

ASIA 198: ASIA IN THE WORLD TODAY

Spring 2005

GENERAL INFORMATION

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

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And by appointment!

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CSUS CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Senior seminar in recent scholarship and current issues concerning Asia in the world today. A capstone course for Asian Studies majors, as well as graduate students interested in Asia.

COURSE THEMES

Asia 198 is an upper-division seminar in which students will examine closely and discuss together important political, economic, military, social, and cultural issues facing Asian nations today. Asia contains over 2/5 of the world's population. India and China each have a population over one billion. The largest Muslim country is in Asia. The second richest country in the world is in Asia. More people speak English in Asia than anywhere else in the world. The world's largest democracy is in Asia. Many of our consumer goods come from Asia. Except for parts of the 19th and 20th centuries, I would argue, Asia was the most advanced region in the world. Yet, it is a part of the world that very few people who live in the United States know much about. Over the course of the semester, this course will introduce students to major themes and issues of Asia in the world today. We will examine the recent history of Asia and its rise as an economic center in the global economy. We will also look at the conflicts in Asia that could cascade into nuclear destruction. Social issues, such as the migration of labor and the treatment of women, will also be discussed, as will globalization and consumerism in Asia. Students will also be expected to pay attention to and to think critically about events that are currently unfolding in Asia.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students enrolled in Asia 198 will:

- Deepen their understanding of recent economic, political, and cultural events transpiring in Asia.
- Think critically about geo-political issues facing Asia and the world.
- Gain a greater understanding of how Asian nations and peoples interact with one another.
- Further develop their critical reading and thinking abilities.
- Further develop their abilities to communicate complex ideas verbally and through written prose.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Timothy J. Craig and Richard King, eds. *Global Goes Local: Popular Culture in Asia*.

Uk Heo and Shale A. Horowitz, eds. *Conflict in Asia: Korea, China-Taiwan, and India-Pakistan*.

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. *Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia*.

Chua Beng-Huat, ed. *Consumption in Asia: Lifestyles and Identities*.

Samuel S. Kim, ed. *East Asia and Globalization*.

Roger C. Thompson. *The Pacific Basin since 1945*.

Louise Williams. *Wives, Mistresses, and Matriarchs*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active participation are required of all members of this seminar. I expect students to come to class having done the reading and prepared to discuss the material in an intellectually engaging fashion. Failure to do the reading as indicated by a lack of participation or an inability to answer a question about the reading will severely hurt your grade. Students who miss two or more classes will be in danger of failing the seminar.

Contemporary Events

Every other week we will discuss what is currently transpiring in Asia. Each student must find three sources on any topic that took place during the past TEN YEARS IN ASIA. The topic is open—economic, political, social, cultural, historical—it does not matter. The story (event) must be set in Asia. One article must be from a newspaper (*NY Times*, *Sacramento Bee*, *SF Chronicle*, etc.), one must be from a weekly or monthly magazine (*Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *Wired*, etc.), and one from a third source that will vary from week to week. One week you will need to find an article on the web, another week an academic article on a topic related to the current event, another week an academic monograph on a topic related to the current event, etc. Please look at the weekly schedule for the type of source you are required to use. You must bring all three sources to class. Copies or printouts of the articles are fine. In addition to finding the articles, you must also write a two page reflection paper on them. (See below for details on Reflection Papers). In class, you must make a 5-10 minute presentation on the topic of your Contemporary Event.

Reflection Papers

Students must prepare a two-page double spaced paper that discuss the week's readings or their current event articles. These reflection papers are due on the day of discussion. They should succinctly summarize the book (articles) (e.g. what is the author's central thesis, main points, what sources does the author use). The paper must also contain your preliminary critical reaction to the book or contemporary event. The papers should be clearly organized and well written. No late reflection papers will be accepted.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation	25%
Contemporary Events (topic, presentation, reflection paper)	40%
Book Reflection Papers	<u>35%</u>
	100%

ACADEMIC HONESTY This course follows the CSUS Academic Honesty policy. If you are not familiar with California State University, Sacramento's Policies and Procedures Regarding Academic Honesty, please read them. They can be found at:

<http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umannual/UMA00150.htm>

In short, **CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated and may result in failure of the course and possible referral for academic discipline. I expect your book critiques to be your own work. If they are not, beware!

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week 1 Jan. 26	Introduction to the Course What is Asia?
Week 2 Feb. 2	Contemporary Events # 1: Map Your third source must be a map.
Week 3 Feb. 9	Brief History of the Region Roger C. Thompson. <i>The Pacific Basin since 1945.</i>
Week 4 Feb. 16	Contemporary Events # 2: Web Source Your third source must be from a reputable website.
Week 5 Feb. 23	The Rise of Asia Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. <i>Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia.</i>
Week 6 Mar. 2	Contemporary Events # 3: Academic Article Your third source must be an article from an academic journal
Week 7 Mar. 9	Conflict in Asia Uk Heo and Shale A. Horowitz. <i>Conflict in Asia: Korea, China-Taiwan, and India-Pakistan.</i>
Week 8 Mar. 16	Contemporary Events # 4: Academic Monograph Your third source must be an academic monograph.
Spring Break: March 19-27	
Week 9 Mar. 30	Women in Asia Louise Williams. <i>Wives, Mistresses, and Matriarchs.</i>
Week 10 Apr. 6	Contemporary Events # 5: Foreign Language Newspaper or Magazine Your third source should be a foreign (Asian) language newspaper or magazine article.
Week 11 Apr. 13	Globalization and Asia Samuel S. Kim, ed. <i>East Asia and Globalization.</i>

- Week 12
Apr. 20 Contemporary Events # 6: Audio-Visual Source
 Your third sources must be an audio or visual recording of some sort:
 documentary program, video-taped news program, movie, CD, etc.
- Week 13
Apr. 27 Consumerism in Asia
 Chua Beng-Huat, ed. *Consumption in Asia: Lifestyles and Identities.*
- Week 14
May 4 Contemporary Events # 7: Interview
 Your third sources should be an interview with someone from Asia who is
 temporarily living in USA, or visiting USA. E.g. a foreign exchange
 student, a tourist, etc. (You do not have to bring them to class).
- Week 15
May 11 Asian Popular Culture
 Timothy J. Craig and Richard King, eds. *Global Goes Local: Popular
 Culture in Asia.*