

San José State University
Political Science Department
ASIA/POLS 145, Asian Politics Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
Office Location:	Clark 451
Telephone:	(408) 924-1361
Email:	karthika.sasikumar@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 2-5 pm; Tuesday 12:30-1:30 pm; Thursday 9-10 am & 12:30-1:30 pm
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday 10:30 am to 11:45 am
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead 161

Course Description

Study of unfolding events in Asia. Themes include: the Asian economic 'miracle,' the implications of China's rise for international security, nuclear proliferation and terrorism, and sustainability; specifically, energy, environment and human rights.

Course Goals

The Political Science Program Learning Outcomes are

- **Breadth**
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- **Application**
Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- **Disciplinary methods**
Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.
- **Communication Skills**
Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to

apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

- **Citizenship**

Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

This course will focus on Application and Communication Skills.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

CLO1. Define key concepts and terms in the scholarly study of Asia, as well as critique and summarize key texts

CLO2. Debate major social issues in a civil and collaborative manner

CLO3. Reflect on current events and apply the key concepts to them

Required Texts/Readings

There are no required texts. All readings will be available on the course website on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Grading Information

Final Examination

The final exam and the midterm will be closed-book in-class exams. You will also write a policy memo (addressed to a Chief Executive Officer or the President of the United States). To prepare for this assignment you will first submit an outline, and incorporate the feedback I provide you into the final submission.

All grades, including extra credit points, will be available on Canvas. Each assignment, including class participation, will have a specific rubric indicating the criteria that will be used in grading. Please make sure to read this before submitting your assignment. As per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot discuss your grades via email. You must visit me during office hours, or make an appointment to discuss grades.

Determination of Grades

- Extra credit options will be announced throughout the semester via Canvas Announcements. Extra credit points are added to your total score and have the same weight as other scores. There is no limit on how many extra credit points you can earn in this course.
- If you miss the deadline for submission for an assignment, you will lose 5 percent of the total points for that assignment per 5 hours of lateness (pro-rated). For example, if you submit the policy memo 6 hours after the deadline, you will be graded on 7 instead of 13 points. Most assignments require submission on Canvas. If you wish to request an extension on your submission, be prepared to provide a reason and documentation.

CLO	Assignment	Number	Points each	Weight	Due dates
1	In class quizzes	3	10	30	February 20, March 20, May 1
1 and 3	Midterm exam	1	10	10	April 5
1	Final exam	1	20	20	May 19
1	Map quiz	1	5	5	April 5
2	Online debates	2	7	14	TBA
2	Class participation			5	various
3	Policy memo outline	1	3	3	April 27
3	Policy memo	1	13	13	May 17

Final letter grades are based on this scale

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

Classroom Protocol

This is an upper-level course, therefore, I expect students to take responsibility for their educational experience. While attendance is not mandatory, a substantial percentage of your grade depends on your participation in class. You do not need to inform me about absences in class, unless you will be missing a graded activity and wish to re-take it. In those cases, you will need to provide a valid reason and be prepared to back it up with documents.

While in class, I expect you to have all electronic devices powered off. The use of cellphones, laptops, or tablets is not required or allowed in class. The only exception to this is in the case of student disability or dire emergency (please consult with me).

Expect to be called on, by name, in every class. Research has shown that active participation in class is more effective than passive listening for mastering the material. In addition, debating social issues in a civil manner is one of the learning outcomes for this course. To this end, please engage with the instructor and classmates in a manner that shows you are prepared to defend your viewpoint politely and reasonably; and that you are prepared to listen to others' viewpoints. Please note that since this is a class about politics, there will (hopefully) be heated discussions. During these discussions, I may pose questions or make arguments that reflect various opinions. These questions or arguments need not be based on my personal convictions. My goal is to keep my own opinions out of the picture and create a positive learning experience for all. If you are concerned about the tone or content of class discussion, please contact me outside class.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Political Science Department Writing Policy

Students of political science should develop the ability to write in clear, grammatical English. Spelling and grammar count! Students must take care that appropriate citations are used. Direct quotations must be so indicated with quotation marks. Ideas from others must also be referenced. Failure to cite your sources constitutes academic misconduct, which carries with it serious sanctions. A [tutorial](#) on citations is available at <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/writeandcite>.

