

**Asian Politics
PLSC 374
Fall 2017**

Professor: Nitya Singh
Email: nitya.singh@emich.edu
Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9:30 PM – 12:30 PM
or by appointment.
Location: 601-F Pray-Harrold Hall

Section/CRN: PLSC 374 - 17246
Class Timing: T/TH 11:00 - 12:15
Location: 131 Porter

Course Overview

This course provides a survey of the domestic politics of the Asian region. The course is organized into five parts. First, I introduce the course, its aims, requirements, and structure. Second, the course considers the historical background of government and politics in Asia by looking at pre-colonial systems of government, encounters with the West, colonialism, and national liberation movements. Third, the course begins a survey of politics in selected Asian nations. In this section we will study each country individually to increase retention and learning. Fourth, the course continues by considering Asian modes of economic development, and why Asia is now developing so rapidly as a major economic superpower.

Materials

There is only one required text that we will be using in this course. However the book will be supplemented by additional readings that will be assigned to the students. This book is available for purchase at either the campus bookstore or through any online vendor. The book is also available online for free through the library. Please see the link below:

1. **Comparing Asian Politics: India, China and Japan. Fourth Edition. Sue Ellen M. Charlton. (Sue)**
2. **To Access Via Library**
Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan - 4th ed.
<http://portal.emich.edu/vwebv/holdingsInfo?bibId=1259003>

You will be also required to do readings from the following books. These books are available in the library and can be issued by you. The specific chapters required for the reading will be posted online by the instructor.

1. Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History. Author: Thomas Barfield.
2. A History of Pakistan and its Origins. Edited by Christophe Jaffrelot.
3. The Cambridge Companion to Modern Japanese Culture. Edited by: Yoshio Sugimoto.

An important component in understanding the ideas in global politics is being able to relate them to current political events happening across the world. Therefore in this class we will regularly be discussing Asian events and as students you should be aware of them. I would encourage that

you should identify a country of interest and read the news online. Some of the resources that you can use are:

India: The Hindustan Times (www.hindustantimes.com), The Hindu (<http://www.thehindu.com>)

Pakistan: The Dawn (<http://www.dawn.com>)

China: The People Daily (<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn>)

Japan: The Asahi Shimbun (<http://www.asahi.com/english/>)

We will be regularly discussing some of the important happenings from the region at the beginning of every class.

In addition to the articulated course specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, and procedures. The EMU Student Handbook is the primary resource provided to students to ensure that they have access to all university policies, support resources, and student's rights and responsibilities. Changes may be made to the EMU Student Handbook whenever necessary, and shall be effective immediately, and/or as of the date on which a policy is formally adopted, and/or on the date specified in the amendment. Please note: Electing not to access the link provided below does not absolve a student of responsibility. For questions about any university policy, procedure, practice, or resource, please contact the Office of the Ombuds: 248 Student Center, 734.487.0074, emu_ombuds@emich.edu, or visit the website: www.emich.edu/ombuds

Course Requirements

The class will involve a combination of lectures, assignments, discussions and presentations. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you regularly attend class, stay current with the Reading Assignments, and regularly read news coverage of current events. The class also has a blackboard link and therefore you are encouraged to regularly check the link for assigned readings as well as other notes.

Grades, Assignments and Evaluation

The final grade in the class will be cumulative and will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The course letter grade assignment is mentioned below.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

- (200) – Final Examination
- (200) – Midterm Examination
- (200) – Online Assignments
- (100) – Term Paper
- (100) – Group Presentation on a major issue in Asia
- (100) – Test 1 (Map Test)
- (100) – Test 2

A = 93-100%	A = 930-1000
A- = 90-92%	A- = 900-929
B+ = 87-89%	B+ = 870-899
B = 83-86%	B = 830-869
B- = 80-82%	B- = 800-829
C+ = 77-79%	C+ = 770-799
C = 73-76%	C = 730-769
C- = 70-72%	C- = 700-729
D = 60-69%	D = 600-699
D- = 55-59%	D- = 550-599
F = below 55%	F = 549 & below

Exams (40% or 400 Points)

The mid-term exam will occur after some of the major ideas on Asian politics have been taught. The exam will consist of essay type, multiple choices; fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The final exam will be cumulative and will have the same format as the mid-term exam. There will be no make-up examinations for the mid-term as well as the final, without medical documentation explaining the absence.

