

POSC 127/Far East & the Future//Fall 2014

Faramarz Farbod//Zinzendorf 102

Office Hours: T 10-11:45 AM or by appointment

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Course Description: As the title of the course indicates it deals with a number of key issues and countries in the Far East. The latter include Korea North and South, Japan, and China. Some of the key issues discussed are pertinent to particular countries only, such as the issue of division and reunification concerning the two Koreas and the policy of the U.S. regarding them. Other issues have more than a country-specific relevance as in the case of the increasing precariousness of life in Japan -- a problem increasingly experienced by many others around the world as well. Still others have far greater regional and global resonance, such as the matter of the rise of China as a global power and its possible future. The course begins by delving into the distinct intellectual traditions that arose in Asia a century ago as it began the long trek to free itself from internal decay and external domination by western imperial powers. In the course of this examination, the course introduces aspects of the histories of other parts of Asia, such as India and Egypt among other lesser nations. The course also attempts to understand the broader geopolitical and political economy forces at play with the view to what may lie ahead for the region.

Required Readings: 1) *Mishra: From the Ruins of Empire*, 2) *Allison: Precarious Japan*, 3) *Callahan: China Dreams*, and 4) *Hart-Landsberg: Korea*

Grades*: Class Participation: 10%; Mid-Term & Final Exams: 30% (each); Book Reviews (2): 15% (each)

Notes & Explanations:

- **Class Participation:** It will be based on regular attendance plus informed participation in class discussions. To facilitate the latter I require that you bring to each class a discussion item or a question based on the assigned readings for that session. I will call on individuals regularly to share their items.
- **Book Reviews:** Three-page reviews of *Precarious Japan* and *China Dreams* books. A review is more than a simple summary; it involves engagement with the substance or an aspect of the book under review. Reviews need not cover the entire book but rather may be responses or reactions to aspects of the book.
- **Class Readings** are assigned on a class-by-class basis. It is the responsibility of students to find out about assigned readings in case of absence.
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.
- **Attendance Policy:** Be there. Be on time. Absences due to illness require written confirmation from a healthcare provider. Unexcused absences will be marked and incorporated into the course grade determination.
- **Academic Honesty Policy:** In cases of cheating or plagiarizing in any way, I will follow the appropriate procedures as they appear in the College Student Handbook.
- **E-Devices:** All electronic devices should be turned *off* before class sessions begin.

* It is within my purview to apply qualitative judgment in the determination of any and all grades.