

IS 3301

Asia in the 21st Century

Late Spring 2018

Online Course

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Welcome to class!

The Rise of China, the Asian pivot under Obama's Foreign Policy, and the on-going North Korea nuclear crisis – these are just some of the current issues in Asian politics. Asia as a region is complex, multifaceted, and critical to international politics. During the next eight weeks, we will explore current events in East and Southeast Asia. Each week, we will learn about a current event in Asia and discuss its implication in relation to US foreign policy and international politics overall.

What are the learning objectives for this class?

Upon completion of this course you acquired the following skills and knowledge:

1. Demonstrate a basic knowledge about Asian geography, history, and politics
2. Ability to critically read and analyze the news
3. Develop intercultural understanding and skills
4. Formulate a coherent and convincing argument

What do I need to complete this course?

All readings are available on Moodle or online. For reference throughout the semester, please consult these sources (also on Moodle):

1. Brookings Institute – Center for East-Asian Policy Studies:
<https://www.brookings.edu/center/center-for-east-asia-policy-studies/>
2. The East West Center: <https://www.eastwestcenter.org>
3. All videos are accessible via my Asian Politics channel:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL_waBgogZEp3oNcQdqIJFSgKWd-sThg6S

How do I earn my grade?

Rather than a traditional course that grades each student on a scale from 0 to 100%, you will actively be involved in your learning. There will be a variety of assignments and each student can choose how much to do in order to get the grade she or he wishes. This will allow students to direct their learning in this course in the manner that best suits their learning objectives. Essentially, the grade you earn is completely up to you!

For each graded assignment in this course, you must satisfactorily complete the assignment to receive credit. The threshold for satisfactory completion depends on the type of assignment. Each graded assignment includes a detailed description of the minimum specifications (or tasks) for satisfactory completion.

How do I know how well I did on an assignment?

For each assignment in this course, you will have explicit specifications, or tasks, related to that assignment. In order to receive credit for completing the assignment, you must satisfy all the specifications for that assignment. *Grades are awarded as pass or fail – there is no partial credit.*

If you ever find yourself doing an activity in this class and you're not sure what it is supposed to accomplish, don't hesitate to let me know. I read each word of your work and appreciate a good effort and independent thinking. You can reach out to me (email, phone, in person) to make sure you understand what I'm asking for in each assignment. Asking for clarification or help is a good solid effort and documentation of your learning. Don't be afraid to ask!

What if I my work did not meet the requirements for a pass?

For Module 1: Grades are determined by your quiz score. There are no do-overs. However, you can take each quiz as often as you like while it is open.

For Module 2: You can submit a revision of your work after receiving feedback. You will only be allowed to resubmit if missed 3 specifications or less (outlined below). Revisions must be turned in one week after receiving feedback and there is no penalty for revisions as long as they are handed in in time.

For Module 3: Grades are determined by your participation in the online forum. Revisions without penalty are only allowed if you missed 2 or fewer of the specifications outlined below. Revisions must be turned in one week after receiving feedback and there is no penalty for revisions as long as they are handed in in time.

For Module 4: Grades are determined by submitting an Op-Ed as your final exam. There are no do-overs. Late assignments will not be accepted.

What if I do not submit my assignment in time?

You will have a chance to submit missing assignments during closed week. However, submitting assignments late in any of the Modules will reduce your grade from the full letter grade to a 'minus' – this means that if you fulfill all requirements for a B but you hand in *at least one* assignment late, you will receive a B-. No revision possible on late assignments.

Please note that for Module 4, late submissions are not accepted.

If you submit all your assignments on time, you will receive a bonus of half a letter grade, i.e. if you met all requirements for a B *and* you submitted everything on time, you will receive a B+ as your final grade.

How do I determine my final grade?

Satisfactory completion of assignments helps you earn your preferred final grade in the course. Below are the exact requirements you need to meet for each letter grade.

Note: You must fulfill the minimum requirements in each cell of a column in order to earn that final grade. If you do not meet the minimum requirements for a D in this course, you will receive an F.

