are unable to attend class must notify the instructor in advance or bring appropriate written documentation (e.g. Dean’s excuse). More than two unexplained absences may result in a lower final grade.

Late papers will be penalized one-third of a grade (e.g. B+ becomes a B) for each day past the due date. In addition, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that s/he is available to take the final exam on the date and time assigned for the course. Students with special needs due to disability should make requests for accommodation in the first week of classes so that arrangements can be made.

Students are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work. Please consult the Student Handbook for College policies on academic honesty (http://www.lafayette.edu/student_life/StudentHandbook_0910_FINAL.pdf).

Course readings:
The following books are required for purchase and will be made available at the campus bookstore. They will also be placed on reserve at the library. Other course readings and additional material will be made available through Moodle.


Course objectives:
Through the completion of this course, students are expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- identify key concepts and theories in the study of East Asian international relations;
- critically assess opposing theoretical arguments by evaluating the validity of empirical evidence;
- participate in critical debate and/or discussion based on the formulation of an argument with supporting evidence; and
- apply theoretical knowledge to a variety of issue areas and policy scenarios.
Course Schedule

Part I. Historical and Theoretical Overview

Week 1: Introduction (August 31 & September 2)

Recommended:

Week 2: Historical Legacies in the East Asian Regional Order (September 7 & 9)

Week 3: The Cold War in East Asia – Structural and Regional Factors (September 14 & 16)

Week 4: The Cold War in East Asia – Domestic Politics (September 21 & 23)

Week 5: U.S. Strategy in Post-Cold War Asia (September 28 & 30)
Week 6: Changing Alliance Relations after 9/11 (October 5)

Mid-term exam (in-class): October 7, 2010

* Fall Break: No class on October 12

Part II. Sources of Conflict and Cooperation in Contemporary East Asia

Week 7: Changing Alliance Relations: Anti-American Sentiments in East Asia (October 14)

Week 8: Great Power Conflict in Asia – Power Transition and Sino-U.S. Relations (October 19 & 21)

Week 9: The Rise of China and the Future of Regional Order (October 26 & 28)

Week 10: North Korea and Nuclear Proliferation in East Asia (November 2 & 4)

Policy analysis paper due: Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Week 11: Territorial Disputes (November 9 & 11)
Week 12: Historical Memory and Nationalism (November 16 & 18)

Week 13: Economic Interdependence (November 23)

* Thanksgiving holiday: No class on November 25

Week 14: Regionalism and Multilateralism (November 30 & December 2)

Week 15: Transnational Issues (December 7 & 9)

**Final Exam: TBA**