An examination of the international relations of the United States and East Asia since the end of World War II, principally U.S. interactions with China, Japan, Korea, and secondarily, with Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Focus on fundamental concepts and realities of international politics that have governed the interaction between the U.S. and East Asian nations, as well the major geopolitical issues of the present day. A study of the continuing patterns of interaction among the U.S. and East Asian states—the dynamics of wars, ideologies, and economic and cultural encounters. In the long-term, what are the cultural ramifications of the rise of the United States of America in the modern era, its expansion into East Asia, and the concomitant multi-layered encounters with the different cultures of East Asia? And what does the rise of industrial East Asia over the past half century imply? What might be the role of the United States in this unprecedented phenomenon, as well as in contemporary international politics of the region? The course attempts to examine the elusive-but-omnipresent undercurrents of international relations; that is, to identify how ethnic identity and culture coincide—or conflict—with international relations.

General Requirements:

1. Final paper (10 double-spaced pages; 40% of final grade), due 11:59 PM, May 7.
2. Take-home final exam, due 11:59 PM, May 3 (30%).
3. Oral presentation, attendance, and class participation (30%). Students have the option of writing a 20 page final paper in lieu of the oral presentation.
Books recommended for the course:


DHP D271

**Spring 2021**

Jan 20 Introduction to the course
Jan 25 1945: A New Order in East Asia
Jan 27 U.S.-Soviet Rivalry and Containment
Feb 1 China’s Civil War and the U.S. “Loss” of China
Feb 3 The Korean Peninsula and the American Military Government
Feb 8 The U.S. Occupation of Japan
Feb 10 The Korean War
**Feb 15** Presidents’ Day. No classes.
**Feb 16 (Tue)** The International Implications of the Korean War
Feb 17 The Geneva Convention and the Bandung Conference
Feb 22 Film viewing: “Dear America: Letters Home from Vietnam.” One-page response paper due Feb 24
Feb 24 The Vietnam War
Mar 1 Japan: Policy of Peace and Prosperity
Mar 3  Security Challenges in the Korean Peninsula
Mar 8  The Strategic Triangle and the Sino-Soviet Split
Mar 10 Sino-U.S. Relations: An Odd Couple
Mar 15 U.S.-Japan Relations: Friction and Compromise
Mar 17 Anti-U.S. Sentiments in East Asia
Mar 22 Southeast Asia
Mar 29 The North Korean Nuclear Threat
Mar 31 The International Politics of Northeast Asia
April 5 Democracy and Human Rights in East Asia

April 7, 12, 14, 21: Student Oral Presentations

April 26 Review. Final class
DHP D271
Spring 2021

Reading Assignments

To be completed by:

Jan 20 (Introduction to the course). Optional reading.


Jan 25 (1945: A New Order in East Asia)


**Jan 27 (U.S.-Soviet Rivalry and Containment)**


**Feb 1 (China’s Civil War and the U.S. “Loss” of China)**


**Feb 3 (The Korean Peninsula and the American Military Government)**

• Bruce Cumings, *Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1997), 185-236.

**Feb 8 (The Occupation of Japan)**

Feb 10 (The Korean War)


Feb 16 TUESDAY (The International Implications of the Korean War)


Feb 17 (The Geneva Convention and the Bandung Conference)


Feb 22 (Weds, The Human Dimensions of the Vietnam War)
Feb 24 (The Vietnam War)


Mar 1 (Japan: Policy of Peace and Prosperity)


Mar 3 (Security Challenges on the Korean Peninsula)


Mar 8 (The Strategic Triangle and the Sino-Soviet Split)

Mar 10 (Sino-U.S. Relations: An Odd Couple)

- Ralph N. Clough, Cooperation or Conflict in the Taiwan Strait? (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 1999), passim.

Mar 15 (U.S.-Japan Relations: Friction and Compromise)


Mar 17 (Anti-U.S. Sentiments in East Asia)

- Sook-Jong Lee, “Growing Anti-US Sentiments Roil an Old Alliance with South Korea,” YaleGlobal Online, 8 June 2004. http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display.article?id=4040 (Links to an external site.)

http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C0CE2DA143FF933A25756C0A96F958260 (Links to an external site.)


http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/RL30946.pdf (Links to an external site.)


http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/1271921.stm (Links to an external site.)

Mar 22 (Southeast Asia)


Mar 29 (The North Korean Nuclear Threat)


http://www.twq.com/05autumn/docs/05autumn_park.pdf (Links to an external site.)

Mar 31 (The International Politics of Northeast Asia)


April 5 (Democracy and Human Rights in East Asia)


April 7, 12, 14, 21, 26 (last class): Further readings on contemporaneous affairs to be assigned.

Academic Support at the StAAR Center:

The StAAR Center (formerly the Academic Resource Center and Student Accessibility Services) offers a variety of resources to all students (both undergraduate and graduate) in the Schools of Arts and Science, Engineering, the SMFA and Fletcher; services are free to all enrolled students. Students may make an academic coaching appointment to hone fundamental academic skills and/or attend academic skills workshops. Students can visit our website (https://students.tufts.edu/staar-center) or email Mary Ellen Vigeant (mary_ellen.vigeant@tufts.edu) for additional information.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Fletcher School at Tufts University values the diversity of our students, staff, and faculty; recognizing the important contribution each student makes to our unique community. The Fletcher School is committed to providing equal access and support to all qualified students through the provision of reasonable accommodations so that each student may fully participate in the Fletcher experience. If you have a disability
that requires reasonable accommodations, please contact the StAAR Center at staarcenter@tufts.edu to make an appointment with Mary Ellen Vigeant to determine appropriate accommodations. Please be aware that accommodations cannot be enacted retroactively, making timeliness a critical aspect for their provision.