Assignments	Minimum Grade Requirements			
	D	C	B	A
Module 1: Quiz must be submitted by the deadline	complete 3 out of 7 quizzes with a total average score of 70% or higher	complete 4 out of 7 quizzes with a total average score of 70% or higher	complete 5 out of 7 quizzes with a total average score of 70% or higher	complete 6 out of 7 quizzes with a total average score of 70% or higher
Module 2: critical news analysis must be submitted by the deadline	Complete 3 out of 7 assignments	complete 4 out of 7 assignments	complete 5 out of 7 assignments	complete 6 out of 7 assignments
Module 3: Discussion Lead and Participation must be submitted by the deadline	Participate in online discussion 3 out of 6 weeks	Participate in online discussion 4 out of 6 weeks	Participate in online discussion 5 out of 6 weeks	Participate in online discussion 6 out of 6 weeks
Module 4: Op-Ed must be submitted by the deadline				Complete Op-Ed

Module 1: Demonstrate a basic knowledge about Asian geography, history, and politics

You will need to complete a weekly quiz to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings. The quiz is multiple choice and is available on Moodle. **The quiz will open every Monday and closes Sunday at noon.** You can take the quiz as often as you like while it is open.

Module 2: Ability to critically read and analyze the news

You will need to submit a critical news analysis each week on the topic of the week. Each critical news analysis is **due Sunday at noon**. For instructions on how to write a summary see: <https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Current-Events-Summary>

To receive a passing grade on this assignment, you will need to do the following:

1. **Find a news article that discusses the topic of the week.** The only acceptable news sources are the following:
 - a. Al-Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/regions/asia.html>
 - b. BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/asia>
 - c. The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/asia>

- d. CNN: <https://www.cnn.com/asia>
- e. New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/section/world/asia>
- f. Wall Street Journal: <https://www.wsj.com/news/types/asia-news>

2. **Summarize the article.** A summary must include:

- a. Choose an article that is less than two weeks old
- b. Source of the news article including the publication date and link to the article (1 sentence)
- c. The Who: The person or group involved in the story (1-2 sentences)
- d. The What: which event/issue is being discussed? (2 sentences)
- e. The When: when did this event occur? (1 sentence)
- f. The Where: where did the event occur? (1 sentence)
- g. The Why: what factors gave rise to the problem? (2 sentences)
- h. The How: what happened? Discuss the ways the events took place and the connection between them (3 sentences)

Module 3: Develop intercultural understanding and skills

I will post a news article on the topic of the week from an Asian newspaper. In order to pass this assignment, you need to do the following:

1. Read the article
2. Post a comment which must include the following elements:
 - a. Determine whether the United States is portrayed in a negative or positive light.
 - b. Explain why the US is portrayed in such a light.
 - c. State your disagreement or agreement with the assessment of the US role in the event.
 - d. Give at least one reason on why you agree or disagree with the statement.

Module 4: Formulate a coherent and convincing argument

For the final module, you will pretend to write an Op-Ed for USA Today. The news publication requires op-eds to be 650-900 words in length. They want pieces that are incisive and compelling, and that include issues at the top of the news, or that introduce wholly new subject matters.

The subject matter for the op-ed will be announced will be announced at the beginning of final week and the op-ed is due on May 4th by midnight. Use this guide on how to write an Op-Ed:

<https://www.theopedproject.org/oped-basics/>

To receive a pass for this assignment, you need to fulfill the following requirements:

1. Meet the word requirement
2. Have a hook
3. Have an explicit thesis/argument
4. Provide three arguments. Each argument must include two pieces of evidence and a conclusion.
5. Include a 'to-be sure' paragraph where you address potential criticism to your argument and show how that counterargument is invalid
6. Conclusion, must circle back to your ledge/hook.

What are the guidelines for this course?

In order to make sure our course runs smoothly, we need to have some policies and ground rules in place for how we will interact with each other.

How do I communicate with the instructor? How will he communicate with me?

You can email me at any time (ochmall@isu.edu) or visit during my office hours. I am happy to help you with any of the assignments or just discuss your thoughts on human rights! If you cannot make it to office hours, please email me to set up an appointment.

I will respond to any email inquiries within 24 hours during regular business hours.

Moodle is of central importance in this class. It is on Moodle where you submit your assignments, where I post readings and where I announce important information. Please make sure to receive Moodle notifications for the course and check into Moodle at least twice a week.

What if Moodle is acting up?

If Moodle is acting up (and it sure will), please contact the IT help desk at 282-HELP. Make sure to always save a copy of your assignment in case Moodle 'eats it' – it has happened before. If this is the case, first call Moodle for troubleshooting. If they cannot fix the problem, please email me your assignment by the deadline. If you notice a problem after the deadline has passed, email me immediately to alert me to the problem. I strongly suggest taking a screenshot of Moodle when you submit your assignment to prove that you did submit it on time.

What if I need an accommodation?

