Session: Spring 2012
Instructor: Nara, Sugumaran
Office Hours: MWF: 11.50 am-12.30 pm
MW evenings: 7.20 pm-9.20 pm
TR: 3.20 pm-5.20 pm
Class Meets in: PY 209
Time: MWF 10.00am-10.50am

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Course Description

This course will be divided into 3 sections; China, representing Northeast Asia, India, representing South Asia, and Southeast Asia. The main themes cutting across this course will be interstate and intrastate conflicts and the international relations of China, India, and Southeast Asia with their immediate neighbors and the world at large. This course will look at communist China versus its gradual democratization process, Tiananmen Square incident, Chinese culture and politics and how it compares with India. For example, why the PRC experienced far greater economic success and stability than the largest South Asian state? Is democracy a blessing or a curse on India? A basic comparative analysis of state policies of India and China and how they have affected the politics of these two great nations will also be discussed. Specific topics in Southeast Asia will include intrastate conflicts, dictatorships in the 1980s, the causes and effect of economic boom and recessions, corruption, and transitions to moderate governments in the late 1990s and 2000s. The focus of intrastate conflicts will be Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and Burma, and the focus of political economy will be on the Asian Tigers.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students are required to have a grasp of the above. At the end of the course students are required to be able to identify key concepts and terms in Asian politics. Further, the student should exhibit an ability to apply these in explaining development within the field. In addition, students are also required to understand and analyze political events and trends. Hopefully, what has been learned may give you a better understanding of what happens in your everyday life, for example, when you pay taxes, when you elect representatives, the questions posed by political scientists, etc. The reading assignments should prepare you for graduate level courses in political science and government. The writing assignment/term paper is designed to improve both your scholarly writing skills as well as research skills.

Required Texts


Other Supplementary Texts

The instructor will recommend books, articles, and other reading materials in the course of the semester.

Some Important Expectations

Each member of the class will show due respect for one another. Ideas may be challenged, but individual attacks are unacceptable. **I will not tolerate rude and/or abusive language in class. A student who makes fun of the instructor directly or indirectly, for example, in the form of a slang or a jargon will be dealt with seriously.** I will also not tolerate any other unacceptable behavior in class, for example, the habit of talking to others when the instructor is talking, or while another student is engaged in a discussion with the instructor. Whistling while class is in session is another example of distracting behavior. It is impossible to list all disturbing behavior so it is naturally expected of you, as members of institutions of higher learning to understand what constitutes appropriate behavior or otherwise.

In keeping with the theme of respect, all students must adhere to the code of academic conduct in order to maintain appropriate and acceptable conduct when class is in session. In addition, students are also required to understand the seriousness of plagiarism in the academic world. Failure to do so, as evidenced by plagiarism or other honor violations will result in a failing grade or more serious consequences.

No person will be discriminated based on age, race, religion, national origin, sex, or disability. (Any student with a disability certified by the University disability office should notify the instructor immediately for proper arrangements to be made).

Course Evaluation

Exam: 40% (**Completely different exams for graduate and undergraduate students**)

Attendance: 20% (You are allowed two absences). You will lose 3 percentage points for each additional absence. The instructor reserves the right to deduct attendance points for students who are regularly late for class, leave the class while class is in session, or interruptive. If you are late, it is your responsibility to find out what announcements you missed. Although I sometimes repeat important announcements, it is solely your responsibility to find out missed information. The instructor is not responsible for repeating
announcements already made in class, nor respond to emails about missed announcements.

Participation:

20%. I refer to any form of participation which is negatively distracting, inappropriate, or rude, negative participation. Students who commit negative participation are at risk of losing some or all participation points and face other appropriate actions. Other examples of negative participations are lying to the instructor, sleeping in class, regular grinning, and regular silent giggles. If you are grinning or giggling when a joke is not cracked, you may be busy conducting negative non-verbal communication with other students, reading/sending text messages, or other undesirable conduct. In any case these behaviors are considered negative participation. Because there is a long list of negative behaviors, whenever there is a dispute on what constitutes negative participation, the instructor reserves the right to decide. You are at a risk of losing some or all of your participation points if you are unable to provide a correct answer when asked in class or if you did not prepare an assignment to be discussed in class.

Presentation/Term Paper:

20% A scholarly paper directly connected to the presentation. The objective is to ensure ability to write a quality paper and the ability to understand search techniques, correct style of scholarly writing, avoiding plagiarism, etc. Papers must adhere strictly to requirements- Page numbering, Paper length, Introduction and Conclusion, Scholarly style, stapled (not clips), and not late. Failure to follow this can result in either reduced paper grade or failure (Will be discussed in greater detail in class).
**Make-ups**

Make-up exams will only be given if you miss an examination due to official reasons, for example, a medical emergency. Official proof is required.

**Course Overview**

This serves as a general outline of the course topics and flow. You should expect some modifications. There may be a guest lecture in the middle of the semester. Another guest lecture may be somewhere around the end of the semester.

Week 1: Introducion. What is politics? Government and its functions

Week 2: Ideologies: Democracy, Communism, Socialism, and Libertarianism. Where is Asia in the continuum?

Week 3: Comparing Asian states: some facts and theories

Week 4: China

Week 5: China

Week 6: Guest Lecture/Japan

Week 7: China

Week 8: India

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: India

Week 11: India and South Asia

Week 12: Comparing India to Asia Pacific/China Easter Break

Week 13: South East Asia

Week 14: Civil conflict in Asia/SE Asia

Week 15: Presentations

Week 16: Presentations