POLITICS OF ASIA  
Political Science 343  
University of Richmond  
Spring 2007  
(Graduate Student Syllabus)

Professor: Vincent Wei-cheng Wang  
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Course Description

This course studies the historical, cultural, and social forces shaping contemporary politics of Asia. For our purpose, “Asia” as a geographic term encompasses the entire eastern half of the Eurasian landmass and the arc of offshore islands in the Western Pacific minus Central Asia and the Middle East (or what one scholar calls “Monsoon Asia”); as a cultural term, it includes – to use Samuel P. Huntington’s labels – Japanese, Sinic, Hindu, Buddhist, and Islamic civilizations - cultural systems that are rather different from Western Judeo-Christian traditions. This region includes six of the world’s ten most populous nations, ten of the world’s twenty largest economies, five countries with the largest Muslim populations, three nuclear powers, and six of the ten fastest-growing countries for the 1985-94 period. Home of ancient histories, proud peoples, dynamic economies, and diverse religions, languages, and politics, Asia’s importance on the world stage will increase in the 21st century, and profoundly shape the future of the U.S.

To study such an immense and diverse region poses daunting intellectual challenges. To what extent are Western social science concepts useful in interpreting Asian political institutions and behavior? What contributions can Asian political experiences help rectify the ethnocentric biases inherent in Western models or “universal” values? This course seeks to achieve two main objectives: (1) to examine the varieties of Asian concepts of power and authority by comparing major political systems in East, Southeast, and South Asia, and (2) to integrate Asian area studies with mainstream political science by critically examining such broad theoretical themes as democratization, nationalism, human rights, language and ethnic relations. Note: Students particularly interested in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, I also teach a course, Political Science 345: Politics of China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Hence, this course focuses on Asian polities other than these three Chinese polities.

Required Books:
5. Michael E. Brown and Sumit Ganguly, eds., Fighting Words: Language Policy and Ethnic
Relations in Asia (MIT Press, 2003)

Recommended Books:
A list of recommended books is attached with the syllabus. They serve as references for your further interest and research ideas.

Articles:
All articles assigned for reading are on Library e-reserve or available through the Library’s online databases (e.g., JSTOR, Project Muse). The following journals owned by the Library are useful references: Asian Affairs, Asian Survey, China Journal, China Quarterly, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Far Eastern Economic Review, Issues and Studies, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of East Asian Studies, Pacific Affairs, and World Politics.

Requirements

Workload estimate: The tasks on hand in this class require that you spend about 3 hours outside the classroom for each class hour.

1. Attendance (5%): You are expected to attend classes. Ten times randomly throughout the semester a roll will be taken. You will earn ½ points each time you are present when the roll is taken. Poor attendance will impair your grade.

2. Class Participation (5%) and Journal (5%): Coming to class fully prepared and actively engaging in class discussion are important. You are expected to complete all readings assigned for a specific day before that class and be responsible for all the work that takes place inside and outside classes. To facilitate class discussions, prepare a one-page gist for each class, summarizing the main points and key questions from the readings, and personal reflections, if any. Your journals are collected at the end of every Thursday’s class. They will be graded based on substance, clarity, brevity, and style. Four possible grades will be given: V+, V, V-, and zero. Participation is not simply a matter of raising one’s hand early and often. The quality of participation, making good observations based on sound analysis and reference to assigned readings are just as important as the frequency of comments made in class. This part is graded on the quality, quantity, substance, and relevance of your contributions in the class, as well as the courtesy and professionalism you show to the other students and the instructor. It can work to your advantage in the case of a borderline grade.

3. Prolusion (10%): This course cultivates such essential professional skills as oral and writing expressions. One student is designated as the proluder for each class (a schedule will be distributed later). The proluder’s presentation is limited to 15 minutes. A successful prolusion (1) succinctly synthesizes the main issues or juxtaposes the divergent positions discussed in the assigned readings (not repeat them), (2) critically evaluates them and offer your own views, and (3) prepares several good questions to stimulate class discussions. Time management is crucial. It is a good idea to schedule an appointment with the Speech Center to help you in preparing your oral presentations.

4. Short Essays (30%): Five short essays -- intended to summarize segments of the course and extract critical thinking / reflection -- are assigned throughout the semester (see schedule). You will prepare answers to the question in a 4-page short essay (typed, double-spaced) due one week after it is assigned. Write the essay as a concise analytic paper, with clear and
logical arguments, sentence structures, full references, and correct spelling and grammar. You can consult any material, but your work must be your own. See “How to Write a Good Paper in Political Science” (http://oncampus.richmond.edu/~vwang/Paperwriting.html) for more information on the expectations on the papers. Feel free to have the Writing Center review your paper in advance.

5. **Examinations (10%)**: Midterm examination, designed to review the materials and retain core knowledge, consists of multiple choice, identification, acronym, and essay questions.

