Course Description

This course surveys the governments and politics of Asia, which is home to nearly two-thirds of the world’s population and economically responsible for a third of the world’s GDP. Although grouped together into a single continent, Asia is diverse in its membership with varying electoral systems, governing institutions, and cultures. Throughout the course, we will apply a comparative approach and international relation theories, and explore how historical and contemporary forces are shaping their politics and their resulting Governments in these countries. The course materials will be covered through a combination of lectures, discussions, and group work. At the end of the course, students should have acquired an in-depth understanding of the factors shaping the political trajectories of these countries.

Course Requirements

- **Participation (10%)**: This is a seminar course. Students are expected to participate in class as it demonstrates students’ independent thoughts on the subject matter. Students must come to class prepared and be ready to discuss issues raised in the reading and lectures. I will give you credits based on your questions and discussions in class.

- **Pop-quiz (15%)**: There will be 3-5 unannounced closed-book quizzes at various intervals throughout this semester. Questions will be based on the readings for the day the quiz will be held. Each quiz will consist of 2 or 3 multiple questions and 2 or 3 short answers. There is no make-up quiz under any circumstances.

- **Midterm exams (30% - 15% each)**: There will be 2 closed-book midterm exams. Each exam will consist of approximately 10 short answers and a short essay. Students will not be able to reschedule the exam unless there are documented circumstances. Rescheduled exam will be harder than the original one.

- **Presentation (20%)**: This is a group work. Students will choose one of four conflicts between two Asian countries (such as a conflict between India-Pakistan), which will be distributed in the first class. Based on students’ preferences, I will assign each student to groups. In each group, there will be two different countries having conflicts. Students in
the group will also be assigned to one of the countries. Students will consider themselves as a representative of the assigned country and prepare a 20-minute presentation to present the conflict and to propose/find a resolution. After the presentations, each group will raise questions to the other group and debate the resolution. I will give extra credits to a group having more reasonable resolution.

- **Final paper (25%)**: This is an individual work. After above debates, each student should individually submit a final paper. The final paper will mainly discuss your opinion regarding the issue you've discussed. I will give a guideline for the paper. The final paper is due at the end of the semester (13rd Dec.) and should be no more than 1500 words.

**Grading Scales**

Grades will be calculated on a non-curved A-F scale.

A (95-100) A- (90-94)
B+ (87-89) B (83-86) B- (80-82)
C+ (77-79) C (73-76) C- (70-72)
D (60-69) F (less than 59)

**Class Policies**

- Readings: All required readings should be completed before class. If you have any problem to access required readings, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.
- Absence: I will not take attendance, but absence will affect your pop-quizzes and participation credits.
- Late Work Policy: Late work will never be accepted unless there is an extraordinary circumstance. Except in such cases, a penalty of a full letter grade may be assessed for each day the assignment is late.
- Electronic Devices: I strongly encourage students to keep cellphones, tablets, and laptops, out of sight for the duration of the class.

**Required Textbook**


**Recommended books**

Katzenstein, Peter J. 2005. *A World of Regions*. Cornell University Press. (Accessible at online through GMU Library)

Students with disabilities or special needs

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Academic integrity

Faculty in the Schar School have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty and will strictly enforce Mason’s honor code.

Course Schedule

Aug. 28 Introduction

Aug. 30 Asia’s political system
Chapter 2 The Evolving Asian System

Sep. 04 Labor Day (No class)

I. East Asia

Sep. 06 China
Chapter 6 China’s Role in Asia

Sep. 11 Japan
Chapter 8. Japan in Asia

Sep. 13 South Korea
Chapter 12. The Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian Stability

Sep. 18 North Korea

Sep. 20 The East Asian Model of Economic Development

Sep. 25 Security Issues
Chapter 15. Security Dynamics in East Asia

Sep. 27 Mid-term I

II. South Asia

Oct. 02 India
Chapter 7. The Rise of India in Asia

Oct. 04 Authoritarianism and Democracy in the Post-colonial States

Oct. 10 (Columbus day recess) Religious and Ethnic Conflicts

Oct. 11 Book Festival
*TBA*

Oct. 16 Stability in South Asia

III. Southeast Asia

Oct. 18 Indonesia, Philipine and Vietnam

Oct. 23 Thailand and Malaysia

Oct. 25 Authoritarian/Democratic Equilibrium
Oct. 30 Regional Multilateralism
Chapter 9. ASEAN and the New Regional Multilateralism

Nov. 01 Mid term II

IV. The United States in Asia

Nov. 06 The United States and Asia I
Chapter 4. The US in Asia

Nov. 08 The United States and Asia II

Nov. 13 Asian Views of US-Asia Relations

Nov. 15 Strategies in Asia

V. Conflicts in Asia – Students’ Debates

Nov. 20 India vs. Pakistan

Nov. 22 Thanksgiving (No Class)

Nov. 27 China vs. Taiwan
Nov. 29 Korea vs. Japan

Dec. 04 Spratly Islands Dispute: China vs. Philippines

Dec. 06 Wrap-up
Chapter 14. Globalization and International Politics in Asia
Chapter 16. Looking Ahead: A New Asian Order?

Dec. 11 Reading Day

Dec. 13 Exam period - Final Paper Due