

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/ Department of Political Science
ASIA/POLS 145, Asian Politics, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
Office Location:	Clark Hall 451
Telephone:	(408) 924-1361
Email:	karthika.sasikumar@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	12.15 to 1.15 PM on Monday and Wednesday
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday, 10.30 to 11.45 AM
Classroom:	DMH 149A

Course Format

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. are available on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking messages on Canvas to learn of any updates.

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 and disciplinary methods**
Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- **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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Formulate and defend a position in oral and written argumentation
2. Write about Asian politics, demonstrating rhetorical awareness for a professional audience
3. Present their claims to an audience, using appropriate visual and verbal resources
4. Demonstrate awareness of basic facts and concepts about Asian politics
5. Demonstrate comprehension of course concepts, by relating them in written work to popular culture and current events

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no textbook for the course. All readings and other required resources, such as videos, will be available on Canvas under Modules. If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest. Full citations for the articles and videos are provided in a separate document on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
1	Participation in class	7	various
5	Current events report & discussion	30 (5 times 6 points)	Sep 11, Sep 25 Oct 16, Oct 30 Nov 6
4	Midterm	15	Oct 9
2	Professional writing assignment outline	4	Oct 23
2	Professional writing assignment draft	6	Nov 13
5	Fiction report	5	Nov 25
3	Oral presentation	8	Dec 2/4/9
2	Professional writing assignment final submission	10	Dec 14
4	Final exam	15	Dec 12

Please note: the course is based on 100 points. Percentages do not count. The grades are not curved.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

A rubric for class participation is available on Canvas (see Assignment: Class Participation)

You are encouraged to follow media reports about Asian politics. Five times during the semester, you are asked to post a news report and link it to the course concepts. You are also required to comment on a news report posted by a classmate.

The professional writing assignment will require you to write either a memo to a politician, an article for an online foreign affairs publication, or a backgrounder for an online database. You will receive feedback from me on your drafts, and present your work to the class in an oral presentation.

The midterm will be an in-class, closed book exam for 75 minutes. It will consist of 40 multiple choice questions, and one essay of approximately 500 words. The final exam will be an in-class, closed book exam for 75 minutes. It will consist of 20 short answer questions, and one essay of approximately 500 words. For both exams, a list of potential essay questions will be given out and discussed in class a week prior to the exam.

Grading Information

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.

- Grades will be determined as per the table below.
- Extra credit opportunities will be announced on Canvas. Extra credit points have the same weight as regular points.
- I do accept late work, however, the student will document the emergency to the best of his/her ability, and I reserve the right to deduct 10 percent of the total score for the assignment per six hours of lateness.

Grade	Points
A plus	Over 100
A	95 to 100
A minus	90 to 94
B plus	85 to 89
B	80 to 84
B minus	75 to 79
C plus	70 to 74
C	65 to 69
C minus	60 to 64
D plus	55 to 59
F	Less than 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

List of readings

Albert, Eleanor. 2018, "South Korea's Chaebol Challenge": Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved July 26, 2018 (<https://www.cfr.org/background/south-koreas-chaebol-challenge>).

Allinson, Gary D. 2004. *Japan's Postwar History*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Anukriti, S. and Shatanjaya Dasgupta. 2017. "Marriage Markets in Developing Countries." Vol. Bonn, Germany: IZA Institute of Labor Economics.

Bajaj, Shelly Ghai. 2017. "The Use of Twitter During the 2014 Indian General Elections: Framing, Agenda-Setting, and the Personalization of Politics." *Asian Survey* 57(2):249-70.

Barfield, Thomas. 2016. "Afghanistan's Arduous Search for Stability." *Current History* (April):136-43.

Beech, Hannah. 2017. "What Happened to Myanmar's Human Rights Icon?" *New Yorker*, October 2.

Cherry, Haydon. 2017. "The State in Vietnam." *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 11(3-4):1-15.

Chung, Woojin and Monica Das Gupta. 2007. "Why Is Son Preference Declining in South Korea? The Role of Development and Public Policy, and the Implications for China and India." Vol.: World Bank Development Research Group.

Dearn, Mark. 2010, "The Persistence of Military Domination in Myanmar". Retrieved July 30, 2018 (<https://www.e-ir.info/2010/05/06/the-persistence-of-military-domination-in-myanmar/>).

Economy, Elizabeth. 2018. *The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Huang, Yasheng. 2008. *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics: Entrepreneurship and the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hudson, Valerie M. 2014, "Violent Straw Men? Sex Ratios, Conflict, and a Methodological Disconnect". Retrieved July 31, 2019.

