

San José State University
Department of Political Science
ASIA/POLS 145, Asian Politics
Fall 2009

Instructor:	Dr. Karthika Sasikumar
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Office Hours:	MW 10.30-11.30 am and 3 pm-4 pm
Class Days/Time:	MW 12 pm to 1.15 pm
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead Hall 161

Course description and objectives

This course is intended to give students the analytical tools to understand the unfolding events of Asian politics. The course is structured around the idea of *comparison*—between Asia and the rest of the world, as well as between the countries of Asia. The readings and class discussion will focus on situating Asian politics in relation to international events and transnational forces.

While the geographical contours of Asia are a matter of debate, they are generally understood to stretch from Turkey in the West to Japan in the East. This course will focus on the major countries of the region, China and India in particular. This is a seminar-style class, therefore students are expected to complete the readings prior to class, to attend class regularly and to participate in class discussions.

Course organization

The class will rely heavily on Blackboard, the course management software. Students should be aware that announcements, assignments and general information (including possible modifications to the syllabus) may be posted on Blackboard on a daily basis. Announcements may also be made in class.

There is no textbook for the course. Readings assigned for class meetings and uploaded on Blackboard. For many of the readings, I have assigned extracts to reduce the total number of pages you are required to read; however, you are encouraged to read the entire article. Needless to say, you

are welcome to seek out (and encouraged to share) any other texts or media sources that are relevant to the topics for the course. If you have problems accessing the files, please contact me immediately. Students will have the chance to set the agenda for two of the classes. These topics will be decided by voting, and readings will be made available online at least a week before the class.

I will use Powerpoint for most classes, and the PDF files of the presentations will be available online after class. However, I strongly urge you to take notes during class as the presentations will only have the outlines for lecture and discussion. Note that the lectures and the readings, while complementary, will not cover exactly the same ground.

I will be available to meet with students in my office for four hours every week. If the times listed above are not convenient, I am happy to arrange another time.

A note on civility

Learning happens best in a civil environment. Please be aware that in a small class such as this one, your attention and participation are crucial to maintaining classroom civility. You are expected to be on time for class, and not to leave (or pack your belongings) until the instructor dismisses class. Cellphones should be answered only when absolutely necessary and should in any case be on 'vibrate' mode. If you bring a laptop to class, it should be used ONLY for taking notes. Students found surfing, messaging etc. will be given one warning and then asked to leave the class. If you bring a snack to class, please try to minimize distraction.

Email communication is encouraged. You are expected to write in a courteous and respectful manner as you would in professional correspondence. Do not expect an immediate response via email. If your email question is sent at the last minute it may not be possible to send you a response before an assignment is due or a test is given. Do not post personal information about yourself or others about third parties to Blackboard. Note that the lecture materials, quizzes etc. are generated for this specific course—please consult with me before circulating or citing elsewhere.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester's [catalog policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. [Late drop policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Evaluation

1. Pop Quizzes

There will be five unannounced in-class quizzes designed to test your knowledge of the readings. Quiz questions will be fact-based, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short answer. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS ON QUIZZES. There will be five quizzes, with your four best grades being

counted. Each pop quiz is worth five points. It will be based only on the assigned readings for each class and will be given out in the first ten minutes of class.

2. Exam

There will be a prelim on September 28. The prelim includes map-marking (identification of important places in Asia). A map with twenty major places already marked will be made available in the second week of class. There will also be twenty short-answer questions.

3. Research Paper

You will also write a 10-12 page research paper for this class on a topic of your choosing. You will choose a country or political issue that interests you and research it over the semester. Every two weeks, you will post on the course website, a link to at least one online news story on your chosen topic and write a short paragraph reflecting on the story, in light of your learning experience in the course. Your posts will not be accessible to other students. I will be reading the posts and giving you feedback as necessary.

Your writing throughout the semester on your chosen topic, also known as *journaling*, will be showcased in your research paper, due on November 30. Your research paper will be worth 40% of your grade, and you will be evaluated equally on your bi-weekly posts and the final product. Thus, 20% of your total grade will come from your journaling activities.

There is no final for this class.

4. Participation

Participation – speaking up during class discussion and active listening – will also count for 10% of your total grade.

Assignment	Points
Pop Quizzes (highest 4 @ 5 points each)	20
Prelim	30
Final paper	40
Participation	10

Final letter grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale

A plus	95-100
A only	90-94
A minus	85-89
B plus	80-84
B only	75-79
B minus	70-74
C plus	65-69
C only	60-64
C minus	55-59

D	50-54
F	49 or less

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University’s [Academic Integrity Policy](http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html) is available at http://sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/faculty_and_staff/academic_integrity/index.html. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html) is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Disability Resource Center](http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/) (DRC) at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Course Schedule

- ❖ August 24: Introduction and discussion of syllabus
- ❖ August 26: Class canceled on account of instructor’s furlough
- ❖ August 31: Asia and the world
Gordon, Stewart. 2008. *When Asia was the world*. [Cambridge, Mass.]: Da Capo Press. Pages 75-95.

