

Course Syllabus - Politics in Asia and the Pacific (Pols 320)

Introduction

This course introduces comparative and international politics in Asia and the Pacific. The focus is on politics in East Asia, but we will also branch out to cover the wider region and the role of the region in global politics.

Aim

The aim is to give an overview of political systems and recent political history in Asia. The aim is also to highlight some pressing contemporary issues and to introduce the most important research on the region.

Learning goals

At the end of the course students will have acquired basic knowledge about politics in the region. Students will also know about the relevant sources and analytical tools to make sense of current affairs in Asia.

Examination

To successfully complete the course students are expected to independently carry out a small research task and present the results in a clear way. Successful students are also expected to critically evaluate the work of their peers in concluding paper seminars. At the end of the course there will be a written exam.

Grading

50% of the grade will be determined by the quality of individual research papers. Another 30% of the grade will be determined by the results on the written exam and the last 20% will depend on activity and performance in class.

Teacher

Pontus Wallin, PhD in Political Science (www.pontuswallin.com)

Schedule

The duration of the course is seven weeks. There will be fifteen lectures and three seminars. All activities will be scheduled 09:00-10:50 in the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The schedule is as follows:

Week 1

Lecture 1: Course introduction

Lecture 2: Introduction to comparative politics

Lecture 3: Introduction to international politics

Week 2

Lecture 4: China

Lecture 5: Taiwan

Lecture 6: Japan

Week 3

Lecture 7: North and South Korea

Lecture 8: Southeast Asia and Oceania

Lecture 9: Central and South Asia

Week 4

Lecture 10: Traditions of totalitarianism

Lecture 11: Experiments in authoritarianism

Lecture 12: Examples of democratization

Week 5

Lecture 13: Demographic and social challenges

Lecture 14: Environmental and economic challenges

Lecture 15: Policy response and innovation

Week 6

Paper seminar 1

Paper seminar 2

Paper seminar 3

Week 7

Written exam

Literature

Lectures are based on the books listed below. These works will mostly be used for reference. Selected chapters are only mandatory for students who miss class. Articles will be handed out before class and should be read in advance.

Rod Hague, Martin Harrop, John McCormick. *Comparative government and politics: an introduction*. London: Red Globe Press, 2019

Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (ed.). *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Hua, Shiping (ed.). *Routledge Handbook of Politics in Asia*. London: Routledge. 2020.

+ Selected articles