

POLS 3368: Asian Politics

CRN: 21657

Spring 2018

Weekly Meeting: Tue & Thu 11:00 -12:20 pm

Classroom: CHSS 242 B



Professor: Dennis L.C. Weng

Email: dennis.weng@shsu.edu

Office Hours: MW 9:30-11:30, or by appointment

Office/Mailbox: CHSS, Room 482

QR Codes:

	
Syllabus	Facebook Group for POLS 3368

Catalog Description:

A comparative survey of contemporary politics and government in Asia. The course encompasses most of the countries of East Asia: China, Japan, the Koreas, and Southeast Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam and Cambodia. Time permitting, the course may also include India and South Asia. Considerable attention is given to the history and culture of each country as well as the dynamics of change in the region.

Course Description:

While Asia countries have become highly influential in global politics, most Americans just do not view these countries seriously and pay very little attention to this region. This course aims to bring students an eye-opening perspective on this region by providing a wide range of general understanding about Asian politics. Asia (comprising China, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia for purposes of this course) is a distinctive region that is deeply divided. It is beset with internal ethno-religious pressures, exacerbated by cross-border threats and challenges of military and non-military nature. The conflicts between North and South Korea; between China and Taiwan have brought these countries to the brink of war in the past several decades on more than one occasion. As many have noticed, with the rapid economic growth in this region, world interest is again focused on Asia and so should the young Americans.

This advanced undergraduate course provides a comprehensive introduction to Asian Politics. We will begin by introducing some fundamental elements of Asian politics such as historical memory, cultures, and the process of state building. Then we will shift our focus on the institutional arrangements, political development, and leadership of individual states. Beginning with rising China and then we will cover Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. The third part of this semester examines the economic development of the region and the roles of states in the process, while the fourth section compares the relationship between state and society in both democracies and authoritarian regimes. Specifically, we are going to discuss political identity and nationalism in Asia. Finally, the course concludes with the discussions of current issues and future challenges in the region.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this class, students should have a more nuanced understanding of Asian Politics. Students will be able to

- describe the historical and cultural context of East Asia politics,
- apply concepts and theories to analyze East Asian politics, and
- think critically about the differences between the politics of East Asia and the western democracies.

Required Textbook:

Louis D. Hayes. 2012. Political Systems of East Asia: China, Korea, and Taiwan. ME Sharpe. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0-7656-1786-6

Recommend Readings:

Other materials assigned to the class will be found on Blackboard. These include published articles, materials prepared by the instructor, research reports by political scientists, etc.

Contact The Professor:

I strongly encourage you to discuss anything related to the class during my office hours. My office hours are 9:30 am to 11:30 am on Mondays and Wednesdays. I am also happy to meet you in outside of my posted office hours. If you cannot meet me during my office hours, please e-mail me. If you do email me, follow these standards:

1. Include the class title (e.g. POLS 3368) and a substantive heading (e.g. question about Chinese political culture). Emails without a subject title or which do not follow this format (e.g. a title of "Hey") will not be answered.
2. Make sure you put your name in the email if you are not using your SHSU email account. I will not spend time trying to guess which student is partyanimal99@gmail.com nor am I likely to respond if no signature is included. I generally respond within 24-48

hours, if you email me regarding with an assignment, test, etc. due the next day, I strongly recommend that you plan ahead accordingly.

Requirements (Grading):

This is an upper-level course and students are expected to attend all classes and to actively participate. Students are expected to complete all the assigned readings on time and contribute to class discussions.

- Attendance/Participation/Social Media Discussion - 10%
- Random Online Written Exercises - 10%
- Two Mid-Term exams - 20%*2
- In-Class Research Essay Workshops - 5%
- Short Research Proposal (1 page) - 5%
- Final Research Essay (8 - 10 pages) - 30%

Attendance/Class Participation

You are required to attend all lectures and read the materials according to the schedule (see below). All absences require a written explanation in order to be considered to be an excused absence. Attendance is recorded and each unexcused absence will cost you a small fraction of your final grade. You may miss up to Three class sessions without penalty to your grade. You are responsible for all material discussed in class and all assigned readings missed.