Written Assignments (10% or 100 Points)

In this course students are expected to write one paper of 5-7 pages each in 12 points, double space, Times New Roman Format. The objective of this paper is to enable the student to develop an understanding of a major issue plaguing the Asian region and the steps that can be taken to effectively resolve the problem.

The student is expected to pick up any topic related to the Asian region that he/she feels is of importance and explain why the topic is important. The topic chosen by the student has to be important enough to have a significant economic/political or security impact on the region or the country. The format for writing the paper will be explained in detail in the class. However, broadly speaking in the term paper the students are expected to identify a regional problem, explain why the problem or issue is important and then put forward their recommendations on how this problem can be effectively tackled. The choice of topic will depend on the student however you are encouraged to talk to me regarding the selection of the topic. The grading will be done based on the level of critical analysis conducted by the student with respect to the issues being discussed by him/her. Some examples of topics are:

1. The End of the War in Afghanistan – The future facing the region.
2. The Economic rise of China and/or India and the regional impact on economic development.
3. The North Korea/South Korea conflict.
4. The rise of extremism in Pakistan: Why is it Dangerous?
5. India – Pakistan Conflict and its security dimensions for global security.
6. The proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the region. Why is it a danger for global security

Additional details regarding these assignments will be further provided in class.

Policy Presentation (10% or 100 Points)

As a part of this assignment all the students will be divided into groups. This will be a role play assignment in which the group will give their briefing to entire class. At the end of the policy briefing the group presenting will be asked questions by the rest of the class. The topic chosen by the students will be discussed in detail, the issues will be dissected and the presenters will be subjected to in-depth questioning by the rest of the class. The objective of this exercise is to help students develop an indepth understanding of the topic on their own initiative. The grades for this assignment will be based on the quality of the presentation as well as the manner in which the policy group holds up to cross examination and questioning. Further details regarding this assignment will be given in class.

Tests (20% or 200 Points)

We will also have 2 Tests during the course of the semester and each test will be worth 100 points. The first test would be a map test. In this test, the students will be asked to point out major countries or capital cities in the map. The map test will be a test of political geography and not natural geography. Further details on the test to be given in the class. The second test will be a combination of Multiple Choice, True and False and Fill in the Blank questions.

Online Assignments (20% or 200 Points)

In the class you have four online assignment each worth 50 points for a total of 200 points. The online assignment will involve students logging onto the canvas site and commenting on a story/new report that is posted. Completion of each online assignments will result in full 50 points being awarded for the assignment. If a student fails to complete an online assignment before the due date, the student will not get any points for the assignment.

Class Participation and Attendance

The objective of this class is to encourage active and not passive learning. Therefore in this class the students are expected to engage in active discussion with the instructor and other students. The instructor will act as a facilitator for discussion and will attempt to engage students in these discussions. Based on the quality of discussion as well as the frequency of discussions; grades will be assigned to students at the end of the semester.

You are expected to participate in class and interact with me as well as other students on topics that we discuss in class. Absences will be excused only in case of illness, family emergency, or any legitimate academic or university obligation. In case of absence due to illness a doctor's note from the University Health Center or your doctor would be required. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to let me know of the circumstances of your absence, prior to the class period if at all possible. Your class participations grades will be determined based on your attendance in class as well as the quality of the presentation made by your groups on the country of your choice. Current University policy recognizes the rights of students to observe religious holidays without penalty to the student. Students will provide advance notice to the instructor in order to make up work, including examinations; they miss as a result of their absence from class due to observance of religious holidays. If satisfactory arrangements cannot be made with the

instructor, the student may appeal to the school director or head(s) of department(s) in which the course(s) is / are offered.

Academic Honesty

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and every student is expected to adhere to Eastern Michigan University's policy on academic honesty. If caught cheating on exams, turning in someone else's written work, or plagiarizing another's work you will fail this course. Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the Code online at: www.emich.edu/studentconduct/.

I would like to emphasize that you should **not assume** what any of the policies imply. If you are in any doubt regarding any of the course policies I encourage you to come and talk to me. Furthermore you should **always check** with me whether it is acceptable to work together with another student on a project or assignment; until so assigned to by the instructor.

