

PSPS 3010-01: REGIONAL AREA STUDIES--ASIA
Fall 2010, Old Main 221

Instructor: Dr. Kevin S. Freeman
Office: Oxendine 1309
Phone: 521-6447

Class Hours: MWF 9:00-9:50 AM
Office Hours: MWF 11:30 AM-12:30 PM, 2:30-3:30 PM
Email: kevin.freeman@uncp.edu

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth look at the culture and politics of a number of countries on the Asian continent. The course will be broken into three segments, each which covers a particular geographic region in Asia. We will focus in particular on how individual Asian states view themselves in the world, and what they feel their role in Asian, and world, politics should be.

The format for class meetings will consist of lectures and opportunities for discussion and debate. The instructor will make every effort to relate course concepts to developments taking place in and around Asia at the time.

Course Objectives:

1. To grasp a basic understanding of Asian culture and politics
2. To understand the role of Asia in the world
3. To be able to differentiate between the political and diplomatic methods utilized by various Asian states.
4. To become an expert in an Asian country of your choice

Texts: There are three texts for this course:

1. *International Relations in Southeast Asia: The Struggle for Autonomy* by Donald E. Weatherbee
2. *The International Relations of Northeast Asia* edited by Samuel S. Kim
3. *South Asia in World Politics* edited by Devin T. Hagerty

I reserve the right to assign additional readings as necessary. This course will be much more enjoyable (and informative) for both you and your instructor if you are prepared for class discussion. (Remember: a happy instructor is a nice instructor!)

Attendance: Attendance is expected in this class. I will be passing a sign-in sheet around that each of you will sign each day. If you do not sign the sheet, I will count you as absent for the day. Please do not sign the sheet for other students. It will be very difficult to make a decent grade in this class without regular attendance--many of the test questions will be directly from lecture material and may not necessarily be found in your text.

Tardiness: Do not make it a habit of arriving into my class late. I will keep track of late arrivals, and two tardies will count the same as one absence for the purpose of attendance grades. This policy is instituted to discourage chronic tardiness which has become increasingly prevalent in recent semesters.

Classroom Etiquette: While as a whole I have minimal in-classroom requirements, I do expect some degree of respect to be shown in the classroom environment. This includes having your cell phone OFF or on VIBRATE when in class, not bringing your breakfast or lunch into class, not studying for another test while in my class, and not talking when others are. Systematic violations of this can result in a reduction of grade. This is a university-level class, and you will be treated as adults. As such, you will be expected to act like adults.

Office Visits: You are more than welcome to meet with me at any time that is mutually convenient. My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. If these times are not convenient to you, we can easily arrange some other time. Do not assume that office visits are only to address problems you might be having in class. I'm happy to talk about whatever you like, including any difficulties you may be having in class.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak directly to Disability Support Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please contact DSS at 521-6695. This syllabus is also available in alternative formats upon request. Please call the aforementioned number if you desire this. Do not spring this on me on the day of a test.

Grading: There will be three tests—two midterms and a final exam—during the semester. The tests will consist entirely of essays. The final exam (**scheduled for Wednesday, December 8 at 8:00 AM**) will NOT be comprehensive. In addition, throughout the semester, you will be charged with becoming an ‘expert’ on one Asian country chosen from a list on the next page. You should do this by reading, checking the internet, and watching the news. Throughout the semester, you will be given four take-home “country studies” pertaining to your country. Of these four, I will drop the lowest graded assignment.

Midterm 1	100 points
Midterm 2	100 points
Final Exam.....	100 points
3 Country Study Assignments (50 points each).....	150 points
Attendance and Participation.....	50 points

TOTAL500 points

Grading Scale: 465-500=A; 450-464=A-; 435-449=B+; 415-434=B; 400-414=B-; 385-399=C+; 365-384=C; 350-364=C-; 335-349=D+; 315-334=D; 300-314=D-; < 300=F.

Extra Credit: I do give opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. However, these opportunities are planned and given by me. Please do not ask for extra credit outside of what I offer to the course as a whole. I may also offer other opportunities as they present themselves.