Arguably the best way to improve your own writing is to read quality material on a regular basis. To that end, students are encouraged to read articles from scholarly sources and quality newspapers such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, and *The New York Times*. These publications also contain articles of direct relevance to our class. I also recommend listening to National Public Radio (KQED 88.5 FM).

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the [Writing Center](#) visit <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>.

Full citations

Abbas, H. (2005). *Pakistan's drift into extremism: Allah, the army, and America's war on terror*. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe.

Alagappa, M. (1998). International Politics in Asia--The Historical Context. In M. Alagappa (Ed.), *Asian Security Practice: Material and Ideational Influences* (pp. 65-114). Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Campbell, K. M., & Andrews, B. (2013). Explaining the U.S. 'Pivot' to Asia. Retrieved from London: <https://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/194019>

Cruz de Castro, R. (2009). The Influence of Transnational Jihadist Ideology on Islamic Extremist Groups in the Philippines: The Cases of the Abu Sayyaf Group and the Rajah Solaiman Movement. In S. Helfstein (Ed.), *Radical Islamic Ideology in Southeast Asia* (pp. 54-73). West Point, NY: Combating Terrorism Center.

- Dearn, M. (2010, May 6). The persistence of military domination in Myanmar. Retrieved from <http://www.e-ir.info/2010/05/06/the-persistence-of-military-domination-in-myanmar/>
- Dickson, B. (2017). The Survival Strategy of the Chinese Communist Party. *Washington Quarterly*, 39(4), 27-44.
- Economy, E. (2013). The Environment. In C. Ogden (Ed.), *Handbook of China's Governance and Domestic Politics* (pp. 199-209). Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge.
- Economy, E., Huxley, T., Fullilove, M., Smith, S. A., & Xu, B. (2013, December 20). What Happened to the Asia Pivot in 2013? Retrieved from <http://www.cfr.org/china/happened-asia-pivot-2013/p32108>
- Fair, C. C., & Ganguly, S. (2015). An Unworthy Ally. *Foreign Affairs*, 94(5), 160-170.
- Healey, J. (Ed.) (2013). *Australia's engagement with Asia*. Thirroul, Australia: The Spinney Press.
- Herring, R. J. (2001). Making Ethnic Conflict: The Civil War in Sri Lanka. In M. J. Esman & R. J. Herring (Eds.), *Carrots, Sticks and Ethnic Conflict: Rethinking Development Assistance* (pp. 140-174). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Hirsch, E. (2015). "It won't be any good to have democracy if we don't have a country": Climate change and the politics of synecdoche in the Maldives. *Global Environmental Change*, 35, 190-198.
- International Crisis Group. (2015). Syria Calling: Radicalisation in Central Asia (72). Retrieved from Bishkek/Brussels: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/central-asia/b072-syria-calling-radicalisation-in-central-asia.aspx>
- Kaplan, R. (2014). *Asia's cauldron: the South China Sea and the end of a stable Pacific* New York: Random House.
- Lizhi, F. (1991). Democracy, Reform and Modernization. In J. Williams (Ed.), *Bringing Down the Great Wall: Writings on Science, Culture and Democracy in China* (pp. 160-163). New York: Knopf.
- Mahbubani, K. (2008). *The new Asian hemisphere: the irresistible shift of global power to the East*. New York: PublicAffairs.
- Onishi, N., & Belson, K. (2011, April 27). Culture of Complicity Tied to Stricken Nuclear Plant. *New York Times*.
- Ostrowski, W. (2011). Rentierism, Dependence, and Sovereignty in Central Asia. In S. N. Cummings & R. Hinnebusch (Eds.), *Sovereignty after Empire: Comparing the Middle East and Central Asia* (pp. 282-303). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Pant, H. V., & Joshi, Y. (2015). Indian Foreign Policy Responds to the U.S. Pivot. *Asia Policy* (19), 89-114.
- Pei, M. (2006). *China's trapped transition: the limits of developmental autocracy*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Pye, L., & Pye, M. W. (1985). *Asian Power and Politics: The Cultural Dimensions of Authority*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Rudolph, L. (1986, February 9). The East Psychoanalyzed: Review of Asian Power and Politics by Lucian Pye. *New York Times*.
- Schuman, M. (2009). *The miracle: the epic story of Asia's quest for wealth* (1st ed.). [New York]: Harper Business.
- Sen, A. (2013, June 19). Why India Trails China. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/20/opinion/why-india-trails-china.html>

Shorrocks, T. (2011, April 18). Naoto Kan and the End of 'Japan Inc.'. *The Nation*.

