

San José State University
Political Science Department
ASIA/POLS 145, Asian Politics, Spring 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
Office Location:	NA
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Office Hours:	Mon 9-10 AM, Wed 4-5 PM via Zoom, or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	NA
Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1415373

Course Description

Study of unfolding events in Asia. Themes include: the Asian economic 'miracle,' the implications of China's rise for international security, nuclear proliferation and terrorism, and sustainability; specifically, energy, environment and human rights.

Course Format

This course adopts an asynchronous online format. There will be no scheduled class meetings, but you will need to work with classmates, including those who are in different time zones. You will need access to a computer with a sound card to hear audio and video recordings, an Internet connection, and word processing software. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. Please enable Notifications in your Canvas settings (click on Account to access these menu options).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Formulate and defend a position in oral and written argumentation
2. Write about Asian politics, demonstrating rhetorical awareness for a professional audience
3. Present their claims to an audience, using appropriate visual and verbal resources
4. Demonstrate awareness of basic facts and concepts about Asian politics

5. Demonstrate comprehension of course concepts, by relating them in written work to popular culture and current events

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no textbook for the course. All readings will be available on Canvas under Modules. If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest. The full citations for the readings are provided in a document on Canvas. You will be required to view a few videos. Some of these may be available for free online. If you choose to buy/rent these, the cost should not exceed \$4. If viewing or paying for the videos poses a problem, please let me know as soon as possible.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. I am available via email to answer your questions, or provide guidance. Aside from office hours, I can consult via email, phone, or video chat.

Final Examination or Evaluation

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

- Grades will be determined as per the table below, simply add up the points you have (percentages do not matter and the grades are not curved).
- There will be several extra credit opportunities in the class, announced via Canvas.
- I accept late work, but you will lose 10 percent of the grade per six hours of lateness. If you have a valid reason for lateness (including but not restricted to mental or physical health of yourself or a loved one) please contact me BEFORE the deadline to request an extension. I reserve the right to ask for documentation of the unforeseen emergency.

Each assignment, including extra credit assignments, will have a specific rubric indicating the criteria that will be used in grading. Please make sure to read this before submitting your assignment. As per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot discuss your grades via email. You will have to make a Zoom/phone appointment with me.

Grade	Points
A plus	Over 100
A	95 to 100
A minus	90 to 94
B plus	85 to 89
B	80 to 84
B minus	75 to 79
C plus	70 to 74
C	65 to 69

C minus	60 to 64
D plus	55 to 59
F	Below 55

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
1	Hypothesis	8 (4 times 2 points)	Feb 8, Mar 22, Apr 14, May 5
1	Class participation	7	Please see detailed instructions on Canvas
5	Current events report & discussion	20 (4 times 5 points)	Feb 15, Mar 8, Mar 24, Apr 19
4	Midterm	15	April 5
2	Professional writing assignment outline	3	Mar 17
2	Professional writing assignment draft	6	Apr 7
5	Fiction report	6	Apr 26
3	Podcast	10	May 7
2	Professional writing assignment final submission	10	May 24
4	Final exam	15	May 24

To encourage collaborative learning, you will use the software tool Hypothesis for social annotation. You will log in through Canvas, and ask questions or write comments on the assigned reading. You will also answer questions from the instructor or classmates, and respond to comments. You are encouraged to follow media reports about Asian politics. Five times during the semester, you are asked to post a news report and link it to the course concepts. You are also required to comment on the news reports posted by classmates.

In collaboration with students at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University in Vietnam, you will work on a podcast dealing with contemporary Asia. Detailed instructions for this assignment are on Canvas..

The professional writing assignment will require you to write either a memo to a politician, an article for an online foreign affairs publication, or a backgrounder for an online database. You will receive feedback from me on your drafts, and present your work to the class in an oral presentation. The midterm and final will consist of 40 multiple choice questions, and one essay of approximately 500 words. For both exams, a list of potential essay questions will be available on Canvas a week prior to the exam.

Everything that is posted on the Canvas site is meant only for students enrolled in this class. Please do not share any material without prior permission from me. Since I cannot guarantee that your posts will not be screenshotted and shared by other users, please make sure that you would be comfortable with public sharing of anything that you post. Please respect your fellow students and instructor, and engage with them politely, even if you disagree. Remember that sarcasm does not come across clearly online! If you have concerns with any posts, please contact me.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed here: [Syllabus Information web page](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

List of references (APA format)

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POLS 145 / Asian Politics, Spring 2021, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice through Announcements on Canvas

Date	Topics	Readings and Videos	Assignments
Jan 27		Introduction to the course (video)	Extra credit: Intro videos of students Fun quiz on Asia
Feb 1	China— political	Pei 81-95 Economy 23-53	
Feb 3	China— economic	Ang 5-14, 141-42, 148-63	
Feb 8	China-- population	White 1-15 Hudson	Hypothesis 1
Feb 10	Japan— political	Morck and Nakamura , 543-50, 554-56, 588-93 Allinson 80-104	
Feb 15	Japan— population	Westervelt Tsuya	Current events report 1
Feb 17	South Korea— political	Schuman Ch. 2	
Feb 22	South Korea— economics	Albert Bhutto Changzoo Song , 57-70	

Date	Topics	Readings and Videos	Assignments
Feb 24	South Korea-- population	Chung and Das Gupta Kim	
Mar 8	Myanmar— political	Huang Beech	Current events report 2
Mar 10	Myanmar— economic	Woods, 747-55 Joliffe	
Mar 17	North Korea— political and population	Tudor & Pearson 85-95 Song	Professional writing assignment outline
Mar 22	North Korea— economic	Greitens (2019)	Hypothesis 2
Mar 24	Vietnam	Kim and Oh Nguyen, Viet & Vo	Current events report 3
Apr 5			Midterm
Apr 7	India— political	Khosla & Vaishnav Ayoob	Professional writing assignment draft
Apr 12	India— economic	Munshi	
Apr 14	India— economic	Munshi	Hypothesis 3
Apr 19	India-- population	Kaur & Kapur	Current events report 4
Apr 21	Democracy and Asian values	Pye 41-54 Rudolph	
Apr 26	Democracy and Asian values	An & Tang Greitens (2020)	
Apr 28	Work on Podcast assignment with students of RMIT Vietnam		
May 3			
May 5	Pakistan— economics	Siddiq Ch. 10	Fiction report
May 10	Pakistan— political	Macdonald 233-47	
May 12	Afghanistan	Jackson & Weigand Mukhopadhyay & Brown	
May 17	Afghanistan	Mansfield, Ch. 3	Hypothesis 4
May 24			Final exam

Date	Topics	Readings and Videos	Assignments
			Final professional writing assignment submission