**State and Society in the Asia Pacific**

Meeting Time: M and W 9:00 – 9:50 AM

Place: Room LL2203

Instructor: Dr. Todd Myers

Telephone Number: 644-7848

Office: AL 465

E-mail Address: [todd.myers@gcccd.edu](mailto:todd.myers@gcccd.edu); [myerst@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:myerst@mail.sdsu.edu)

Office Hours: After class as needed.

**Texts:**

Sue Ellen M. Charlton *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*, third edition, Westview Press.

Robert Dayley and Clark D. Neher *Southeast Asia in the New International Era*, 5th edition, Westview Press.

**Introduction:**

Democracy is good. I say this because other systems are worse.

Jawaharlal Nehru

I hate imperialism. I detest colonialism. And I fear the consequences of their last bitter struggle for life. We are determined, that are nation, and the whole world as a whole, shall not be the plaything of one small corner of the world.

Sukarno

The pains felt by Asian countries are our own pains. Disaster in Asia is nothing but ours as well.

Junichiro Koizumi

We have constantly perfected the socialist system, while exploring and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Hu Jintao

Over the next several weeks we are going to investigate the economies, societies, and politics of the Asia Pacific region. Having a basic familiarity with this region is essential to being an educated person in the twenty-first century. The region is presently an important engine of economic growth. Japan and China are important trading partners and financiers of the United States and their needs for energy is an important factor in guiding and constraining American foreign policy in the Middle East. The ascent of China with its promises and threats has strengthened America’s concern with maintaining and developing stronger relations in the region including recent overtures to India as well as various ASEAN countries and South Korea. Besides geopolitical concerns, the region and its rapid economic development will be important factors in negotiating our planet’s environmental health, human rights regimes and models of acceptable governance, and national, social, and economic policies. On a more practical note, if after taking this survey course you decide to deepen your knowledge about the region or a particular country, many opportunities in both the private and public sectors will open up.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After completing this course, students will be able to:

* Discuss, identify, and analyze the contribution of local and foreign cultural elements within a state and understand how those elements have or may influence policy choices.
* Limit and manage cultural bias to enhance understanding of the politics of the region.
* Analyze and discuss various approaches to economic development in the region.
* Analyze and discuss the various stages of democracy to authoritarianism present in the region and appraise the impacts on meaningful outcomes of these institutional choices.
* Analyze and discuss the role of international relations on domestic politics as well as domestic influences on international relations in the region.

**Week 1 – August 27 – August 31**

M 27 Course Introduction

W 29 Chapter 1 Introduction: Themes in Asian Politics

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 2 – September 3 – September 7**

M 3 **Labor Day**

W 5 Chapter 2 India

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 3 – September 10 – September 14**

M 10 Chapter 3 China

W 121 Chapter 4 Japan

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 4 – September 17 – September 21**

M 17 Chapter 5 Indian National Identity: Secular or Hindu?

W 19Chapter 6 Recreating the Chinese Nation-State

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 5 – September 24 – September 28**

M 24 Chapter 7 Japan: Tension in Tradition

W 26 **Test 1**

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 6 – October 1 – October 5**

M 1 Chapter 8 Constitutions

W 3 Chapter 9 The Parliamentary System in India and Japan

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 7 – October 8 – October 12**

M 8 Chapter 10 China: The Party-State System

W 10 Chapter 11 Levels of Government and Regionalism

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 8 – October 15 – October 19**

M 15 Chapter 12 Elusive Democracy: The Decay of One-Party Rule

W 17 Chapter 13 Development, Democratization, and Governance in Asia

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 9 – October 22 – October 26**

M 22 Chapter 14 Asian Politics and Globalization

W 24 **Test 2**

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 10 – October 29 – November 2**

M 29 Chapter 1 Introduction

W 31 Chapter 2 Thailand

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 11 – November 5 – November 9**

M 5 Chapter 3 Philippines

W 7 Chapter 4 Indonesia

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 12 – November 12 – November 16**

M 12 **Veterans Day**

W 14 Chapter 5 Malaysia

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 13 – November 19 – November 23**

M 19 Chapter 6 Singapore

W 21 **Test 3**

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 14 – November 26 – November 30**