6. **Research paper (35%)**: Each student will select a topic relevant to the course, in consultation with the instructor, and submit a 20-page research paper at the end of the term. Start thinking about your paper early and discuss with me so that I can help you on the paper along the way. Each student will have a chance in the final two weeks of the class to make a seven-minute presentation about his/her paper in class, and seek critique for improvements. You should send the class and me an electronic copy of your draft (in Word) two days or more prior to your presentation so that we have sufficient time to read and critique the paper. Please familiarize yourself with the styles in leading journals, the handbook “How to Write a Good Paper in Political Science” <http://oncampus.richmond.edu/~vwang/Paperwriting.html>, and such reference guides as *The Chicago Manual of Style*, Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*, William Zinsser, *On Writing Well*, Diane E. Schmidt, *Expository Writing in Political Science*. Your paper should follow all academic practices -- with proper styles and, references. The research paper will be evaluated by substance, clarity, creativity, and style. A collection of books from the recommended list will be put on reserve for your reference. Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own without proper credit – is a form of academic dishonesty and is prohibited. Edit, spell-check, and grammar-check your paper before submitting it. To ensure adequate time for research, writing, feedback, and revisions, the following schedule must be followed. Late or no submission of various components will result in grade penalty.

(1) **Feb 8**: One-paragraph prospectus due (5%). Prospectus should include the title of your paper, rationale, initial arguments, methodology (if applicable), and expected findings. Note: Start working on (3) concurrently.

(2) **Weeks of Feb 12 and Feb 19**: Feedback on prospectus and individual meetings on projects.

(3) **Mar 15**: An annotated bibliography (5%), with at least ten different sources, with no more than one-third from online sources, and at least half from books or journal articles. This should provide a gist for each of your sources.

(4) **Apr 12**: Drafts done (5%)

(5) **Apr 17-26**: Presentation of drafts (5%); schedule to be arranged.

(6) **Apr 30**: Final paper (15%) due (noon).

7. **Cocurricular activities**: During the course of the semester, several cocurricular activities relevant to the course will be announced. Students are encouraged to attend. Extra credits may be awarded.

**Grading**

This course does not grade on a curve; each student is evaluated on his (her) own performance. A 100-point scale is used for the final course grade:

- **A+** 100.0-97.0
- **A** 96.9-93.0
- **A-** 90.0-92.9
Grades in the “A” range are for truly excellent work, “B” grades are for good or very good work, “C” grades are for average work, “D” grades are for below average work, and "F" for failure or no credit.

I will endeavor to provide a grade for each assignment, when applicable (e.g., a paper), to give you a sense of how well you did. However, projecting any single grade (or several grades) to the final course grade is unwarranted, because the final course grade takes into grades on all assignments and other additional factors, such as your relative standing in the class and your improvement (or retreat) over the semester. There is no allowance for additional work for extra credit on student’s initiative. Each student will have ample opportunities to make a grade (s)he deserves and I will be happy to discuss your progress at any time during the semester.

Class Policies

1. **Attendance and absences:** Regular attendance is important to success in this class. We enforce the University’s class attendance policy (see Undergraduate Catalogue, pp. 36-37). Students participating in University-sponsored events should obtain notifications as early as possible from appropriate residential deans or program coordinators for me to honor such requests for excuses from class absences. Any other absences (e.g., class field trips, illness, funerals and family emergencies, etc.) will not be announced by the deans or coordinators, and excuses are at my discretion. Regardless of circumstances, you are responsible for all the work missed during absence. Misrepresenting the reason for class absences to a professor is a violation of the University’s Honor Code.

2. **Late works:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in the syllabus. Any work turned in after that is considered late and is subject to one full grade deduction per day (e.g., from “A” to “B”), until 72 hours after due when the grade turns into an “F.” Note: “F” is calculated as half-credit, whereas not turning in the work at all is counted as zero-credit. So it’s better late than never. This policy will be strictly enforced.

3. **Make-ups:** There is no make-up or incomplete except in those cases involving documented extraordinary circumstances beyond your control (e.g., you suddenly become very ill or hospitalized and cannot take the exam as scheduled). Any such requests must have instructor’s approval before make-up can be granted.

4. **Honor code:** This course enforces the University of Richmond Student Honor Code. Any type of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is prohibited. You are required to provide and sign the honor pledge on all assignments: "I pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work."

5. **Academic help:** You are strongly encouraged to talk with me, or the experts at the Writing Center, Speech Center, and Academic Skills Center, if you need help.