In addition to the articulated course specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, and procedures. The EMU Student Handbook is the primary resource provided to students to ensure that they have access to all university policies, support resources, and student's rights and responsibilities. Changes may be made to the EMU Student Handbook whenever necessary, and shall be effective immediately, and/or as of the date on which a policy is formally adopted, and/or on the date specified in the amendment. Please note: Electing not to access the link provided below does not absolve a student of responsibility. For questions about any university policy, procedure, practice, or resource, please contact the Office of the Ombuds: 248 Student Center, 734.487.0074, emu_ombuds@emich.edu, or visit the website: www.emich.edu/ombuds.

University Course Policies:

<http://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/policies/academic.php#univ>

Student Handbook Link: <https://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/index.php>

Students with Special Needs

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Students with Disabilities Office (SDO) in 240 EMU Student Center. You may contact SDO by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the SDO promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible.

Note on Grading Methods and Syllabus

All tests and papers will be graded blind by the instructor. If a student would like to appeal the grading of a question, he or she should submit to the instructor his or her grievance in writing, explaining why he or she feels that the *given response* was inadequately assessed. The status of students' scholarship, potential entrance into law school / grad school will not be taken into consideration in grading.

In addition this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

Resources for Students

The following resources can be used by the students to supplement their knowledge of the Asian region.

Websites

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) <http://www.apecsec.org.sg>
Asia Society Asia Source Homepage <http://www.asiasource.org>
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) <http://www.asean.or.id>
BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/>
Brookings Institution <http://www.brook.edu/>
Channel News Asia <http://www.channelnewsasia.com>
China Daily <http://www.chinadaily.net>
China Embassy to the United States <http://www.china-embassy.org/>
China Human Rights in China <http://www.hrichina.org>
China Internet Guide for China Studies—Politics <http://sun.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs/igpol.htm>
China Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn>
China News Digest <http://www.cnd.org/CND-Global/CND-Global.new.html>
China People's Daily <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn>
China: A Country Study, U.S. Library of Congress <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cntoc.html>
China: Political Resources on the Net <http://www.politicalresources.net/china.htm>
Chinese Military Power Page <http://www.comw.org/cmp/>
CNN Asia news <http://edition.cnn.com/ASIA>
Comparative Connections <http://www.csis.org/pacfor/ccposted on Canvas.html>
ElectionGuide <http://www.ifes.org/eguide/elecguide.htm>
Embassy, the Electronic Embassy <http://www.embassy.org/> (find embassies in Washington, DC)
Foreign Affairs <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/>
Foreign Policy <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/>
Freedom House (NGO) <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>
Hong Kong South China Morning Post <http://www.scmp.com>
Human Rights Watch/Asia <http://www.hrw.org/about/divisions/asia.html>
India Bharatiya Janata Party <http://www.bjp.org>
India Frontline <http://www.flonnet.com>

India Ministry of Foreign Affairs <http://www.meadev.nic.in>
India Prime Minister's Office <http://pmindia.nic.in>
India *Hindu* <http://www.hinduonline.com>
India *Times of India* <http://www.timesofindia.com>
Indian Embassy, Washington, DC <http://www.indianembassy.org>
Indonesia *Jakarta Post* <http://www.thejakartapost.com>
Japan *Daily Yomiuri* <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm>
Japan Embassy Washington, DC <http://www.embjapan.org>
Japan Guide from Stanford <http://jguide.stanford.edu>
Japan *Mainichi Shimbun* <http://mdn.mainichi.co.jp>
Missions to the UN (with links to missions' websites) <http://www.un.int/index-en/webs.html>
New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com> (site requires registration, but it's free)
Political Resources on the Net <http://www.politicalresources.net/>
Tibet Government in Exile at <http://www.tibet.com>
US Department of State (Official) <http://www.state.gov>
World Bank (Official) <http://www.worldbank.org>

Scholarly Journals

Some journals helpful for the study of Asia and international affairs are listed below:

Asian Journal of Political Science
Asian Perspective
Asian Survey
Australian Journal of International Affairs
Comparative Politics
Contemporary Southeast Asia
Current History
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
International Security
Journal of Contemporary Asia
PS Political Science
Pacific Affairs
Pacific Review

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Week 1: Theoretical Perspectives and Historical Background

