Overview
I am thrilled that you have selected to study Asian Politics this semester. I am excited about this course and our time together! In this course we will focus on the politics of Burma, Japan, India and China 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 Asia. I want every student to walk away from this course with the background to intelligently assess contemporary developments in Asia. More broadly, students should have a better understanding of the challenges facing developing states both inside and outside the Asian region.

Course Requirements
I often find grades to be distractions from learning. This course places a strong emphasis on engaged student participation and I'm concerned that grades might get in the way of that. Conventional grading often leads us to think more about grades than about learning and writing, to worry more about pleasing or fooling the professor than about figuring out what you want to say or how to say it, to be reluctant to take risks.

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

1. Burma Research Note – 5-page paper (20%)
2. Burma Research Presentation (10%)
3. Asian Blog & Tweets – 15 entries – 1 post/tweet each week (30%)
4. Class Attendance & Participation (10%)
5. Book Review (posted in your blog) (15%)
6. Final Online Essay Assessment (20%)

Course Materials
Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan Sue Ellen M. Charlton
Publisher: Westview Press; 3rd edition


Course Milestones

August 27 - Our first class meeting!
Introductions to a wonderful semester!

October 17 – Book Review Due (posted in blog)

October 17 – Burma Research Paper Proposal due

November 1 - Burma Research Note Presentation.

December 5 – All blogs must be complete

December 5 – Research Notes Due

December 10/12 – Final Assessment of Learning!
Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

1. Students will have an opportunity to gain an understanding of the political systems within 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 Asian region.

3. Successful students will have gained an understanding and application of seven prevailing themes in 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

Assessment of student learning will be indicated by…

7. Research Note – paper in which the student applies one of the seven these to a contemporary political issue (20%)

8. Asian Blog – 15 entries – 1 post each week in which the student applies one or more of the above themes to a current issue in Asian politics (25%)

9. Tweets – 15 tweets – 1 tweet (or re-tweet) each week in which the student “tweets” writes a 140 character post about his or her blog post (5%)

10. Attendance & Participation (10%)

11. Book Review (posted in your blog) (15%)

12. Final Online Essay Assessment (20%)

Policies Every Student Needs to Know!

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

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 that students need to be aware of. 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 Services: In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services office in UC 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 reenter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.