

Political Systems of East Asia

Political Science 407B-001 Fall 2006 Friday 11:30 - 2:20

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1, Course Objectives

The goal of this course is for the students to understand how and why politics and government in East Asia differ. The students are expected to acquire the tools to analyze, understand, criticize, and challenge the political events and phenomena in East Asia through the course. To achieve this goal, we must learn first the fundamental and common characteristics of East Asia, in comparison to the West. Then we will examine the political culture, and the institutions and functions of governments, as well as history of the East Asian countries.

The study here should not be static: Through this course, students are expected to understand and analyze the future of democracy in this region: Is democracy established in non-Western countries where the basic way of thinking is so different from the West? How have, if any, some East Asian countries adjust democracy to their own soil? How do traditional cultures and institutions react to the introduction of the Western cultures and institutions? To answer these questions, we will inquire why a government function as such, how it has been and will be affected by the interaction with other states. We will also examine and discuss the relevant topics in politics, economy and society in the world to deepen our understanding and to train critical thinking, decision making, problem solving, and developing new interest and ideas. .

2, Structure and sequences of class activities

The class consists of the following matters: lectures, discussions, midterm exam, final exam, country report by group.

Lectures: will be based on the textbook, but not limited to it. The topic of each class is on the following. pages. Students are expected to read the relevant chapters in advance.

Discussions: I believe that Socratic dialogue (Q & A) as the best way to develop and understand the issue in question. So I will throw some questions or problems which will enable the student understand better not only East Asia better, but also our, American, system. Students are expected to participate

actively, and not to leave any questions and issues unsolved.

Midterm: is due on Oct. 27 at the class hour. It is closed-book sit-down exam on the issue covered earlier. Essay style. It will not take more than one hour.

Final exam : is due Dec. 15, 11:30 am . It is also closed-book, sit-down exam on the issue covered throughout the course. Essay style. It will be one-hour exam.

Country Report : Students will be divided into groups each of which will be assigned one East Asian country to study. The groups must have a presentation of their research. the research must include : political culture, institutions, functions, economic system, social system, background of these systems (historical and social background), problems the country faces today, the future perspective of each system. assigned to study the political system -- not only political institution but also political culture, history, and social features on which the political institutions are found.

Today's Topic : All students are expected to pick up one article or essay from newspaper, magazine, or internet on East Asia every week. The subject and country are their choice. I will ask 3 students at the beginning of every class to report briefly their topic. No specific analysis is required, but opinion is. No written paper of this report is necessary. .

3, Textbooks

Inoguchi, Takashi, Japanese Politics: An Introduction, Trans Pacific Press

Wang, James, Contemporary Chinese Politics; An introduction , Prentice Hall

4, Grading procedures

The grade consists of the following: Class participation 20%

Midterm 20%

Final 30%

Country Report 30%

5, Course policies

Attendance -- required for all classes except emergency.

Cheating -- strictly prohibited.

6, Statement for students with physical disabilities

“ Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his other abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we

can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities ”

7, Class Schedule

Week 1, Orientation -- grouping, on social science / political science

Week 2, East Asia -- Its history, geography and nature.

Week 3, East Asia -- The foundation of its thinking -- religion and culture

Week 4, Japanese System : Political Culture (Inoguchi, chap 1,3)

Week 5, Japanese System : Political system (chap 4,7)

Week 6, Japanese System : Political Economy (chap 5)

Week 7, Midterm

Week 8, Chinese System : Historical background (Wang, chap 1)

Week 9, Chinese System : Communist Politics (chap 2- 4)

Week 10, Chinese System : Its Economy and Reform (chap 10-12)

Week 11, South Korea, North Korea, Taiwan

Week 12, Indonesia, Philippines, East Timor

Week 13, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore,

Week 14, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Burma

Week 15 Final Exam