

# PSCI 259 – Government and Politics of Asia

Fall 2012

Tuesday and Thursdays, 10:00-11:20am, PHY 150

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## *Course Description*

Asia is a vast and incredibly diverse part of the world. There are more than 2,000 Asian languages in use, a multitude of ethnic and religious groups, and a broad array of political systems, from North Korea’s absolutist one-party rule to vibrant democracy in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Yet behind this teeming diversity in so-called “Monsoon Asia” we find shared historical legacies and similarities that allow us to meaningfully compare the processes of political development in countries belonging to this region. In this course, we focus on studying the government and politics of the three largest Asian countries – India, China, and Japan. We will employ a comparative approach to explore the historical and cultural foundations of politics in these countries, their government structures, recent political development, and political economy. The goals of the course are to attain, first, an understanding of the domestic politics within these three countries and, second, an appreciation of the way these rising powers relate to one another and to countries in other regions.

## *Texts*

There is one required text for this course: Sue Ellen M. Charlton (1997) *Comparative Asian Politics: India, China and Japan*, Westview Press.

Additional readings will be made available as electronic course reserves, accessible via Learn (D2L).

## *Assignments and Course Evaluation*

Participation	15%
Group Presentation	15%
Test 1 (Oct. 23)	30%
Test 2 (Nov. 13)	20%
Expert Brief (Nov. 29)	20%

- Participation: Marks will be assigned on the basis of your in-class contributions as well as your engagement with the assigned readings. Over the semester, you are asked to post questions and comments on at least **five** readings through Learn (D2L). These should be submitted no later than the beginning of the class for which the reading is assigned.
- Group Presentation: Groups should be no larger than **three** people (*based on current enrollment numbers*). Presentations should be about 15 minutes in length and presenters

should be prepared to answer questions afterward. You will find suggested topics in the syllabus but I am open to alternatives, provided they tie-in well with the lecture material for that day. (Please consult with me first if your group plans to select a topic other than the suggested topic).

Presentations should, first, introduce this topic to the audience, ie. provide the *how, what, where* and *when*. This should take up no more than about 2/3 of the presentation and the concluding section should explore the broader significance of this event for the politics of the country/countries/regions we are looking at. For example, in the case of historical events, you could think about what impact this happening had on subsequent political developments. For more recent topics, ask yourselves what this event/political figure/trend represents about the current state of affairs. Your presentation may take whatever form you like and can include art, video clips, debate, performance etc. Creative risk-taking is encouraged!

Please note that while not everyone in the group needs to physically present in front of the class, all should contribute equally to the final product.

n.b., information and insights provided in group presentations are fair game for tests so it's important that students are present and attentive.

- Tests: The first test, on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, will focus on comparative political development in India, Japan and China. The second test, on November 13<sup>th</sup>, will focus in on Chinese politics.
- Expert Brief: Bilateral relations between the three major powers in Asia each have elements of conflict and cooperation. Pick *one* of these bilateral relationships (e.g. China-Japan, India-China or India-Japan) and analyze its various facets, including: economic, diplomatic, military and people-to-people ties. In each of these sections, you should focus on identifying and analyzing points of shared and divergent interest and should avoid simply regurgitating facts, statistics and recent events. Keep in mind that *you* are the expert and it is your job to provide a clear and concise overview for the layperson. Conclude with an outlook of how relations between the two countries are likely to develop over the next ten years. The paper should be between 1,500 and 2,000 words in length and must include a bibliography.

You will need to read significantly beyond the required readings to complete this assignment. You should reference at least five academic pieces (ie. books or journal articles) not found in this syllabus. For models of this kind of policy-oriented writing, I recommend looking through publications in the Council on Foreign Relations "Background and Analysis" website section: <http://www.cfr.org/publication/>. Briefs are due in class November 29<sup>th</sup>.

### *Library Guide*

For help with gathering materials for the class presentation and expert brief, please consult our very own course library guide created by Jane Forgay:

<http://subjectguides.uwaterloo.ca/content.php?pid=94627&sid=3016619>

### *Academic Dishonesty*

All forms of academic dishonesty are serious academic offenses and will be treated as such. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the materials provided by the Office of Academic Integrity <http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/index.html> or contact me directly. If there is any doubt in your mind, it is always better to err on the side of too much citation than too little.

*Policy on Lateness, Missed Exams*

Briefs submitted after November 29<sup>th</sup> will be subjected to a late penalty of 5% per weekday up to a maximum of five days after the due date. After December 6<sup>th</sup> papers will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be recorded for the assignment.

You will not be able to make up for missed assignments or tests except in case of circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness and other types of emergencies, for which you need to bring relevant documentation).

