

## Asian Politics (PLS 545 - 301)

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 11:15am-12:05pm

Strong Hall 0300

### Instructor Contact Information

**Instructor:** Assistant Professor Michael Masterson

**Email:** mmasterson@missouristate.edu

**Office hours:** Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30–4 and by appointment.

My office is in Strong Hall 330, and you should feel free to come in during office hours without an appointment. When scheduling a meeting outside of my office hours, please strive to contact me at least 2 days in advance. I will do my best to respond to emails by the end of the business day. There is no guarantee of a response to emails sent during non-business hours until the next business day.

### Course Overview

Of the world's approximately 7.8 billion people, about 4.7 billion (60%) live in Asia. Three of the four largest economies (China, India, and Japan) are in Asia.<sup>1</sup> Regardless of whether the issue is the environment, trade, investment, or geopolitics, much of the world's future will be decided in Asia, so understanding the politics of the governments that control this region is critical. China and India, which each have populations of over 1 billion and are the world's first and third largest economies respectively, are particularly important.

Because Asia is a diverse region and the issues affecting even one country are complex, this course does not attempt to cover every country on the continent or give a complete account of the politics of any one country. Instead it will focus on introducing students to some of the most important issues affecting a few key places: China, India, Japan, North and South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Since discussion is an important component of this course, it is essential that students complete the readings for each session and participate actively and consistently in class discussions. Students may find that this course requires a bit more reading than they are used to, but, in exchange, there are no exams.

This course satisfies a requirement for the Asian Studies minor. See [its webpage](#) for details. This course also satisfies a requirement for the Peace Corp Prep Certificate Program. Visit [its webpage](#) for details.

### Assignments

#### Quizzes

For 7 class sessions, I will administer an in-class pop quiz. The quizzes will have 5 multiple choice questions each. The quizzes will include content both from the readings and the

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<sup>1</sup>When economy size is measured by GDP in terms of purchasing power parity.

lectures but will focus more on the readings. On the quizzes, you may use any hand-written notes that you have taken. However, you may not refer to the readings themselves or use a computer. A student may drop their lowest quiz grade, but there will be no makeup quizzes outside of exceptional circumstances, such as medical or family emergencies.

### **Country Risk Report 1: India or China**

Imagine you have been hired by a private company as a country expert to write risk reports advising investors about the conditions in countries they might consider investing in. Choose either China or India as the country at the focus of your report. Your boss has asked that you make sure your report covers the following issues:

- What are the general prospects for economic growth in the country?
- How safe is private property in the country (property means all property, including capital investments and equity in companies, not just real estate)? To what extent does an investor need to be worried that their investment or the company they invest in might be expropriated by the government? To what extent the country has rule of law is an important consideration here.
- What risks of political instability are there in the country, and how might these impact potential investments?
- What kinds of risks are there that come from the external environment? For example, is this country at risk of sanctions or international conflict that may impact its economy?

See the documents uploaded to Brightspace for more information about what factors to consider and sources to consult when assessing country risk. Your report should cite at least 5 high-quality sources, such as books, institute reports, or peer-reviewed articles. Your use of the sources should show you have read and engaged with them. I have also uploaded an example of a country risk report for Russia, although it is much longer than what I am asking you to write. The report should be 3–4 pages double spaced and is **due at 11:59pm on Wednesday March 20**.

### **Country Risk Report 2: Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, or Japan**

The instructions for this report are the same as the first with the exception that this time you should write a country risk report for either Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore, or Japan. The report is **due at 11:59pm on Monday May 6**.

### **Formatting Guidelines for all Written Assignments**

Papers should have 1 inch margins. They should use a font size of 11 or 12 and one of the following fonts: Times, Calibri, Liberation Serif, Computer Modern, or Helvetica.

*Bibliographies do not count towards page length requirements.* Papers should follow the [Chicago](#) author-date citation style. This requires author-date parenthetical references,

indicating what source was relied on for the points you make in each part of the paper, and a full bibliography at the end. Parenthetical references should include page numbers. The file that you upload to Brightspace should be in PDF format.

The use of AI text generation tools is a form of plagiarism and is not permitted.

## Grading

- Quizzes 30%
- Participation and attendance 20%
  - You should come to class on time and prepared to discuss the readings each week. This includes not only doing the required readings prior to class but also taking notes on the main points of each reading as well as aspects of the readings you think would be interesting or important to discuss. However, *if you are sick and may be contagious, please do not come to class*. Instead, seek medical attention from your doctor or at Mager's Health and Wellness Center. They can provide you a medical excuse and advise you when it is safe to return to class. Contact me to let me know that you are sick and will not be in class. We can work together to ensure you will be able to keep up with readings and assignments through the Brightspace course site.
- Country Risk Reports 50%

## Late Work Policy

If you believe you may be late turning in an assignment because of an event, such as a medical or family emergency, then you should email me as far as possible in advance of the due date of the assignment to request an extension. Late assignments not granted an extension prior to the due date will lose 10 percentage points and an additional 10 percentage points for each day late after the first day. Assignments more than 3 days late will not be accepted, and late quizzes will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances.