Note:

10% of Total Attendance Grade, with deductions for more than three absences

- 2% for 4-5 absences
- 4% for 6-7 absences
- 6% for 8-9 absences
- 8% for 10-11 absences
- 10% for 12 or more absences

Social Media Account Creation:

In this course, students will be required to open accounts on Facebook (if you do not have one already). Students may use their real name or develop an anonymous online persona on this account. Some assignments require posting to this account.

During the semester, we will discuss news/events related to our course in and out of class. For the out of class discussion, I will share some news links via our course social media site, a Facebook Closed Group. You are required to be familiar with our course Facebook Group (SHSU POLS 3368 Asian Politics: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/143164026474020/>). That means you will need a Facebook account, submit your request to join this closed group, spend some time on the site, explore the mechanisms of interaction and observe the social dynamics on the site.

The closed Facebook Group site is an integral part of the class, and some of the content and discussion will be reflected in midterm and final exams.

Random Online Written Exercises (10 points)

Throughout the course, the instructor will give seven online written exercises. The random written exercises will be posted on our course Facebook Group. Students will have 72 hours to post their responses/answers/comments on our course Facebook Group. Written exercises ask students to express your opinion about a question relevant to a specific class. The exercises are designed to provide a quick evaluation of how well students understand lectures and/or keep up with readings. A thoughtful response or a correct answer will earn the student full credit (2 points), a messy, incomplete response will earn half credit (1 point), and no response will earn no credit. All answers and responses must be written entirely in the students' own words. You may receive 1 bonus point, if you post a thoughtful reply to others' comments on your response/answer. Students will earn a maximum of 10 points this way, for 10% of their total grade. Note that the dates for these exercises and quizzes will NOT be announced in advance. The take-home/online written exercises will only be announced at the end of the class on the randomly selected meeting dates, and it is your responsibility to make sure you receive the notice. While there is a strict 72 hours submission window and NO "make-ups" are available for this portion of the grade, the instructor will offer at least seven opportunities to earn these 10 points. Students who have already earned 10 points will receive extra credits on the final exam for each additional assignment (range from 1 to maximum 4).

Note: Your first exercise is a mandatory assignment that requires you to get familiar with our Course Facebook Group and tests your knowledge of the contents of the syllabus. This syllabus is a contract between each of you and me. Completing the first written exercise indicates that you have read and understood the requirements of this course. Please do not work on the first exercise until you fully understand the syllabus. Simply put, when you complete your first exercise, you know what to expect and agree that you will be held to the requirements of this course.

In-Class Research Essay Workshops (5 points)

To help students succeed in essays, the instructor will hold three writing workshops throughout the semester. The first one, scheduled on Thursday, **March 1st** will ask students to provide two to four research questions and potential answers (**2 points**). On **March 20th**, there will be a second workshop where students narrow down to one topic/question and formulate their arguments (**3 points**). After that, students are expected to start working on their essays until the third workshop on **April 3rd**, when a short proposal is due. Find more instructions on Blackboard.

Research Proposal (5 points)

To better prepare for the essay, you are required to submit a one-page short proposal on

April 3rd for peer review. The proposal should include a clear question, an argument followed with a brief plan of development (bullet points are fine), and a bibliography.

Midterm Exams

You will have two exams in this semester. Both exams will cover lectures, readings, and current events. The First exam covers the lectures and readings until Tuesday, March 6th, and the exam will be on **March 8th**. The second exam covers the rest of materials since the first exam and it will be held on **May 3rd**. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a documented medical emergency. Each of the two exams counts 20% in your grade. The exam questions (multiple choice, definitions, and essay) will be drawn from the materials presented in the lectures, discussions, videos, and readings. Lectures and readings overlap. Nonetheless, the lectures will often present at least some material from a different perspective than what you find in the required texts. You are responsible to know all the assigned readings AND the lecture material AND the topics discussed in class. A study guide will be provided on Sunday before each exam and there will be a review session on Tuesdays before each exam as well.

***Note:** Makeups will not ordinarily be scheduled for any quiz or examination. If you must miss an exam due to illness, please notify me in advance and be prepared to provide corroborating medical documentation.

