

San José State University
Political Science Department
ASIA/POLS 145, Asian Politics, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Karthika Sasikumar |
| Office Location: | Clark 451 |
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| Office Hours: | Tue 12.30-1.30 PST (on Zoom or in person), or by appointment |
| Class Days/Time: | Tuesday and Thursday 10.30-11.45 AM |
| Classroom: | DMH 149A |

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 Format

This course will be delivered primarily in person, but will be online until February 15, 2022 as announced by the university administration. You will need access to a computer with a sound card to hear audio and video recordings, an Internet connection, and word processing software. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website at https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1473591](https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1473591). Please enable Notifications in your Canvas settings (click on Account to access these menu options).

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 will be available on Canvas under Modules. If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest. The full citations for the readings are provided in a document on Canvas. You will be required to view a few videos. Some of these will be available for free online. If you choose to buy/rent these, the cost should not exceed \$4. If viewing or paying for the videos poses a problem, please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Requirements and Assignments

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. I am available via email to answer your questions, or provide guidance. Aside from the scheduled office hours, I can schedule consultations via email, phone, or video chat.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Close to a third of your grade derives from the quizzes. These are to be taken AFTER you have read the assigned articles AND my presentation for the topic. 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.

The main assignment for this course is the final paper. You will submit a draft of the paper so that I can give you feedback, and this will be a graded assignment. You will also present the paper to your classmates to receive their feedback. This presentation will help you develop your oral communication skills.

For each module, I have listed feature films and/or documentaries. These videos are not required, however, you will review at least one of the videos for the movie report. Similarly, you are required to follow media reports about Asia and comment on them in the media report.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

- Grades will be determined as per the table below, simply add up the points you have (percentages do not matter and the grades are not curved).
- I will accept late work EXCEPT for quizzes or the final exam. Any other assignment submitted late, if you did not get an extension from me, will lose 10 percent of the grade 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 |

| CLO | Assignment | Points | Due dates |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Quizzes | 13 times 2 = 26 | Various on Canvas (see schedule) |
| | Midterm | 15 | March 17 |
| | Movie report | 10 | April 28 |
| | Media report | 10 | March 24 |
| | Term paper draft | 4 | April 5 |
| | Term paper presentation | 8 | May 5-12 |
| | Term paper | 12 | May 16 |
| | Final | 15 | May 19 |

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed here: [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

ASIA/POLS 145 / Asian Politics, Spring 2022, Course Schedule

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

| Date | Topics | Readings | Videos | Assignments |
|--------|----------|---|---|-------------|
| Jan 27 | Intro | | | |
| Feb 1 | Japan | Dower 19-30 and 244-53 | <i>Macarthur</i> (1977) | Quiz 1 |
| Feb 3 | Japan | Aldrich 119-38, 145-50 | <i>Fukushima 50</i> (2020) | |
| Feb 8 | Japan | TBA | | |
| Feb 10 | China | Ang 5-14, 141-42, 148-63 | How China Got Rich (2019) | |
| Feb 15 | China | Economy 23-51 | | |
| Feb 17 | China | Lynch 204-07, 217-21, 226-33 | | |
| Feb 22 | COVID | Sornbanlang | | |
| Feb 24 | S. Korea | Schuman, Chapter 2 | <i>Parasite</i> (2019) | |
| Mar 1 | S. Korea | Bhutto 162-80 | Superfans (2018) | |
| Mar 3 | DPRK | Lankov 3-10, 111-19 | | |
| Mar 8 | DPRK | Greitens, Ch. 6 | | |
| Mar 10 | Myanmar | TBA | | |
| Mar 15 | Myanmar | <u>TBA</u> | | |
| Mar 17 | Midterm | | | |
| Mar 22 | India | Tharoor TBA | Lagaan (2001) | |
| Mar 24 | India | Khosla and Vaishnav | | |
| Apr 5 | India | Wilkerson TBA | | |
| Apr 7 | India | Bhutto 16-28, 91-107 | | |

| Date | Topics | Readings | Videos | Assignments |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Apr 12 | Pakistan | Jalal 29-40, 43-51, 63-65 | <i>Earth</i> (1998) | |
| Apr 14 | Pakistan | Macdonald, Ch. 12 | | |
| Apr 19 | Afghanistan | Barfield TBA | <i>Charlie Wilson's War</i> (2007) | |
| Apr 21 | Afghanistan | Chayes TBA | | |
| Apr 26 | Afghanistan | Mukhopadhyay | | |
| Apr 28 | Afghanistan | TBA | | |
| May 3 | Australia | Moran 2153-2172 | <i>Gallipoli</i> (1981) | |