M 26 Chapter 7 Brunei

W 28 Chapter 8 Burma

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 15 – December 3 – December 7**

M 3 Chapter 9 Vietnam

W 5 Chapter 10 Cambodia

Blackboard Current Event Assignment

**Week 16 – December 10 – December 14**

M 10 **Final Exam and Papers Dues**

W 13

**Assessments and Grading Policies**

10% Participation, Attendance, and Pop Quizzes

You will be expected to attend class, participate in discussions and activities, keep up on current events in Asia and share your insights with your classmates during the first part of each class if the opportunity is offered. I may administer pop quizzes on the readings for the day. Attendance will count as half of the above grade and the other activities will count as the other half.

10% Current Event Assignments and Quizzes

Every Friday you will have a current event article or you tube video to read or watch. You may have quizzes for these articles or videos or they may be included as questions in your in class tests.

60% Tests

You will have four tests during the semester. The tests can be based on short answer questions, true/false answer questions, multiple-choice questions, short essays, or any combination of the above. Come to class on a regular basis to receive hints about the contents of the tests. The best study guide for the tests will be a combination of reading your book and paying attention during my lectures or presentations made by your classmates.

20% Final Paper and Exam

Your final exam is an 8-10 page research paper investigating some aspect of economic, social, or political relations in a given state. Past papers have focused on the development of creative industries in Singapore, China’s investments in Africa, Ethnic relations and affirmative action in Malaysia, the role of the Yakuza in the rule of the Liberal Democratic Party in Japan, etc. This is an opportunity to read up on something that is intrinsically interesting to you and to create a writing sample to demonstrate your capabilities in written communications.

I will evaluate you using the following criteria:

1. Is your writing clear, concise, comprehensive, engaging, and grammatically correct?
2. Does your research rely on a sufficient depth and breadth of quality resources?
3. Is your thesis falsifiable and do you muster sufficient evidence and logic to justify your conclusions?

You will also be asked a series of questions about your paper as part of the final exam to help me evaluate the quality of your work.

Plagiarism will result in no credit for the plagiarized assignment.   
  
The following table contains the grading scale on which you will be evaluated:   
  
Grading Scale:

A =  +90, B = +80, C = +65, D = 60, F = Below 60  
  
Grade consequences for less than completed performance of course requirements:   
  
1. Written assignments will be lowered a letter grade if turned in late.   
2. In-class presentations, tests, and individual presentations cannot be made up if missed.   
  
The instructor reserves the right to use his discretion in individual circumstances that may not be covered by this syllabus or if the application of the rules of the syllabus would result in a miscarriage of justice. . If you have any problems with the class or the instructor please come to talk to me about these issues during office hours so that we can work the issues out.  I am a reasonable person and will try to address your concerns in a manner that will be mutually satisfactory.

**About the Instructor**

My professional background includes a stint in West Africa as an agricultural teacher trainer, work as a sales rep for Prentice Hall Publishing, internships in a variety of agencies for the State of Louisiana, curriculum development and teaching for the Institute of Reading Development, and educational and national security consulting for a variety of federal government agencies.  I have been teaching at Grossmont for the past six years and joined the faculty as a full time member in the Fall of 2005.

I have been a student for most of my life and have a Bachelor's of Arts from Eureka College in Illinois, a Master in Public Administration from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in political science from that same university.  I have studied in Germany where I was awarded a Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst Stipendiat (The German government's version of the Fulbright Grant) to study political science, economics, and philosophy. I also have studied in Brazil as a Ronald W. Reagan Fellow. Most recently, I have received awards from the NEH to study Chinese culture and Southeast Asia, the Freeman Foundation to study Japanese culture, and the Lehrman Institute and the James Madison Institute at Princeton University to study American statesmanship. I am deeply interested in the relationship between politics and the stories peoples tell about themselves. I have been published in the *International Encyclopedia of Political Science*, the *Encyclopedia of Cultural Sociology*, the *Encyclopedia of U.S. Latin American Relations*, and *Education About Asia*. My present research projects include developing a student-centered think tank focusing on political, cultural, and economic reforms in Asia, writing about American foreign policy and wars in Asia, and writing about the use of film and literature as a medium expressing social critique and order.