

Political Science 3510-001 (3 credits)
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE PACIFIC RIM
Fall Semester 2005

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Class Lectures: OSH 237, Thursdays 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Office: 825 North 300 West, Suite 112, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102
Office Hours: By appointment
Mid-Term Exam: Thursday September 29, 6:00 p.m. OSH 237
Final Exam Thursday December 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m., OSH 237

Course Overview and Objectives: This course surveys the current politics, governments, and policies of the nations of Northeast, Southeast, and, to some extent, South Asia. The purpose of the course is to acquaint you with the international relations and security issues of the region, the economic development and international trade patterns, and the political parties and election processes in the region, and especially the socio-cultural background of selected countries and the region as a whole. As much as possible, we will try to link the surface political structures to their underlying social and philosophical origins. Thus, when the course ends, you will have (1) acquired the ability to analyze the historical or other sources of current political problems and policies; you will have (2) learned the geography of the region; you will have (3) understood the often strained political alliances between players in the region; and you will have (4) realized how philosophical worldview differences between East and West present challenges to social and political leaders on both sides.

Content Summary: Asia is a most amazing region! Its philosophical traditions alone have forever altered the way people think about one another. Its current political and economic growth is nothing short of phenomenal. My approach to this region will expose you to its most significant features and will help you see why the governments in the region take some of the positions they do on human rights, on population control, on economic growth, and on the role of government. If I do my job well, and if you invest yourself intellectually in the course, you will never see the world the same way again.

Evaluation Method: You will take a mid-term and a final exam, both of which are mostly essay but with some objective questions included each time. It is possible that one unannounced “pop” quiz or other written assignment will be given during the semester. This can be used for extra credit to improve your grade, but if you miss it, you cannot make it up. You will also choose one of the countries we will cover and write a position paper on a current social/political issue in that country—or a cross-country/regional issue. Details requirements for the paper are attached to this syllabus, but in brief, it should be between 12 and 15 typed pages and written in formal English, as if you were writing for a top decision-maker to use to make an executive decision. The mid-term exam (100 points) is 33% of your grade; the final exam (100 points) is 33%; and the research paper (100 points) is 33%. Be prepared to announce your country selection by the third class of the semester. I invite you to discuss your topic idea with me before you begin. I will ask as many of you as possible to present a summary of your paper in an oral classroom presentation near the end of the semester. It is important, therefore, to start your paper now and have it completed by the next to the last class of the semester.

Ethics: On exams, the pop quiz or writing assignment, and the position paper, it is essential to your own academic progress that you be scrupulously honest. Plagiarizing, cheating, or other forms of unethical behavior is never acceptable, and if you succumb to those behaviors, you will fail that assignment or the course, both in a moral sense and in terms of your grade. Some behaviors may require of me a warning, while others may require dismissal from class or a failing

grade. Of course you can appeal to the Student Behavior Committee, but be sure to first read the Student Code in the Student Handbook. Ethical violations in my classes are extremely rare, and I trust you to keep that tradition going in this class.

Required Text: Dean W. Collinwood, *Global Studies: Japan and the Pacific Rim*, 8th ed., Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2005. Note: you will be assigned country chapters as well as readings from the contemporary press at the back of the text. In addition, we will watch videos occasionally, including from the “Pacific Century” series. These videos can also be viewed on your own at the library.

Additional Readings: You will likely be assigned additional readings from the contemporary world press or other sources from time to time as relevant events develop. Exam questions will be drawn from these extra readings as well as from the required text above.

Teaching and Learning Style: Each class session will consist of lectures by me and class discussion of key issues per country or region. To learn the most, you must come to class with the assigned readings under your belt. Reading the assigned pages in advance makes a difference in your ability to dialogue in the class. Some sessions will include videos, and occasionally we may have some small group exercises. The last class(es) will consist of oral presentations of selected position papers. I warmly welcome questions, comments, opinions from you during the lectures. Moreover, you will find that your opinion does not have to agree with mine in order for it to be taken seriously. Intellectual debate is the very core of a liberal education, so please speak up (but be sure and always respect the opinions of others and phrase your comments in a diplomatic and polite manner).

Special Needs: If you have a special visual, auditory, or other need, please see me to make arrangements. The U seeks to provide equal access to its program, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability service, 162 Olpin Union, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability services.

Contact Me: Please use the telephone and email addresses above. Email is, by far, the best way to reach me. If I need to drop something off to you, it will be in the Will Call Box in the Political Science Department office in OSH 252.

Instructor Profile: I earned my PhD at the University of Chicago where I was in both the political science and education departments. My Master of Science degree is from the University of London in International Relations, and my Bachelor’s degree is from Brigham Young University in Political Science with a Japanese minor. I was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Tokyo and was formerly the Director of the Center for International Business and a full professor of management at the University of Utah Business School. I now direct the Global Business Development Center, a private organization that consists of GLOBUS, an international business consulting firm, the US Japan Center, the US China Center, and the Asia Pacific Council, which I chair. During the last Utah election season I completed my second failed attempt (and my 6th election campaign) to hold political office when I ran, as a Democrat, for the State Senate in Utah District 23.

Course Topics and Readings Outline:

This schedule is a rough outline of what we will cover; it can change at any moment to take advantage of political events as they occur in Asia. Therefore, it is very important that you attend class faithfully to keep up to date with new reading or other assignments.

August 25: Introduction to the geography of the region and to sources for your position papers. Please announce your selection of position paper country and/or topic at the third class (September 8). Pp. iv-11 and 194-202.

September 1: The philosophical foundation of Asian culture: Confucianism, Buddhism, authoritarianism, colonialism. pp. 191-192 and 172-173.

September 8: Report your topic choice today. The Politics of China. Pp. 47-55.

September 15: China continued. Pp.135-136.

September 22: Politics of Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. Pp. 59-63; 73-75; 114-118; and 155-160 and 177-180 and 151-152.

September 29: The Politics of South and North Korea. Prepare for Mid-term exam next week. Pp.109-113 and 91-95; and 164-166 and 143-145.

September 29: Mid-term examination

October 6: No class, Fall Break

October 13: The Politics of Japan. Pp.19-33 and 139-140.

October 20: Japan continued. Pp. 131-132 and 153-154 and 193.

October 27: The Politics of the Philippines. Pp. 100-104 and 167-168.

November 3: Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Pp. 43-46 and 69-72 and 126-130.

November 10: Politics of Thailand and Myanmar. Pp. 119-125 and 80-84.

November 17: The Politics of Indonesia and East Timor. Pp. 64-68 and 56-58 and 174-176.

November 24: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

November 24: Australia and New Zealand: Asian anomalies. For next week, have your position papers ready for submission. 34-39 and 85-90 and 163.

December 1: Oral presentations

December 8: Oral presentations.

Thursday December 15 Final Examination at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in OSH 237