

POLS 3388.001

Comparative Asian Politics

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Overview

I am thrilled that you have selected to study Southeast Asian Politics this semester. I am excited about this course! In this course we will focus on the politics of Southeast Asia while utilizing the tools of comparative politics to analyze and better understand each country. We will emphasize the impact of history, culture, government structures, and economic change on political processes.

Course Goal

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the culture, politics, and societies of contemporary Southeast Asia. I want every student to walk away from this course with the background to intelligently assess contemporary developments in SE Asia. More broadly, students should have a better understanding of the challenges facing developing states both inside and outside the Asian region.

Course Requirements

This course is focused on readings and documentary videos. In the three weeks of this course students are to read two brief books, watch five hours of videos, and write several short papers. 1) Students will write a two-page review/reaction paper for each of the five required videos. 2) Students are to read and write a two-page review of the book Teaching Barefoot in Burma. 3) Students will complete an online examination that covers the two books and the videos.

Course Evaluation

Your final course grade will be the assessment of your learning as indicated by these work products.

1. SEA Videos – 2-page Country Profiles \times 5 (50%).
2. Barefoot Book Review – 2-page review paper (25%).
3. Online Exam over videos and the readings (25%).

Course Materials

- 1) **Southeast Asia: Very Short Introduction** | Edition: 18
Author: Rush
ISBN:9780190248765. \$5
- 2) **Asia From Above** on Amazon Prime. Five Episodes. \$10
- 3) **Teaching Barefoot in Burma**
by Author: Robert Sterken.
ISBN-13: 978-0692777848.
\$2.99

Course Milestones

M May 11: Class Begins.

T May 13: Asia From Above: Myanmar. Paper due (10%).

SA May 16: Asia From Above: Thailand. Paper due (10%).

W May 20: Asia From Above: Vietnam. Paper due (10%).

SA May 23: Asia From Above: Laos. Paper due (10%).

W May 27: Asia From Above: Cambodia. Paper due (10%).

Fri: May 29: Barefoot book review due (25%).

SA May 30: Final Exam due (25%).

Assignment Details

1. Asia From Above Video Series

"Asia From Above" is an amazing series that shows a bird's-eye view of the lives and landscapes of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar. The Cineflex helicopter camera captures images of the vivid colors and sensational landscapes of these beautiful countries and examines the **politics, cultural codes, and fascinating histories** of these five countries.

Students must view and take notes on each of the five episodes. After completing each episode, the student may write a brief country profile. Country profiles include basic country facts and figures such as a) religion b) population, and c) provide brief summaries of current politics and economics. Each country profile must include a brief note about something that the student found interesting about that specific country. What did you find fascinating and why? Each brief country profile should be about two double-spaced pages and must be uploaded into Canvas by the due date on the assignment (late assignments will be docked one letter grade).

2. Teaching Barefoot in Burma Book Review

Students must read and write a brief (2-page) review of *Teaching Barefoot in Burma* (pdf for \$2.99) The book can be purchased at any bookstore and online. This very brief book review should include a) introduction, b) a brief note about content, c) a paragraph or two about something that stood out to the student as she read, and d) a brief conclusion.

- a) **Introduction** should include: The name of the author and the book title and the point of the book. You should link the title to the subject of the book to show how the title explains the subject matter.
- b) Note about **content** should include: This should be brief and summarize the book's contents.
- c) Something that **stood out**: give a specific page reference in parentheses when you do quote. State the event, idea, or the author's point in your own words.
- d) Brief **conclusion**: Sum up your final judgment regarding the book. This paragraph needs to balance the book's strengths and weaknesses in your overall evaluation.

3. Final Examination

Students must complete an online (Canvas) final examination that covers the two required books and the five videos. The exam is open-book and open-notes and will consist of short-answer and short essay questions drawn from the reading and videos.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

1. Students will have an opportunity to gain an understanding of the political systems within Southeast Asian countries and the differences and similarities between them.
2. The successful student will have demonstrated an understanding of and analyses of current political issues in the Southeast Asian region.
3. Successful students will have gained an understanding and application of seven prevailing themes in Southeast Asian politics:
 - a. The endurance of traditional cultures in the region
 - b. The intermingling and grafting of Asian traditions
 - c. The influence of Western values and institutions in Asia
 - d. The socioeconomic development and political change in Asia
 - e. The relationship between the individual and institutions of the Asian states
 - f. National identity and nationalism in the Asian region
 - g. The importance of globalization in Asia

UT Tyler Student's Rights & Responsibilities

For more on your rights and responsibilities: <https://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>.

UT Tyler Honor Code

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

UT Tyler Resources for Students

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), writingcenter@uttyler.edu
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), tutoring@uttyler.edu
- The Mathematics Learning Center, RBN 4021, this is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)

Students Rights and Responsibilities

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless

tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support.

For more information on cessation programs please visit www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of

modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit

<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

Social Security and FERPA Statement

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Emergency Exits and Evacuation

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.