Von Tunzelmann, Alex. 2007. *Indian summer : the secret history of the end of an empire*. 1st ed. New York: Henry Holt and Co. Pages 11-14.
- ❖ September 2: Asia rising

Mahbubani, Kishore. 2008. *The new Asian hemisphere : the irresistible shift of global power to the East*. New York: PublicAffairs. Pages 127-50.

Pei, Minxin. 2009. *Think Again: Asia's Rise*. Foreign Policy, June 22 2009. Available from http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2009/06/22/think_again_asias_rise.

❖ September 7: No class—Labor Day

❖ September 9: Economic growth and its sources—an introduction to the debates

Yusuf, Shahid. 2001. "The East Asian Miracle at the Millennium." In *Rethinking the East Asian Miracle*, ed. J. E. Stiglitz and S. Yusuf. Washington DC: The World Bank. Read pages 1-10 and 15-34.

❖ September 14: Comparison 1—India and China

Gilley, Bruce. 2005. "Two Passages to Modernity." In *Asia's Giants*, ed. E. Friedman and B. Gilley. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

September 16— Library instruction session on online sources. 217 King Library.

❖ September 21: Comparison 2—India and South Korea

Chibber, Vivek. 2003. *Locked in place : state-building and late industrialization in India*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Pages 161-92.

❖ September 23: The Japanese model

Vogel, Steven K. 2006. *Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry are Transforming Japanese Capitalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pages 1-21.

September 28: Prelim

❖ September 30: Ethnic conflict and development

Herring, Ronald J. 2001. "Making Ethnic Conflict: The Civil War in Sri Lanka." In *Carrots, Sticks and Ethnic Conflict: Rethinking Development Assistance*, ed. M. J. Esman and R. J. Herring. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Pages 140-67.

❖ October 5: Democracy and development

Barry Naughton. 2008. "A Political Economy of China's Economic Transition." In *China's Great Economic Transformation*, eds. Loren Brandt and Thomas G. Rawski. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pages 91-112 and 126-30.

❖ October 7: Countries Rebuilding

Dixon, Chris. 2004. "State, Party and Political Change in Vietnam." In *Rethinking Vietnam*, ed. D. McCargo. New York: RoutledgeCurzon. Pages 15-26.

❖ October 12: Transnational Taliban

Roy, Olivier. 2004. *Globalized Islam: The Search for a New Ummah*. New York; Paris: Columbia University Press in association with the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales. Pages 290-301.

❖ October 14: Class canceled on account of furlough.

❖ October 19: Class canceled on account of furlough.

❖ October 21: Shia Revival

Nasr, Vali. 2004. "Regional Implications of Shia Revival in Iraq." *Washington Quarterly* 27 (3):7-24.

❖ October 26: Iran's Nuclear Bomb

Kenneth Pollack, *The Persian Puzzle*. Pages 361-69.

Sagan, Scott. 2006. "How to Keep the Bomb From Iran." *Foreign Affairs* 85 (5):45-59.

❖ October 28: Terrorism and Southeast Asia

Frake, Charles O. 1998. "Abu Sayyaf: The Proliferation of Contested Identities among Philippine Muslims." *American Anthropologist* 100 (1):41-54.

❖ November 2: Debate on North Korea

Cha, Victor D., and David C. Kang. 2003. *Nuclear North Korea : a debate on engagement strategies*. New York: Columbia University Press. Pages 13-69.

❖ November 4: Debate on South Asia

Sagan, Scott Douglas, and Kenneth Neal Waltz. 2003. *The spread of nuclear weapons : a debate renewed ; with new sections on India and Pakistan, terrorism, and missile defense*. 2nd ed. New York: Norton. Pages 88-124.

❖ November 9: Debate on Japan

Samuels, Richard J. 2007. *Securing Japan : Tokyo's grand strategy and the future of East Asia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pages 185-209.

❖ November 16: Debate on China

Legro, Jeffrey W. 2007. "What China Will Want: The Future Intentions of a Rising Power." *Perspectives on Politics* 5 (3):503-14.

❖ November 18: Dealing with a rising Asia

Blair, Dennis C. 2008. "Military Power Projection in Asia." In *Strategic Asia 2008-09: Challenges and Choices*, ed. A. J. Tellis, M. Kuo and A. Marble. Seattle: National Bureau of Asian Research.

❖ November 23: Regional integration

Katzenstein, Peter J. 1997. "Introduction: Asian Regionalism in Comparative Perspective." In *Network Power: Japan and Asia*, ed. P. J. Katzenstein and T. Shiraishi. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Pages 1-4, 7-40.

❖ November 25: Student Choice—by vote

❖ November 30: Student Choice—by vote. **Final papers due.**

❖ December 2: The Chinese diaspora in the world economy

Smart, Alan, and Hsu Jinn-Yuh. 2004. "The Chinese Diaspora, Foreign Investment and Economic Development in China." *Review of International Affairs* 3 (4):544-66.

❖ December 7: The Asian diaspora in the United States

Rim, Kathy. 2007. "Model, Victim, or Problem Minority? Examining the Socially Constructed Identities of Asian-Origin Ethnic Groups in California's Media." *Asian American Policy Review* (16).