## Course Readings

All of the readings except those from the required book below will be posted on Brightspace. The readings should be completed by Wednesday each week.

Guha, Ramachandra (2008). *India after Gandhi: the history of the world's largest democracy*. 1st Harper Perennial ed. OCLC: 10cm79807214. New York, NY: Harper Perennial. 893 pp. ISBN: 978-0-06-095858-9.

## University Policies

Please see the [University Policy Statement Page](#) for up-to-date university policies that apply to this and all courses on the following issues: Nondiscrimination, Disability Accommodation, Title IX Policy, Lauren's Promise, Religious Accommodation, Mental Health & Stress

Management, Chosen Name Policy, Suicide Prevention, Student Requirements for Technology, Academic Integrity, Cell Phone Policy, Audio/Video Recording of Course Activity, Dropping a Class, Emergency Response, and Cultural Competence Statement.

### **Campus Closure Policy**

When the university is closed due to an emergency or inclement weather situation, classes will move to remote learning. I will communicate with you over email about the precise means of remote learning, which will vary depending on what day we miss. Material used for remote learning will be posted on Brightspace, and any synchronous meetings will take place on Zoom. If you are not able to participate in the remote learning activities as described (for example, due to a power outage), you should contact me as soon as you can so alternative arrangements can be made.

### **Reading Schedule**

Below is a list of what readings should be completed by each Wednesday. Undergraduate students are not required to read the student-led readings.

#### **1/17 Introduction**

No readings

#### **1/24 What is at Stake in Asian Politics**

Introduction in Rachman, Gideon (2016). *Easternization: Asia's rise and America's decline from Obama to Trump and beyond*. New York: Other Press. 307 pp. ISBN: 978-1-59051-851-9.

Selected portions of Amnesty International (2022). "Amnesty International Report 2021/22: The State of the World's Human Rights."

Roston, Eric and Andre Tartar (2018). "The Dirty Legacy of China's and India's Growth". In: *Bloomberg Businessweek*. URL: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2018-11-02/china-s-and-india-s-fight-against-pollution-while-modernizing>.

#### **1/31 China Regime Overview**

Introduction and Chapter 1 in Cabestan, Jean-Pierre and N. Jayaram (2019). *China tomorrow: democracy or dictatorship?* Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. 209 pp. ISBN: 978-1-5381-2957-9 978-1-5381-2958-6.

Minzner, Carl, Aaron Halegua, Kerry Brown, and Margaret Lewis (2018). *Forty Years on, Is China Still Reforming?* ChinaFile. URL: <https://www.chinafile.com/conversation/forty-years-china-still-reforming>.

Phillips, Tom (2018). "'Dictator for life': Xi Jinping's power grab condemned as step towards tyranny". In: *The Guardian*. URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/26/xi-jinping-china-presidential-limit-scrap-dictator-for-life>.

## **2/7 Government Legitimacy and Responsiveness in China**

Chang, Che (2020). *Do Chinese people support their government? Here's why it's hard to tell*. SupChina. URL: <https://supchina.com/2020/08/25/do-chinese-people-support-their-government-hard-to-tell/>.

Chen, Jidong, Jennifer Pan, and Yiqing Xu (2016). "Sources of authoritarian responsiveness: A field experiment in China". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 60.2, pp. 383-400.

Holbig, Heike and Bruce Gilley (2010). "Reclaiming legitimacy in China". In: *Politics & policy* 38.3, pp. 395-422.

## **2/14 Repression in China**

Introduction and Chapter 3 in Roberts, Margaret E. (2018). *Censored: distraction and diversion inside China's great firewall*. OCLC: on1004943424. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. 271 pp. ISBN: 978-0-691-17886-8.

Xu, Xu (2020). "To Repress or to Co-opt? Authoritarian Control in the Age of Digital Surveillance". In: *American Journal of Political Science*.

Selected portions of Tobin, David (2022). *The 'Xinjiang Papers': How Xi Jinping commands policy in the People's Republic of China*. Report. University of Sheffield.

## **2/21 Economic Development in China**

Class on Wed. and Fri. but not Monday this week (President's Day)

Manion, Melanie (2016). "Taking China's anticorruption campaign seriously". In: *Economic and Political Studies* 4.1, pp. 3-18.

Rajah, Roland and Alyssa Leng (2022). *Revising Down the Rise of China*. Report. Lowy Institute.

Russo, Federica (2019). "Politics in the Boardroom: The Role of Chinese Communist Party Committees". In: *The Diplomat*. URL: <https://thediplomat.com/2019/12/politics-in-the-boardroom-the-role-of-chinese-communist-party-committees/>.