6. **Classroom Decorum:** Showing courtesy to your colleagues and professors is not only basic decency but also conducive to a positive learning environment. Please turn off your cellphones before entering the classroom (the first time it rings in class, you will be given a polite verbal warning; the second time, you will buy donuts for everybody; the third time, your grade will suffer). Please arrive class on time and refrain from leaving the room until
the class is over. If you must leave early, clear with me in advance and leave the room as quietly as possible. If you bring a computer to the class, it should be strictly for taking notes and other class-related tasks; no e-mail, IM, internet-surfing, or other forms of “multi-tasking” is permitted.

This syllabus contains important information about the course. We will adhere to the following schedule, but beware that the schedule is subject to change, as pedagogical needs may so require.

Schedule of Topics and Reading Assignments

1/16 Introduction of the Course

PART 1: OVERVIEW

1/18 Asia and Theories of Development
Pye, 1-30

1/23 Asian Concepts of Power
Pye, 31-54
Essay 1 distributed

PART 2: VARIETIES OF POWER: MAJOR ASIAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS COMPARED

1/25 Japan: Setting and Historical Background
Reischauer and Jansen, 3-14, 31-6
Charlton, 65-86, 137-156
Video: Meiji: Asia’s Response to the West

1/30 Japanese Society and Culture
Pye, 158-81
Reischauer and Jansen, 125-227 [skim]
Essay 1 due

2/1 Japan: Government and Politics
Reischauer and Jansen, 231-291
Charlton, 165-9, 179-80, 181-4, 188-90, 190-2, 195-8, 235-40, 250-3, 257-60, 265-6
Recommended: Gerald Curtis, The Logic of Japanese Politics (Columbia University
2/6 Reforming the Japanese Political System

Instructor attends a conference in Charlotte
**Essay 2 distributed**
**Research Prospectus due**

2/13 Korean Politics: Setting and Political Culture
Pye, 215-28
Soong Hoom Kil and Chung-in Moon, eds., *Understanding Korean Politics* (State University of New York Press, 2001), 1-32
Recommended: The remainder of Kil and Moon, *Understanding Korean Politics*

2/15 Democratic Korea Wrestling with Authoritarian Legacy and Politics of Memory
Dong-bok Lee, “Remembering and Forgetting: The Political Culture of Memory in Divided Korea,” in Gerrit W. Gong, ed., *Remembering and Forgetting: The Legacy of War and Peace in East Asia* (Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1997), 60-81
**Essay 2 due**

2/20 Indonesia: Diversity in (Dis-)unity?
Pye, 266-82
“Indonesia: Diversity in Unity,” in Damien Kingsbury, *South-East Asia: A Political Profile*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2005), 345-92

2/22 Vietnam: The Little Dragon
Pye, 236-44
“Vietnam: The Little Dragon,” in Kingsbury, *South-East Asia*, 223-52
**Essay 3 distributed**

2/27 Thailand: “Buddhist Democracy”?
“Thailand: The Survivor Mandala,” in Damien Kingsbury, *South-East Asia*, 138-69
3/1  **Midterm Exam** (In Class)
**Essay 3 due**
Instructor attends the ISA annual conference in Chicago

3/6 & 3/8   Spring Break: No Classes

3/13   India: Setting and Historical Background
Charlton, 21-42, 91-114

3/15   Themes in Indian Traditions
Pye, 133-57
“China and India,” in Amartya Sen, *The Argumentative Indian: Writings on Indian History, Culture, and Identity* (Picador, 2005), 161-90
**Annotated Bibliography Due**
**Essay 4 distributed**

3/20   Indian Politics and Government: Unity in Diversity?
Charlton, 159-65, 180-1, 184-8, 190-5, 223-30, 248-9, 253-5, 260-2, 264-5

**PART 3: NATIONALISM, ETHNIC IDENTITY, AND LANGUAGE POLICY**

3/22   Theories of Nationalism
Leifer, 1-20, 187-96
**Essay 4 due**

3/27   Language and Ethnic Relations
Brown and Ganguly, 1-17, 413-47

3/29   Malaysia and Singapore
Brown and Ganguly, 239-62

4/3   Pakistan
Leifer, 126-52
Brown and Ganguly, 51-80
**Essay 5 distributed**
PART 4: TRANSNATIONAL THEMES ON ASIAN GOVERNANCE

4/10 Asian Values, Human Rights, and Democracy
“Introduction,” in Larry Diamond and Marc F. Plattner, eds., Democracy in East Asia (Johns Hopkins University, 1998), ix-xxvii
“Asian Values and Human Rights: An Alternative View,” in Diamond and Plattner, 28-41
“The Fall and Rise of Democracy in East Asia,” in Diamond and Plattner, 57-78
Essay 5 due

4/12 Securitizing Epidemics: Governance, Public Health, and SARS
Drafts of Research Papers due

PART 5: RESEARCH PRACTICUM

4/17~ Student Presentation of Research Projects
4/26 Schedule: TBA
4/30 Final Paper due (noon)