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 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 Prerequisites:
There are no prerequisites.

Course Procedures:
Class discussions from student presentations on the readings will take center stage in this course. The presentations should cover 1) background information such as geographic, demographic, and economic information, 2) current leadership and electoral process, 3) political parties and their differences (if it is a single party state then this section should describe how political change is or was achieved), 4) public administration bodies, and 5) how culture and markets impact the political system. The presenters should be able to draw how the readings relate to these topics. The presenters also should then be able to answer questions on recent key events prepared by the other members of the class.

Attendance: Attendance is invaluable for this course due to the breadth and depth of the materials covered throughout the course. That is, attend class will actually save you time and effort in absorbing the class materials, as readings will be summarized in class and any ambiguity on the readings will be addressed during class. Also, on alternative class days, the minimum requirement for you is to attend with an inquisitive mind. Attendance with unpreparedness will reflect better on your final grade than no attendance at all. In the rare occurrence where absence is inevitable due to personal emergencies, I do expect you to be courteous and send me at least a brief notice of your absence.
Participation: Everyone is expected to verbally participate in class, as it demonstrates your independent thoughts on the subject matter. That is, your classmates and I will not know your inquisitive thoughts on the course materials, unless you express them. Furthermore, these discussions may lead us to cover materials that will are not covered by the readings. Depending on the importance of these evolving discussions, they may be included in your final exam. You will be expected to be alert to the in-class comments shared by your peers. Participation accounts for 30% of your grade.

Course Textbooks: 4 textbooks are required for this course. They are as follows:


In addition to the assigned readings in the textbook, you are required to read and bring to class a recent news article from the country’s English newspaper for discussion. The links to the English newspapers are provided in the syllabus.

Honor Code: Cheating during the final exam will earn you a failing grade. Please be aware of the Honor Code and abide by them.

Special Needs: If you have special needs, you should mention this at the beginning of the course. I believe in enabling ALL students to achieve their fullest potential. Thus, I will actively work with both you and necessary services within the university so that you are enabled to do so.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>A (94-100)</th>
<th>A- (90-93)</th>
<th>B+ (87-89)</th>
<th>B (84-86)</th>
<th>B- (80-83)</th>
<th>C+ (77-79)</th>
<th>C (74-76)</th>
<th>C- (70-73)</th>
<th>D (60-69)</th>
<th>F (less than 59)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Breakdown
Presentations (5 presentation of 10% each) 50%
Participation and Discussions 30%
Final Exam 20%
Total 100%
**Office Hours:**
I am available during class breaks and at the end of each class. If you have a question or concern outside of those times, please send me an email. I will address them within 24-hours. If you have a concern that you feel requires an extended discussion, we can schedule an office meeting during a mutually convenient time.

**Lectures, Assignments, and Exams:**

June 6  
Orientation and course introduction. Determining presentation groups A and B.  
*Assignment due: No reading required*

June 8  
*Assignment due: Hayes Ch.1, Ch. 4, Ch. 5, Ch. 6, and English newspapers*  
([Shanghai Daily](https://www.shanghaidaily.com/), [South China Morning Post](https://www.scmp.com/), [China Post](https://www.chinapost.com.hk/))

June 13  
**Presentation by Group A**  
Korea: Historical influence of China. Korea and annexation by Japan during the era of Imperialism. Divergent development trajectories of North and South Korea after the Korean War.  
*Assignment due: Hayes Ch. 7, Ch. 8, Ch. 11, Ch. 12 and English newspapers*  
([The Korea Herald](https://www.koreaherald.com/) and [The Korea Times](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/))

June 15  
**Presentation by Group B**  
Japan: Japan before the Imperialist era. Japan’s post-war economic growth and contemporary Japan.  
*Assignment due: Hayes Ch. 13, Ch. 14, Ch. 16, Ch. 17, Ch. 18 and English newspapers*  
([The Japan Times](https://www.japantimes.co.jp/), [The Asahi Shimbun](https://www.asahi.com/), [The Mainichi](https://www.mainichi.jp/), and [Japan Today](https://www.japantoday.com/))

June 20  
**Presentation by Group A**  
Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia  
Assignment due: Kingsbury Ch. 3, Ch. 4, Ch. 5 and English newspapers  
([Viet Nam News](https://www.vietnamnet.vn/), [Vientiane Times](https://vientiane-times.com/), and [Cambodia Daily](https://www.cambodiadaily.com/))

June 22  
**Presentation by Group B**  
Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei  
Assignment due: Kingsbury Ch. 6, Ch. 7, Ch. 8 and English newspapers  
([New Strait Times](https://www.straitstimes.com/), [The Star](https://www.thestar.com/), [The Strait Times](https://www.straitstimes.com/), and [Borneo Bulletin](https://www.borneobulletin.com/))

June 27  
**Presentation by Group A**  
Thailand and Myanmar  
Assignment due: Kingsbury Ch. 10, Ch. 9 and English newspapers  
([Bangkok Post](https://www.bangkokpost.com/), [The Nation](https://www.nationthailand.com/), and [Myanmar Times](https://www.myanmartimes.com/))
June 29  Presentation by Group B  
Philippines and Indonesia  
Assignment due: Kingsbury Ch. 11, Ch. 12 and English newspapers (The Manila Times, The Philippine Star, The Jakarta Post, and Jakarta Globe)

July 4  * NO CLASS – Independence Day

July 6  Presentation by Group A  
India  
Brass Ch. 4, Ch. 5, Ch. 10, Ch. 18 And English newspapers (The Times of India, The Hindu, The Tribune, and Hindustan Times)

July 11  Presentation by Group B  
Pakistan and Bangladesh  
Brass Ch. 6, Ch. 7, Ch. 19 and English newspapers (Dawn and The Daily Star – for The Daily Star use the e-Paper function at the top of the webpage)

July 13  Presentation by Group A  
Sri Lanka and Nepal  
Brass Ch. 8, Ch. 9, Ch. 20 And English newspapers (Daily News, Daily Mirror, The Island, The Kathmandu Post, and The Himalayan Times)

July 18  Presentation by Group B  
Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan  
Assignment due: McGlinchey Ch. 3 and Ch.4 and English newspapers (Kabar, The Times of Central Asia, Uzbekistan Today, and Uzbekistan National News Agency)

July 20  Kazakhstan and Mongolia  
Assignment due: McGlinchey Ch. 5, handouts on Mongolia, and English newspapers (The Astana Times and The UB Post)

July 25  * LAST DAY OF CLASS – Final Exam

This syllabus is updated as of May 8th, 2017. The syllabus may be updated for further clarity, as I respond to questions on it. Any updated versions resulting from that process will be circulated on the first day of class.