Research Essay

There will be one final research essay, 8-10 double-spaced pages long, on any Asian politics related topic. Students can analyze economic or political conditions in one Asian country of their pick and use a concept, theme, or theory presented in the course to discuss the topic. For example, you might analyze state capacity in South Korea, the backsliding of democracy in Asia, or China's transition to a market-driven economy. The essay will build on the short proposal and the feedback you receive throughout the semester. All students are strongly encouraged to meet with me about the topic. A complete research essay submission includes two steps: 1) submit a hard copy of your essay in class on Tuesday, **May 1st**; 2) upload an electronic copy via email for plagiarism checking before midnight on **May 1st**.

Please consider double-sided printing to conserve paper, and include a title page and a firm staple (no paper clips) in the upper left corner. No other covers or bindings are encouraged. Late papers will suffer a 5-percentage point penalty for each day they are late, weekends included.

Grade Scale:

The numerical equivalents of the letter grades are

A = 90 and Above

B = 80 – 89.99

C	=	70 - 79.99
D	=	60 – 69.99
F	=	Below 59.99

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

Dean of Student's Office

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-

3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Final NOTE:

A bad grade lessens in importance over time. Even the best students do poorly on an exam or a paper every now and again. You can recover from a bad grade, but being marked as a cheater will haunt you for the rest of your career. If you are encountering difficulty in the class, do not despair! Come talk with me and I will be more than happy to help you out.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Readings	Notes (Exercise/Activities)
Part I: East Asia as a Region: History and Culture			
Week 1:			
01/18 Thu	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus	Read the Syllabus! Your first take-home exercise!
Week 2:			
01/23 Tue	History and Memory Politics in East Asia	Hayes: Introduction Gries, Peter Hays, et al. 2009. "Historical Beliefs and	Activity: Get familiar with the countries in the region (http://country.eiu.com/All

		the Perception of Threat in Northeast Asia: Colonialism, the Tributary System, and China-Japan-Korea Relations in the Twenty-first Century." International Relations of the Asia-Pacific 9(2): 245-265.	Countries.aspx); EX: China: http://country.eiu.com/china
01/25 Thu	Traditions and Culture	Hayes: Ch.1 Recommended: Chong, Ja Ian. 2014. "Popular Narratives Versus Chinese History: Implications for Understanding an Emergent China." European Journal of International Relations 20(4): 939-964. Skip: pp. 6-9; 16-17	
Week 3:			
01/30 Tue	Traditions and Culture	Yamazaki, Masakazu. 1996 "Asia, a Civilization in the Making." Foreign Affairs July/August: 106-118.	
02/01 Thu	State Building in East Asia	Park, Seo-Hyun. 2013. "Changing Definitions of Sovereignty in Nineteenth-century East Asia: Japan and Korea between China and the West." Journal of East Asian Studies 13(2): 281-307. Recommended: Strauss, Julia C. 1997. "The Evolution of Republican Government." The China Quarterly 150 (Jun): 329-351.	
II. China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan			
Week 4:			
02/06 Tue	Mainland China (PRC) from the Empire to Mao's Era	Hayes: Ch.3	

02/08 Thu	Mainland China (PRC) from the Empire to Mao's Era	Hayes: Ch.4	
Week 5:			
02/13 Tue	Mainland China (PRC) since Deng's Era	Hayes: Ch.5 Andrew Nathan. 2003. "China's Changing of the Guard: Authoritarian Resilience". <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 14(1): 6-17.	Mainland China (PRC) since Deng's Era
02/15 Thu	China: Tiananmen Square	Nicholas D. Kristof. 2009. "Tiananmen Square". <i>New York Times</i> http://topics.nytimes.com/topics/news/international/countriesandterritories/china/tiananmen-square/index.html Richard Roth. 2009. "There Was No "Tiananmen Square Massacre." <i>CBS News</i> http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503543_162-5061672-503543.html	China: Tiananmen Square
Week 6:			
02/20 Tue	China: Contemporary Issues	Hayes Chapter 6	
02/22 Thu	China: Contemporary Issues	John L. Thornton. 2006. "China's Leadership Gap," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 85(6):133-140.	
Week 7:			
02/27 Tue	Identity Politics and Democratization	Lin, Syaru Shirley. 2015. "Sunflowers and Umbrellas: Government He, Yinan. 2014. "Identity Politics and Foreign Policy: Taiwan's Relations with China and Japan, 1895-2012." <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 129(3): 469-500. Skip: pp. 477-489	Watch "Joshua: Teenager vs. Superpower"

