

ECON 083
East Asian Economies
Swarthmore College, Fall 2019

Professor:	Tao Wang	twang1@swarthmore.edu
Meetings:	W 1:15pm-4:00pm	Kohlberg 226
Office Hours:	M 12:30pm-2:30pm & by appt.	Kohlberg 214, x6139
Teaching Assistant:	William Teoh	wteoh1@swarthmore.edu
Clinic hours:	M 8:30pm-10:00pm	Beardsley 318

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the economy of East Asia, broadly defined, and the economic interdependencies that characterize the region. After facilitating an understanding of the factors that have made East Asia the most dynamic in the world economy, current opportunities and challenges of the region will be given particular attention. The course attempts to examine the joint experience of East Asia through the lens of economic theory, particularly models of international economics, rather than to offer a survey of the development experiences of individual economies.

Goals and Expectations

Upon completion of the course, the students are expected to:

- Be informed about recent economic development of the East Asian economy.
- Be familiar with basic economic theories used to analyze the global economy.
- Be able to use simple economic theories to analyze real-world events and policies.
- Be able to critique economic analysis on East Asia as well as in similar contexts.

Keys to Success: Listed here are a few tips for having an enjoyable and fruitful semester with this course:

- Do the readings! Complete the assigned readings and related assignments in time.
- Keep up with major economic news about East Asia, the U.S. and the world.
- Speak out. Ask questions and engage in discussions.
- Contribute to a positive classroom environment. You are welcome to bring your own expertise and perspectives, but please also respect other participants.
- Use all the resources available to you. Seek help from the professor, the teaching assistant and your peers.
- Manage your time wisely. Plan ahead for assignments.
- Be willing to build the course together. You will be active contributor throughout the course. Comments and suggestion are always welcome.

Grading:	Participation 20%	Current events presentation 5%
	Pre-class assignment 10%	Class facilitation 25%
	Final Exam 30%	Problem sets 10%

Participation. Students are expected to contribute positively to the course in a variety of ways, including but not limited to:

- regularly attending classes;
- asking and answering questions in class;
- engaging in discussion and other classroom activities;
- bringing in relevant materials, such as new articles, to class discussion;
- offering comments and suggestions to improve the course.

Current events presentation. Students are encouraged to keep up to date with current developments in the East Asian economy. You may look for the relevant sections of *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, and/or *The Economist* magazine. Each week one or two students will be responsible for a briefing on the key economic events in the region and lead a short discussion in connection to the course material.

Pre-class assignment. Weekly readings consisting of various papers and reports will be assigned. Everyone must read the required readings plus one additional piece of optional readings. After completing the readings each week, each student must submit two sets of questions. The first set will be three key research questions that you believe the papers address. The second set will be three questions that you would like ask to facilitate your understanding of the readings. These can be something that you feel particularly interesting and would like to discuss more; or certain aspects of the paper that is difficult to understand and you would like some clarification. The questions must be submitted on Moodle by **12pm Tuesday**.

Class facilitation. Each week, two students working in pairs will be designated as assistant instructors and will work closely with the professor to facilitate the week's class activities. The responsibility includes:

- read all readings of the week and prepare a presentation summarizing the key points;
- review the questions submitted by students and compile a suitable list for discussion;
- design an appropriate agenda for the class;
- present the summary and facilitate classroom discussion;
- take note of any unresolved questions in the discussion, research further and report back the next week;
- design a problem set for the week;
- review the answers submitted by students and compile a suggested answer key;
- and write a short paper reflecting on your experience as an assistant instructor.

Problem sets. Weekly problem sets will be designed by the assistant instructors in consultation with the professor. A week's problem set will be posted by Friday and due before next week's class.

Final Exam. An open-book take-home final exam will take place during the finals period.

Peer grading will be an integral component of the course. The assistant instructors will evaluate the pre-class questions and the problem sets submitted by their classmates. In turn,

their performance on facilitating the class will be evaluated by others. Please take these responsibilities seriously and try to grade throughout the semester in a consistent way.

A passing grade for the course cannot be achieved without satisfactory and timely completion of all course requirements.

Grading complaints: If you believe any of your assignments is not graded appropriately, please submit a written request to me within one week of the grade posted on Moodle.

Academic Integrity: As a faculty member, I am strongly committed to upholding the college's academic policies, including those on [academic misconduct](#).

Accommodation:

If you believe you need accommodations for a disability or a chronic medical condition, please contact Student Disability Services (Parrish 113W, 123W) via email at studentdisabilityservices@swarthmore.edu to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. As appropriate, the office will issue students with documented disabilities or medical conditions a formal Accommodations Letter. Since accommodations require early planning and are not retroactive, please contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. For details about the accommodations process, [visit the Student Disability Services website](#). You are also welcome to contact me privately to discuss your academic needs. However, all disability-related accommodations must be arranged, in advance, through Student Disability Services.

Tentative Course Outline

- W 1: Economic growth in East Asia – the East Asian miracle and the rise of China
- W 2: Trade, industrial policy and East Asia's economic growth;
- W 3: The East Asian trade-production network;
- W 4: Regional integration and free trade agreements;
- W 5: East Asia's role in global imbalances;
- W 6: The Asian financial crisis;
- W 7: Financial and monetary cooperation in East Asia;
- W 8: Environmental challenges for East Asia
- W 9: East Asia's role in global governance
- W 10: Inequality in East Asia;
- W 11: Urbanization and demographic challenges in East Asia;
- W 12: East Asia's transition to sustainable development
- W 13: catch-up and wrap-up.

This syllabus is subject to changes. For the latest version, please visit the course's Moodle webpage.