## **2/28 India: Independence and Partition**

Chapters 1–2 and 5–6 in *India After Gandhi*

### **Student-led**

Chapter 3 in *India After Gandhi*

## **3/6 Politics in India**

Chapter 28 in *India After Gandhi*

Filkins, Dexter (2019). "Blood and Soil in Narendra Modi's India". In: *The New Yorker*. URL: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/12/09/blood-and-soil-in-narendra-modis-india>.

Jaffrelot, Christophe (2010). "The Hindu Nationalists and Power". In: *The Oxford companion to politics in India*. Ed. by Niraja Gopal Jayal and Pratap Bhanu Mehta. New

Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 205-218. ISBN: 978-0-19-566976-3.

### **3/13 Spring Break**

No readings

### **3/20 Economic Development in India**

#### **Country Risk Report Due**

Ahluwalia, Montek S (2019). "India's economic reforms: Achievements and next steps". In: *Asian Economic Policy Review* 14.1, pp. 46-62.

Easton, Tom (2020). "India's economy was sick before the coronavirus crisis". In: *The Economist*. URL: <https://www.economist.com/the-world-ahead/2020/11/17/indias-economy-was-sick-before-the-coronavirus-crisis>.

Gupta, Akhil (2017). "Changing forms of corruption in India". In: *Modern Asian Studies* 51.6, pp. 1862-1890.

### **3/27 Taiwan**

Chapter 17 in Fairbank, John King (2006). *China: a new history*. 2nd enl. ed. OCLC: ocm61821937. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. 560 pp. ISBN: 978-0-674-01828-0.

Chapter 5 and 6 in Roy, Denny (2003). *Taiwan: a political history*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 255 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8014-4070-0 978-0-8014-8805-4.

Article on the results of Taiwan's 2024 elections to be determined.

### **4/3 Singapore and Hong Kong**

Chapter 6 in Barr, Michael D. (2019). *Singapore: a modern history*. London New York: I.B. Tauris. 257 pp. ISBN: 978-1-78076-305-7.

Chapter 1 and Chapter 9 in Hung, Ho-fung (2022). *City on the edge: Hong Kong under Chinese rule*. Cambridge ; New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. 1 p. ISBN: 978-1-108-88569-0.

Allison, Graham (2015). *Singapore Challenges the Idea That Democracy Is the Best Form of Government*. URL: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/singapore-challenges-democracy\\_b\\_7933188](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/singapore-challenges-democracy_b_7933188).

### **4/10 Japan**

Chapter 1 in Krauss, Ellis S. and Robert Pekkanen (2011). *The rise and fall of Japan's LDP: political party organizations as historical institutions*. OCLC: ocn657270955. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 318 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8014-4932-1 978-0-8014-7682-2.

Chapter 1 in Curtis, Gerald L. (1999). *The logic of Japanese politics: leaders, institutions, and the limits of change*. Studies of the East Asian Institute. New York: Columbia University Press. 303 pp. ISBN: 978-0-231-10842-3 978-0-231-10843-0.

Lipsy, Phillip (2020). “Japan’s prime minister is resigning. This is how Abe transformed Japanese politics.” In: *Washington Post*. URL: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/09/03/japans-prime-minister-is-resigning-this-is-how-abe-transformed-japanese-politics/>.

### **Student-led**

Chapter 8 “The Sino-Japanese War” in *China and Japan Facing History*.

### **4/17 North and South Korea**

Chapters 2 and 6 in Ku, Yangmo, Inyeop Lee, and Jongseok Woo (2018). *Politics in North and South Korea: political development, economy, and foreign relations*. London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group. 231 pp. ISBN: 978-1-138-64745-9 978-1-138-64750-3.

BBC 2022. “South Korea: Conservative candidate Yoon Suk-yeol elected president.” <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60685141>.

### **4/24 Environmental Politics**

Albert, Eleanor and Beina Xu (2016). *China’s Environmental Crisis*. URL: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-environmental-crisis>.

Kostka, Genia and Chunman Zhang (2018). *Tightening the grip: environmental governance under Xi Jinping*. Taylor & Francis.

Chapters 1 and 5 in Mani, Muthukumara S. (2014). *Greening India’s Growth: Costs, Valuations, and Trade-offs*. Washington, D.C: World Bank Group. URL: <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/701131467993496463/greening-indias-growth-costs-valuations-and-trade-offs>.

### **5/1 International Relations**

Chapter 11 “The Deterioration of Sino-Japanese Relations” in *China and Japan Facing History*.

Madan, Tanvi (2020). “China Is Losing India”. In: *Foreign Affairs*. URL: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/asia/2020-06-22/china-losing-india>.

Mikio, Sugeno and Takahashi Tetsushi (2020). “US vs. China: 2 leading experts fear conflict awaits”. In: *Nikkei Asia*. URL: <https://asia.nikkei.com/Editor-s-Picks/Interview/US-vs.-China-2-leading-experts-fear-conflict-awaits>.

### **5/6 Finals Week (no class)**

**Country Risk Report 2 Due**