Varshney, A. (2001). Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond. *World Politics*, 53(3), 362-398.

Whalen, C. (2015, May 5). India vs. China: A 21st Century Economic Battle Royal. *National Interest*. Retrieved from <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/india-vs-china-21st-century-economic-battle-royal-12805>

Wilkinson, S. I. (2013). Electoral Competition, the State and Ethnic Violence. *India Review*, 12(2), 92-107.

Williamson, J. (2012). Is the "Beijing Consensus" Now Dominant? *Asia Policy* (13), 1-16.

Xiaoping, D. (1999). Emancipating the Mind. In Pei-Kai Cheng, Michael Lestz, & Jonathan Spence (Eds.), *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection* (pp. 448-451). London: W.W. Norton.

Yusuf, S. (2001). The East Asian Miracle at the Millennium. In J. E. Stiglitz & S. Yusuf (Eds.), *Rethinking the East Asian Miracle* (pp. 1-53). Washington DC: The World Bank.

ASIA/POLS 145 / Asian Politics Spring 2017 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice (Canvas announcements and emails to addresses listed in my.sjsu.edu)

Date	Topics	Readings	Countries	Assignment/Events	Key concepts
Jan 30	Introduction				
Feb 1	Values and politics	Pye 41-54; review by Rudolph of Pye			Political consequences of religions, cultural relativism
Feb 6	Values and politics	Mahbubani 127-150; Pei 81-95	China		Developmental autocracy
Feb 8	Values and politics	Dearn; Horsey	Myanmar		Developmental autocracy
Feb 13	Values and politics	Ostrowski; ICG report	Central Asian countries		Rentierism, authoritarianism
Feb 15	Values and politics	Dickson	China		Co-optation, rentierism
Feb 20		Documentary: <i>They Call it Myanmar</i>		Quiz 1	
Feb 22	Religious conflict	Varshney 362-98; Wilkinson review of Varshney 92-107	India		Intra- and inter-ethnic ties; civil society
Feb 27	Religious conflict	Abbas	Pakistan		Taliban; jihad
Mar 1	Economic models	Schuman	South Korea		Asian model—features and successes
Mar 6	Economic models	Xiaoping 448-51; Lizhi 160-63	China	Guest lecture by Prof. Hou (History Dept.)	
Mar 8	Economic models	Yusuf 5-10 and 15-34; Williamson 1-16			Problems of Asian model

Date	Topics	Readings	Countries	Assignment/Events	Key concepts
Mar 13	Economic models	Bardhan Ch. 6; Whalen; Sen	India versus China		Democracy hurts development?
Mar 15	Economic models	Herring 140-74	Sri Lanka		Development has political effects
Mar 20		Documentary: <i>India versus China</i>		Quiz 2	
Mar 22	Sustainability	Economy	China		Ecological refugees; growth and environment
Apr 3	Sustainability	Shorrocks; Onishi and Belson	Japan		Collusion; revolving door
Apr 5				Midterm exam	
Apr 10	US Policy	Alagappa 65-114			Roots of American involvement
Apr 13	US Policy	Campbell and Andrews; Forum	[This is likely to be replaced with Trump Admn policy analysis]		Obama's 'pivot to Asia'
Apr 17	US Policy	Pant and Joshi 89-114	India and Pakistan		Choosing alliances/interests
Apr 19	US Policy	Fair and Ganguly 160-70	Pakistan		Choosing alliances/interests
Apr 24	Islands	Healey	Australia		Choosing alliances/identities
Apr 26	Islands	Hirsch 190-98	Maldives		Climate change has political effects
May 1		Documentary: <i>The Island President</i>		Quiz 3	
May 3	Islands	Kaplan 5-21 and 41-50	South China Sea		Rising China; US role as global sheriff
May 8	Islands	Cruz de Castro	Philippines		Islamist terrorism in Asia
May 10	Student choice				
May 15	Reserve day/Review for final exam				
May 19	9:45 am			Final exam in class	