Kale, Sunila. 2019. "Business and State in Odisha's Extractive Economy." in *Business and Politics in India*, edited by C. Jaffrelot, A. Kohli and K. Murali. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kim, Hyuk-Rae and Ingyu Oh. 2011. "Migration and Multicultural Contention in East Asia ". *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 37(10):1563-81.

Low, Donald. 2014. "Adapting to Our Population Challenges." Pp. 97-103 in *Hard Choices: Challenging the Singapore Consensus*, edited by D. Low. Singapore: National University of Singapore.

Macdonald, Myra. 2017. *Defeat Is an Orphan: How Pakistan Lost the Great South Asian War*. Delhi: Penguin Random House.

Minzner, Carl. 2018. *End of an Era: How China's Authoritarian Revival Is Undermining Its Rise*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Morck, Randall and Masao Nakamura. 2007. "Business Groups and the Big Push: Meiji Japan's Mass Privatization and Subsequent Growth." Vol.: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Mukhopadhyay, Dipali and Frances Z. Brown. 2014, "Lessons from Afghanistan: Warlord Politics Aren't Always Bad for Democracy": The Washington Post. Retrieved July 31, 2019 (https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/05/13/lessons-from-afghanistan-warlord-politics-arent-always-bad-for-democracy/?utm_term=.a1b615f027ef).

Pei, Minxin. 2006. *China's Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Schuman, Michael. 2009. *The Miracle: The Epic Story of Asia's Quest for Wealth*. [New York]: Harper Business.

Siddiqi-Agha, Ayesha. 2017. *Military Inc: Inside Pakistan's Military Economy*. London: Pluto.

Song, Jiyoung. 2013. ""Smuggled Refugees": The Social Construction of North Korean Migration." *International Migration* 51(4):158-73.

Tudor, Daniel and James Pearson. 2015. *North Korea Confidential: Private Markets, Fashion Trends, Prison Camps, Dissenters and Defectors*. Clarendon, Vermont: Tuttle Publishing.

Wade, Francis. 2013, "Ceasefire Capitalism": Foreign Policy. Retrieved July 30, 2018 (https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/11/29/ceasefire-capitalism/).

Westervelt, Amy. 2018. "Japan's Vegetable-Eating Men." *Topic* 2018(12). (https://www.topic.com/japan-s-vegetable-eating-men).

White, Tyrene. 2006. *China's Longest Campaign: Birth Planning in the People's Republic 1949-2005*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.

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The schedule is subject to change with fair notice on Canvas Announcements

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Aug 21	Introduction	
Aug 26	China— political	1. Pei 81-95 2. Economy 23-53
Aug 28	No class	Instructor's professional travel Opportunity to earn extra credit with museum visits (info on Canvas)
Sep 2	No class	Labor Day
Sep 4	China—economics	Huang 234-44 and 279-82
Sep 9	China—population	1. White 1-15 2. Hudson
Sep 11	Japan—political	1. Morck and Nakamura , 543-50, 554-56, 588-93 2. Allinson 80-104
Sep 16	Japan—population	Westervelt
Sep 18	No class	Instructor's professional travel Opportunity to earn extra credit with museum visits (info on Canvas)
Sep 23	South Korea— economics	Albert
Sep 25	South Korea—political	Schuman Ch.2
Sep 30	South Korea-- population	Chung and Das Gupta
Oct 2	North Korea	1. Tudor & Pearson 85-95 2. Song
Oct 7	Comparisons	Minzner Ch. 5

Date	Topic	Readings
Oct 9	MIDTERM	
Oct 14	Singapore	1. Hill & Lian , Chapter 1 2. Low et. al
Oct 16	India—economics	Kale
Oct 21	India—political	Bajaj
Oct 23	India—population	Anukriti and Dasgupta 1-18
Oct 28	Pakistan—political	Macdonald 233-47
Oct 30	Pakistan—economics	Siddiq Ch. 10
Nov 4	Afghanistan	Barfield
Nov 6	Afghanistan	Mukhopadhyay & Brown
Nov 11	No class	Veterans' Day
Nov 13	Burma/Myanmar—political	1. Dearn 2. Beech
Nov 18	Burma/Myanmar—economy	Wade
Nov 20	Vietnam	Cherry
Nov 25	Vietnam	Kim and Oh
Nov 27	No class	Thanksgiving
Dec 2	Student presentations	
Dec 4	Student presentations	
Dec 9	Student presentations	
Dec 12	In class, closed book exam 9.45 to 11 AM	