Date	Event	Extra Credit Points
September 15, 7:30PM	Distinguished Speaker: <i>Erin Gruwell</i>	5
November 29, 7:30 PM	Distinguished Speaker: <i>Adam Beach</i>	5

Make-up Policy: All graded assignment dates are clearly indicated on this syllabus. If these dates do not fit into your schedule, you should consider dropping this course or taking a different section. **As such, no make-up exams will be given except in cases of serious, documented emergencies or official university-sanctioned events.** The documentation must have contact information that allows me to call and verify your story. Vacations, birthdays, oversleeping, eye doctor appointments, and/or hangovers do not qualify as emergencies. Note that what qualifies as a valid excuse is at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty of any variety will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, unauthorized collaboration on an assignment, and plagiarism. Any instance coming to the attention of the instructor will result in the assignment of an “F” grade for the course, and notification of appropriate Deans. In order to ensure that you understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty, please read the complete description of the UNCP policy on academic dishonesty, which is available in the student handbook and online at <http://www.uncp.edu/studentconduct/honor/>.

Disclaimer: We all know how boring long, droning lectures can be. Teachers can learn a few things from class discussion, too. But above all, I want this class to be both FUN and INTERESTING for all of us!

It is your responsibility to keep up with when assignments are due and when tests and quizzes might be given. Just because I don’t announce a test or quiz ahead of time does not mean that I am going to push it back. To be safe, check your syllabus regularly.

Segment 1: Northeast Asia

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Aug 18-22	China	NE Chaps. 2-3
Aug 25-30	Japan	NE Chaps. 4-5
Sept 1-3	South Korea	NE Chapter 8
Sept 6	No Class: Labor Day Holiday	---
Sept 8	South Korea	NE Chapter 8
Sept 10-13	North Korea	NE Chapter 9
Sept 15-17	Taiwan	NE Chapter 10
Sept 20-22	Issues in Northeast Asia	NE Chaps 1, 11
Sept 24	EXAM #1	---

Segment 2: South Asia

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept 27-29	India	S Chaps 1, 7
Oct 1-4	Pakistan	S Chaps 2, 7
Oct 6	Bangladesh	S Chapter 3
Oct 8-11	Afghanistan	S Chapter 5
Oct 13	South Asia's Small States	S Chapter 4
Oct 15	No Class: Fall Break	---
Oct 18	South Asia's Small States	S Chapter 4
Oct 20-28	Issues in South Asia	S Chaps. 8-11
Nov 1	EXAM #2	---

Segment 3: Southeast Asia

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Nov 3-8	Actors in Southeast Asia	SE Chaps 1-2
Nov 10-12	The Politics of ASEAN	SE Chaps 4-5
Nov 15-17	The Economics of ASEAN	SE Chapter 7
Nov 19	No Class: Instructor Out of Town	---
Nov 22	Transnational Issues in SE Asia	SE Chaps 8-9
Nov 24-26	No Class: Thanksgiving Holidays	---
Nov 29	Transnational Issues in SE Asia	SE Chaps 8-9
Dec 1-3	Other issues in Southeast Asia	SE Chaps 6, 10
Dec 8	FINAL EXAM, 8:00 AM	---

Here is the list of countries from which you can choose when doing your country studies. Be sure to write about the SAME country on each of the four assignments.

**Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Burma (Myanmar)
Hong Kong
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Malaysia
Nepal
Philippines
Taiwan
Turkey
Vietnam**

**Armenia
Bhutan
Cambodia
India
Korea, North
Laos
Maldives
Pakistan
Singapore
Tajikistan
Turkmenistan
East Timor
Japan**

**Azerbaijan
Brunei
Georgia
Indonesia
Korea, South
Macao
Mongolia
Papua New Guinea
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Uzbekistan
China**

Your country study assignments will be handed out during the following dates, and will be due two weeks after this date. Remember that I drop the lowest of these take-home country studies. I **WILL NOT** accept late country assignments, so don't ask! If you plan to be absent during a due date, make arrangements to return it in early, have a friend turn it in for you, or email it to me. Do not test me on this.

**Assignment 1: August 27 (Due September 10)
Assignment 2: September 27 (Due October 11)
Assignment 3: October 22 (Due November 5)
Assignment 4: November 17 (Due December 1)**