9/7 Thursday: Welcome and Introduction to the class

- Chapter 1 (Sue)

Week 2: Overview of the Region: Geography, History, People and Politics

9/12 Tuesday: India

- Chapter 2 (Sue)
- Chapter 5 (Sue)
- **Online Class Assignment 1**
- Marshall M. Bouton. 1998. "India's Problem is Not Politics." Foreign Affairs. May/June 1998. (Posted on Canvas)

9/14 Thursday: China

- Chapter 6 (Sue)
- Gerald Segal. 1999. "Does China Matter?" Foreign Affairs. September/October 1999. (Posted on Canvas)

Week 3: Overview of the History of the Region

9/19 Tuesday: Japan

- Chapter 4 (Sue)
- Chapter 7 (Sue)

9/21 Thursday: Indian Political System

- Indian Parliament. (<http://164.100.47.132/LssNew/our%20parliament/par1.htm>)
- Chapter 8 (Sue) Pages 177-184
- Chapter 9 (Sue) (Portions relevant to India)
- Chapter 11 (Sue) Pages 247 – 254.
- Ramesh Thakur. 1997. India in the World: Neither Rich, Powerful, nor Principled. Foreign Affairs. July/August 1997. (Posted on Canvas)

Week 4: India – Political System and Culture

9/26 Tuesday: Security Challenges and Threats

- Sumit Ganguly. 2001. "Behind India's Bomb: The Politics and Strategy of Nuclear Deterrence." Foreign Affairs. September/October. (Posted on Canvas)
- C. Raja Mohan. 2006. "India and the Balance of Power." Foreign Affairs. July/August. (Posted on Canvas)
- Carin Zissis. "Terror Groups in India". Council on Foreign Relations. (http://www.cfr.org/publication/12773/terror_groups_in_india.html#p12)

9/28 Thursday: Economy of India

- Chapter 12 (Sue)
- Charles H. Percy. 1992. "South Asia's Takeoff." Foreign Affairs. Winter 1992/1993. (Posted on Canvas)
- Gurcharan Das. 2006. "The India Model." Foreign Affairs. July/August 2006. (Posted on Canvas)
- Fareed Zakaria. 2006. "India Rising". Newsweek, March 6, 2006. (http://www.unc.edu/world/2007_South_Asia/Materials/India%20Rising.pdf)
- Sumit Ganguly and Manjeet S. Pardesi. 2007. "India Rising: What is New Delhi to Do?" World Policy Journal. Spring 2007. Vol. 24. No. 1, Pages 9 – 18. (Posted on Canvas)

Week 5: India – Culture and Pakistan/Afghanistan

10/3 Tuesday: Culture and Religion in India

- Online Class
- Jawaharlal Nehru. 1963. "Changing India." Foreign Affairs. April 1963. (Posted on Canvas)
- Mayron Weiner. 1962. "The Struggle for Equality in India." Foreign Affairs. July 1962. (Posted on Canvas)

10/5 Thursday: Pakistan/Afghanistan

- Christophe Jaffrelot. 2004. Book Titled "A History of Pakistan and its Origins." Available in the library as well as on Canvas.
 - Introduction (Pg. 1 – 6)
 - Chapter 4 (Pg. 95 – 134)
- Thomas Barfield. 2010. Book Titled "Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History." Available in the library and on Canvas. Pages 225 – 270.

Week 6: Pakistan and Afghanistan Continued

10/10 Tuesday:

- **Test 1**

10/12 Thursday: Afghanistan

- Thomas Barfield. 2010. Book Titled "Afghanistan: A Cultural and Political History." Available in the library and on Canvas. Pages 225 – 270.
- Online Class Assignment (2)

Week 7: China

10/17 Tuesday: Political System in China

- Michael F. Martin. 2010. "Understanding China's Political System." Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report for Congress. (<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R41007.pdf>)
- Chapter 8 (Sue). Pages 189-196
- Chapter 10 (Sue)
- Chapter (11) Pages 254 – 260.