**Sept. 11: Introduction**

**Sept. 13: What is Asia?**

- Charlton, chapter 1

**Sept. 18 People and Politics: India**

- Charlton, chapter 2

Suggested Presentation Topic: The Role of Caste in Indian Politics

**Sept. 20 People and Politics: China**

- Charlton, chapter 3

Suggested Presentation Topic: The Mandate of Heaven

**Sept. 25 People and Politics: Japan**

- Charlton, chapter 4
- Sheila A. Smith "Beyond Quake, Japan's Political Aftershocks" *Council on Foreign Relations*

Suggested Presentation Topic: Japan's domestic energy situation

**Sept. 27 The Foundation of Indian Politics—Historical Legacies**

- Charlton, chapter 5

Suggested Presentation Topic: The Sepoy Rebellion (1857)

**Oct. 2            The Foundation of Indian Politics—Post-Independence**

- Charlton, chapter 5
- Charlton, chapter 12

Suggested Presentation Topic: Gandhi’s vs. Nehru’s vision of India

**Oct. 4            The Foundation of Chinese Politics—Historical Legacies**

- Charlton, chapter 5
- Peter Hayes Gries (2005) “Nationalism, Indignation, and China’s Japan Policy” *The SAIS Review of International Affairs* 25(2): 105-114.

Suggested Presentation Topic: China’s “century of humiliation”

**Oct. 9            The Foundation of Chinese Politics—Under Communist Rule**

- Charlton, chapter 5
- Charlton, chapter 12

Suggested Presentation Topic: The Cultural Revolution

**Oct. 11          The Foundation of Japanese Politics—Historical Legacies**

- Charlton, chapter 7

Suggested Presentation Topic: Commodore Perry’s Expedition to Japan

**Oct. 16          The Foundation of Japanese Politics—Post-WWII Politics**

- Charlton, chapter 7
- Ellis S. Kraus and Robert J. Pekkanen (2010) “The Rise and Fall of Japan’s Liberal Democratic Party” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 69(1): 5-15.

Suggested Presentation Topic: The SCAP Occupation

**Oct. 23          Test (I)**

**Oct. 25          The Party-State System in China**

- Charlton, chapter 12

Suggested Presentation Topic: The 18<sup>th</sup> Party Congress

**Oct. 30          Legacy of the 1989 Tiananmen Crisis**

- Susan SHIRK (June 4, 2009) “The Legacy of Tiananmen for Chinese Politics” *Statement Prepared for the Congressional-Executive Commission on China*

\*no class presentation\*

**Nov. 1            Authoritarian Decay or Resilience in China?**

- Charlton, chapter 12
- Andrew Nathan (2003) “Authoritarian Resilience” *Journal of Democracy* 14(1): 6-17.

Suggested Presentation Topic: The Bo Xilai and Gu Kailai Affair (2012)

**Nov. 6            The Politics of Uneven Development in China**

- Damian Tobin (June 29, 2011) “Inequality in China: Rural Poverty Persists as Urban Wealth Balloons”
- Daniel Fu Keung Wong et al. (2006) “Rural Migrant Workers in Urban China: Living a Marginalised Life” *International Journal of Social Welfare* 16(1): 32-40.

Suggested Presentation Topic: The *Hukou* System

**Nov. 8            The Challenge of Environmental Sustainability**

- Carin Zissis and Jayshree Bajoria (August 4, 2008) “China’s Environmental Crisis”

Suggested Presentation Topic: Recent Environmental Protests (e.g. Dalian Petrochemical Plant Protests in August 2011)

**Nov. 13          Test (II)**

**Nov. 15          Asian Regional Politics**

- John Ravenhill (2009) “East Asian Regionalism: Much Ado about Nothing?” *Review of International Studies* 35: 215-235.

Suggested Presentation Topic: The Bandung Conference (1955)

**Nov. 20          China-Japan Relations**

- Kent E. Calder (April/May 2006) “China and Japan’s Simmering Rivalry” *Foreign Affairs*
- Mark McDonald (August 16, 2012) “East Asia’s Sea Disputes: Scar Tissue from War Wounds: *New York Times*

Suggested Presentation Topic: Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute

**Nov. 22**      **China-India Relations**

- David M. Malone & Rohan Mukherjee (2010) "India and China: Conflict and Cooperation" *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy* 52(1): 137-158.

Suggested Presentation Topic: China-India Border Conflicts

**Nov. 27**      **Japan-India Relations**

- Jan Cartwright and Shoshanah Tischler (January 23, 2008) "Beyond Shared Values: the Outlook for Japan-India Relations" *World Politics Review*
- Victoria Tuke (May 2, 2012) "Japan, India Edge Closer" *The Diplomat*

Suggested Presentation Topic: India-Japan Security Pact (2008)

**Nov. 29**      **Is this the Asian Century?**

- Kishore Mahbubani (May/June 2008) "The Case Against the West: America and Europe in the Asian Century" *Foreign Affairs* 87(3): 111-124.
- Chandran Nair (March 6, 2012) "We Should Stop Talking of an Asian Century" *FT.com*

Suggested Presentation Topic: Military spending in Asia since 2000

**Expert briefs due in-class**