03/01 Thu	Identity Politics and Democratization	Lin, Syaru Shirley. 2015. "Sunflowers and Umbrellas: Government He, Yinan. 2014. "Identity Politics and Foreign Policy: Taiwan's Relations with China and Japan, 1895-2012." Political Science Quarterly 129(3): 469-500. Skip: pp. 477-489	Research Essay Workshop # 1 – Prepare 2-4 Research Questions
Week 8:			
03/06 Tue	First Exam Review		Don't miss the review session!
03/08 Thu	First In-Class Exam		
Week 9: Spring Break			
03/13 Tue	Spring Break		
03/15 Thu			
Week 10:			
03/20 Tue	Taiwan	Chu, Yun-han, and Jih-wen Lin. 2001. "Political development in 20th-century Taiwan: State building, regime transformation and the construction of national identity." The China Quarterly 165 (March): 102-129. Kerry Dumbaugh, 2009. "Taiwan's Political Status: Historical Background and Ongoing Implication. Congressional Research Services." Pp. 1-5.	Research Essay Workshop # 2 – Determine your research question for the final essay
03/22 Thu	Democratization in Taiwan	Shelley Rigger. 2004. "Taiwan's Best-Case Democratization". Orbis Spring: 285-290 Gunter Schubert. 2004. "Taiwan's Political Parties	

		and National Identity: The Rise of an Overarching Consensus," <i>Asian Survey</i> , 44 (4): 534-554.	
III. Japan			
Week 11:			
03/27 Tue	Introduction to Japan	Hayes Chapter 13-15	
03/29 Thu	Japanese Political System	Hayes Chapter 17	
Week 12:			
04/03 Tue	Japan and the LDP	Haruhiro Fukui and Shigeko N. Fukai. 1996. "Pork Barrel Politics, Networks, and Local Economic Development in Contemporary Japan." <i>Asian Survey</i> 36(3): 268-286. Ellis Krauss and Robert Pekkanen, "The Rise and Fall of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party," <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69:1 (Feb. 2010): 5-15.	Research Essay Workshop # 3 – Research Essay Proposal Due
04/05 Thu	Class will not meet.	Hayes Chapter 16 & 18	Prof. Weng will be attending the MPSA meeting in Chicago
Week 13:			
04/10 Tue	Japan: Miracles and Contemporary Issues	Hayes Chapter 16 & 18	
IV. Korea			
04/12 Thu	South Korea: An Introduction	Hayes Chapter 7 , 8	
Week 14:			
04/17 Tue	Democratization in South Korea	Jung Hae-Gu and Kim Ho Ki, "Development of Democratization: Movement in South Korea" Hahm Chaibong. 2008. "South Korea's Miraculous Democracy." <i>Journal of</i>	

		Democracy 19(3): 128-142 (focus on 128-136)	
04/19 Thu			
Week 15			
04/24 Tue	North Korea: An Introduction	Hayes Chapter 11 Han S Park. 2007 "Military-First Politics (<i>Songun</i>): Understanding Kim Jong-il's North Korea," <i>Korea Economic Institute Academic Paper Series</i> 2(7): 1-9	Watch before class Local Election in North Korea: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOAk9P1KFIU Watch Documentary in class.
04/26 Thu	State – Society Relationship	Lind, Jennifer. 2011. "Democratization and Stability in East Asia." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 55(2): 409-436.	
Week 16			
05/01 Tue	Final Recap and Review		Final Research Essay Due
05/03 Thu	Final Exam		
Final Exam Week (05/07 – 05/10)			
05/07 – 05/10 Final Exam Week	Research Essay Due		