All students with a disability and requiring special accommodations to participate in and to complete this course must contact the Disability Resource Center (Rendezvous Building) for verification of eligibility and for determination of specific accommodations. More information here: <http://www2.isu.edu/disabilityservices/>

What if I need help with assignments and writing?

If you would like assistance with your writing, from brainstorming to a second set of eyes to check spelling and grammar, please use the Writing Center. Trained writing consultants can help you with all stages of your writing process. More information here: <http://www2.isu.edu/success/writing/>

What are the expectations for academic integrity?

For purposes of this course, plagiarism is understood to refer to: A) Direct quotes without adequate source citation. B) Paraphrase or précis without adequate source citation. All material: fact, theory, or hypothesis, derived from the works of others must be properly cited. Source citations must include: author, title of the work being cited, pages being referred to, and date of publication. For journal articles, proper citation includes the above **plus**: journal title, volume number, and pages in the journal occupied by the article. Models for proper citation format may be found in: Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, University of Chicago Press, 1973. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree.

What is the course schedule?

March 5 Future Trends in Asia

Read:

- DNI Global Trends Report (2015). East and Southeast Asia. <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/the-next-five-years/east-and-southeast-asia>
- Forbes (2017). From North Korea To South China Sea: 5 Stories From Asia To Keep Watching In 2018. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ralphjennings/2017/12/26/the-top-5-asia-stories-of-2017-and-2018/#375075315f1d>

Watch: Is This the Asian Century?

By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz: <https://lizardpoint.com/geography/asia-quiz.php?qid=40376> – please print your results from website and email it to me by the deadline
- Complete CAN

March 12 North Korean Crisis

Read: Leibo, Steven (2017). *East and Southeast Asia 2017-2018*. Chapter: North Korea (on Moodle)

Watch: Covering the North Korean threat - The Listening Post

Listen: Drumbeat of war with North Korea from Pod Save the World. <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/cadence13/pod-save-the-world/e/52659533>

By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz
- Complete CNA
- Participate in Discussion Board

March 19 Spring Break

March 26 China as the new super power?

Read:

- Leibo, Steven (2017). *East and Southeast Asia 2017-2018*. Chapter: China (on Moodle)
- The United States, Japan, and the Rise of China: <https://www.cfr.org/event/united-states-japan-and-rise-china>

Listen: China's Approach to the Developing World <https://chinapower.csis.org/podcasts/chinas-approach-developing-world/>

Watch: Joseph Nye on Global Power Shifts

By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz
- Complete CNA
- Participate in Discussion Board

April 2 Japan's Military Rise

Read:

- Leibo, Steven (2017). *East and Southeast Asia 2017-2018*. Chapter: Japan (on Moodle)
- Panton, Michael A. (2010). 'Politics, Practice and Pacifism,' *Asian Pacific Law and Policy Journal* 11 (2): 163-218 (on Moodle)

Watch: Al Jazeera: Will Abe change Japan's pacifist constitution? - Inside Story

By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz
- Complete CNA
- Participate in Discussion Board

April 9 Myanmar: Rohingya Crisis

Read:

- Leibo, Steven (2017). *East and Southeast Asia 2017-2018*. Chapter: Myanmar (on Moodle)
- BBC: Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561>
- CFR: The Rohingya Crisis <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/rohingya-crisis>

Browse: Human Rights Watch on the Crisis <https://www.hrw.org/tag/rohingya-crisis>

Listen: Crisis in Burma from Pod Save the World

<https://art19.com/shows/pod-save-the-world/episodes/683f1ab0-6e28-47f3-a5d8-3cc6fb4d5516>

By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz
- Complete CNA
- Participate in Discussion Board

April 16 ASEAN

Read:

- IDEA. Inclusive Political Participation and Representation. The Role of Regional Organization. Chapter 3 on ASEAN (on Moodle)
- Severino, Rodolfo (2008). ASEAN. Chapter 1-3 (on Moodle)

Watch:

- ASEAN Community in 2015
 - 50 years ASEAN Milestone
 - ASEAN Connectivity: Connecting a Region
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By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz
- Complete CNA
- Participate in Discussion Board

April 23 **Terrorism in Southeast Asia**

Read: RAND (2009). The Evolving Terrorist Threat to Southeast Asia: Introduction, chapter 3, chapter 7, and conclusion (on Moodle)

Watch: Subcommittee Hearing: Black Flags over Mindanao: Terrorism in Southeast Asia

By Sunday at noon:

- Complete Quiz
- Complete CNA
- Participate in Discussion Board

April 30 Chance to submit any late assignments

May 4 Submit Op-Ed
