Introduction and organization of the course

This course is an introduction to the study of people and places in contemporary East Asia from a geographic perspective. The course will survey the region's environment, economy, culture, politics and history. We will discuss contemporary themes such as globalization, migration, industrialization, development, urbanization, militarization, social inequality and social change.

Organization of the course
The course is divided into two main parts. The first part will be a broad survey of contemporary themes in East Asia. We will examine both primary and secondary sources. This part of the course will be evaluated with an in-class midterm. A response paragraph for each article or chapter assigned is due on the day that the reading is due. A guideline for the response paragraphs will be posted on the course Sakai website.

In the second part of the course, we will delve into some key contemporary issues in the geographic scholarship of East Asia: 1) urbanization, class and spatial politics 2) gender, scale and citizenship. This part of the course will proceed in a seminar fashion with increased reading, in-class discussion and out of class writing assignments. For these readings you will write an analytical essay (4-5 pages) in response to questions that I will provide to you in advance of reading the books and accompanying articles.

Throughout the course, student groups will begin class with a 15 minute presentation of the reading. This presentation will highlight the key points of the reading. The presentation should conclude with discussion questions for the class. Every student will be responsible for presenting once during the semester. A guideline for the presentations will be posted on the course's Sakai website.

Grades
15% Reading response paragraphs (for each article or chapter please write one paragraph of at least 150 words)
15% Presentation
15% In-class participation
25% Midterm
30% Reading analysis papers - 4-5 pages (2 papers each worth 15%)

Reading Analysis due dates
November 21th - Geography of Urbanization
December 10th - Citizenship, Gender and Modernity

Required Materials (available on reserve at Library of Science and Medicine and at Rutgers B&N Bookstore)

**Studying Asia: Avoiding Old Traps**

**Tuesday September 10**
2. Recommended but not required:
   Sakai, Naoki. "You Asians:" On the Historical Role of the West and Asia Binary" *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, Volume 99, Number 4, Fall 2000, pp. 789-817

**Crisis and Beyond**

**Thursday September 12**

**Tuesday September 17**

**Thursday September 19**

**Tuesday September 24**
2. Recommended but not required:

**Being the World's Factory**

**Thursday September 26**
Chun, Allen. "Fuck Chineseness: On the Ambiguities of Ethnicity as Culture as Identity". *Boundary 2*. June 1, 1996

**Tuesday October 1**
*New Left Review* 60 Nov Dec 2009

**Thursday October 3**

Chen, Chih-jou Jay. "Growing Social Unrest and Emergent Protest Groups in China" in 

*Film - Last Train Home*

**Tuesday October 8**

[Selections]

**The Continuing Korean War**

**Thursday October 10**

Ahn, Christine. March 8, 2013. "Why Women Must End the Korean War"

*Film - In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*

**Tuesday October 15**

*Journal of Contemporary Asia*; 1996, Vol. 26 Issue 1, p59-80, 22p


**Thursday October 17**

Choo, Hae Yeon "Gendered Modernity and Ethnicized Citizenship: North Korean Settlers in Contemporary South Korea" *Gender and Society* Vol. 20 No. 5, October 2006

*Film - Ghosts of Jeju*

**US Military Presence in East Asia: Then and Now**

**Tuesday October 22**


**From Hiroshima to Fukishima**

**Thursday October 24**


*Film - Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women*

**Tuesday October 29**

**Tuesday November 5 - ***MIDTERM*****

**Geography of Urbanization**

**Thursday November 7**


Film - *The Fastest Changing Place on Earth*

**Tuesday November 12**

Zhang, Li. *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis* Cornell University Press; 1 edition (April 22, 2010) Chapters 3-6

**Thursday November 15**

Zhang, Li. *In Search of Paradise: Middle-Class Living in a Chinese Metropolis* Cornell University Press; 1 edition (April 22, 2010) Chapters 7, Epilogue

**Tuesday November 19**

1. Hsing, You-tien. *The Great Urban Transformation* - Chapters 4, 5 and 8

**Thursday November 21** **Reading Analysis due**

Film - *Up the Yangtze*

**Citizenship, Gender and Scale**

**Tuesday November 26**


**Thursday November 28**  **THANKSGIVING NO CLASS**

**Tuesday, December 3**

LeBlanc, Robin. *Bicycle Citizens: The Political World of the Japanese Housewife.* California: 1999, Chapters 5-6, Conclusion

**Thursday December 5**

2. Sunhyuk, “Democratization and Environmentalism: South Korea and Taiwan in Comparative Perspective”

**Tuesday December 10 - **Reading Analysis Due**