ASIA IN THE WORLD TODAY

Coordinator: Prof. James DeShaw Rae
Sacramento State
Office Hours: TR 12:00-1:15pm, 3:00-5:15pm, or by appt.
Fall 2010, Benicia 1025
Room/Phone: Tahoe Hall 3123; 916-278-7866
Class Hrs: Th 6:00-8:50 pm
E-Mail: rae@csus.edu

Prerequisite: Instructor permission. 3 units. Please turn off your cell phones prior to class, any ring will count as an absence for the day. Laptops may be used to take notes, if it is used for other purposes it will count as an absence. Familiarize yourself with CSUS policy on plagiarism at http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353; ask if you have questions or need help.

COURSE 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. This course is a collaborative team-taught course designed to offer interdisciplinary perspectives on major themes and issues of Asia in the world today. Students will also be expected to pay attention to and to think critically about events that are currently unfolding in Asia. Below is a list of the political geography of the primary regions of East, South, and Southeast Asia.

East Asia: China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan
Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar/Burma, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam
South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
• Deepen 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

Faculty in Asian Studies: Pat Chirapravati, Art; James Chopyak, Music; Joël Dubois, Religion and Humanities; Jeffrey Dym, History; Amy Liu, Sociology; Kazue Masuyama, Foreign Languages; Sujatha Moni, Women's Studies; Mitch Numark, History; James Rae, Government; Lewis Robinson, Foreign Languages; Richard Shek, Religion and Humanities; James Sobredo, Ethnic Studies; Cindi Sturtz-Sreetharan, Anthropology; Raghuraman Trichur, Anthropology; Michael Vann, History; Zhou Yan, Economics

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The texts below are variably in the campus bookstore, on reserve in the library (R), or may be ordered independently online.

**Requirements:**

*Attendance (20%). “80% of success is just showing up.” – Woody Allen.* A letter grade will be assigned to each student based on attendance and being prepared for class: your grade for this criterion will drop by ten points for each absence.

*Reaction Papers (80%).* Nearly each week (twelve times during the semester), you will turn in a 2-3 page (double-spaced) paper based on that week’s reading. Your paper should briefly summarize the reading and discuss the author’s point of view, the substance of the book, and analyze how it fits into the course. Your top ten marks will be calculated for your grade in this section.

**Grading Scale:**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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**Needs:** If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (September 2): Introduction (James Rae)**

- Introduction, Overview of syllabus, Defining a Region.
- Read Kaup, Ch. 1 “Introduction,” 1-8
- Read Ch. 2, Ron Hill, “Asia Pacific: A Geographic Preface,” 9-32

**Week 2 (September 9): Tradition vs. Modernity: A Modern Indian Novel (Joël Dubois)**

- Read RK Narayan, *The Guide*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 12, Keri Cole “Religion in Asia Pacific,” 353-380

**Week 3 (September 16): Southeast Asian Responses to Colonialism (Michael Vann)**

- Read Vu Trong Phung, *Dumb Luck*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 3, Colin Mackerras “The Historical Context,” 33-76
WEEK 4 (SEPTEMBER 23): HISTORY OF SIAM AND BURMA (PAT CHIRAPRAVATI)
- Read Thant Myint-U, *The River of Lost Footsteps*
- Read Forrest McGill and P. Chirapavati, *Emerald Cities: Arts of Siam and Burma*

WEEK 5 (SEPTEMBER 30): IDENTITY AND VIOLENCE IN CAMBODIA (JAMES RAE)
- Read Francois Bizot, *The Gate*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 4, Katherine Kaup “Asia Pacific Politics,” 77-112

WEEK 6 (OCTOBER 7): FILIPINO AMERICANS, IMMIGRATION, DIASPORA (JAMES SOBREDO)
- Read Evangeline Canonizado Buell, *Twenty-Five Chickens and a Pig for a Bride: Growing Up in a Filipino Immigrant Family*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 9, Dean Forbes “Population and Urbanization;” 267-94

WEEK 7 (OCTOBER 14): SUBALTERN WOMEN’S SUBJECTIVITY IN INDIA (SUJATHA MONI)
- Read Kaup, Ch. 11, Yana Rodgers “Women and Development”

WEEK 8 (OCTOBER 21): CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIAN SOCIETY (RAGHU TRICHUR)
- Read Leela Fernandes, *India’s New Middle Class: Democratic Politics in an Era of Economic Reform*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 5, Kailash Khandke “The Economies of Asia Pacific,” 113-150

WEEK 9 (OCTOBER 28): CONFUCIUS AND CHINA (RICHARD SHEK)
- Read Kaup, Ch. 6, Derek McDougall “International Relations” 151-200

WEEK 10 (NOVEMBER 4): LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY IN JAPAN (CINDI STURTZ-SREETHARAN)
- Read Nanette Gottlieb, *Language and Society in Japan*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 10, Katherine Kaup “Ethnicity,” 295-320

WEEK 11 (NOVEMBER 11): NO CLASS: Veteran’s Day

WEEK 12 (NOVEMBER 18): CHINESE LANGUAGE: FACT AND FANTASY (LEWIS ROBINSON)
- Read John DeFrancis, *The Chinese Language: Fact and Fantasy*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 13, Fay Beauchamp & Ely Marquez, “Asia Pacific Literature,” 381-424

WEEK 13 (NOVEMBER 25): NO CLASS: Thanksgiving

WEEK 14 (DECEMBER 2): INSIDE NORTH KOREA (JEFF DYM)
- Read Barbara Demick, *Nothing to Envy*
- Read Kaup, Ch. 7, Robert Sutter “Military and Security Issues,” 201-240

WEEK 15 (DECEMBER 9): THE JEWS OF INDIA AND CHINA (MITCH NUMARK)
- Review, Evaluations
- Read Kaup, Ch. 14, Brantly Womack “Trends and Prospects” 425-436