10/19 Thursday: Culture And Economy of China

- Chapter 3 (Sue)
- Culture of China to be explained in detail by the instructor.
- Wayne M. Morrison. 2006. "China's Economic Conditions." Congressional Research Service (CRS) Issue Brief for Congress.
(<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IB98014.pdf>)
- George J. Gilboy. 2004. "The Myth behind China's Miracle." July/August 2004. Foreign Affairs. (Posted on Canvas)

Week 8: China – Culture and Economy

10/24 Tuesday: **Midterm Exam**

10/26 Thursday: Culture and Economy of China

- Chapter 3 (Sue)
- Culture of China to be explained in detail by the instructor.
- Wayne M. Morrison. 2006. "China's Economic Conditions." Congressional Research Service (CRS) Issue Brief for Congress.
(<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/row/IB98014.pdf>)
- George J. Gilboy. 2004. "The Myth behind China's Miracle." July/August 2004. Foreign Affairs. (Posted on Canvas)

Week 9: China and Japan

10/31 Tuesday: China Rising – Security Concerns

- Goldstein, A. 2001. "The Diplomatic Face of China's Grand Strategy: A Rising Power's Emerging Choice," *The China Quarterly*, No. 168 (December 2001), pp. 835-864. (Posted on Canvas)
- Topic to be explained in detail by Instructor.

11/2 Thursday: Politics and Political Systems in Japan

- Chapter 8 Pages 184 - 189 (Sue)
- Chapter 9 (Sue) (Portions relevant to Japan)
- Chapter 11. Pages 260 – 264. (Sue)

Week 10: Japan – Security and Economic Issues

11/7 Tuesday: Security and Economic Issues for Japan

- Lowell Dittmer. 2007. "Japan: A Turning Point." *Asian Survey*. Vol. 47. No. 5. Pages 679 – 682. September/October. (Posted on Canvas)
- Arpita Mathur. 2006. "Japan's Security Concerns and Policy Responses." *Strategic Analysis*. Vol. 30. No. 3. Jul-Sept. Article can be accessed via the following link:
(http://www.idsa.in/system/files/strategicanalysis_arpita_0906.pdf)

11/9 Thursday: Japan Security Issues (Continued)

Week 11: Japan – Culture

11/14 Tuesday: Japanese Culture – An Overview

- Yoshio Sugimoto. 2009. Book Titled “The Cambridge Companion to Modern Japanese Culture.” Chapter 1 (pp 21 – 35). Available in the library as well on Canvas.
- Chapter 2 (Sue) (Portions relevant to Japan)
- Chapter 4 (Sue) (Portions relevant to Japan)
- Chapter 5 (Sue) (Portions relevant to Japan)

11/16 Thursday: **Test 2**

Week 12: Japan (Continued) and Thanksgiving Break

11/21 Tuesday: Japan Culture (Continued)

11/23 Thursday: **No Class. Thanks Giving Break**

Week 13: North Korea

11/28 Tuesday: North Korea – An Overview

- Michael J. Mazarr. 2008. “Kim Jon Il: Strategy and Psychology.” 2008 Korea Economic Institute Academic Paper Series. Volume 1.
 - Park, Han S., 2008 “Military-First Politics (Songun): Understanding Kim Jong-il’s North Korea.” 2008 Korea Economic Institute Academic Paper Series. Volume 1
- Both These papers can be accessed through the following web link - (<http://www.keia.org/Publications/OnKorea/2008/08Park.pdf>)

11/30 Thursday:

- **Policy Presentation 1**
Rise of China: Threat to the region or myth. Policy options for the US.
- **Policy Presentation 2**
Is Asia Rising: An Economic Analysis of the region

Week 14: Economic Development and the Asian Tigers

12/5 Tuesday:

- China’s Model of Economic Development
- East Asian Model of Economic Development
- South Asian Model of Economic Development
- Park, Y.C. 1990. “Development Lessons from Asia: The Role of Government in South Korea and Taiwan.” The American Economic Review 80 (2):118-21.)

12/7 Thursday: Policy Presentations

- **Policy Presentation 3**
Poverty, Unemployment and Economic Issues in Asia: An analysis and policy options

Week 15: Conclusion - The Asian Century?

12/12 Tuesday: The Future of the region

- Chapter 13. (Sue)
- Chapter 14 (Sue)
- Kishore Mahbubani. "The Case against the West." Foreign Affairs. May/June 2008.
- I will sum up all the broad ideas that we have studied over the entire semester and show how they all are integrated. I will try to make the case of why people are calling the 21st Century as the "Asian Century"

Week 16: Final Exams

Final Exams: TBD