

Political Science 292 Special Topics
Asian Political Thought
Spring 2016

MW 2:35PM-3:45PM

PPHAC 235

Instructor: Yayoi Kato, Ph.D.

Office: Comenius 205

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to major systems of political thought in Asia. The course is divided into two phases. The first phase—until the midterm—is the survey of ancient and pre-modern Asian political thoughts, such as Confucianism, Daoism, and Sunzi. In this part we address such questions as: What are the cosmological foundations of Eastern thought? How do they differ from Western thought? What are the major concerns of ancient Asian political leaders and thinkers? What propelled the development of Asian philosophies? To explore these questions, we examine not only the philosophies themselves but also the historical backgrounds and political/cultural implications of Asian political thought.

In the second phase we focus on Asian political thought in the modern era, such as Maoism and Japanese fascism. How did Asian leaders and philosophers such as Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, and Japan's pre-war leaders, synthesize traditional Asian thought with newly-introduced Western thought (i.e., Marxism) in their nation-building and modernization efforts? Were their efforts successful or disastrous? In the final part, we examine Asian capitalism and democracy and their links with Asian philosophies and traditions. Is Confucianism conducive to democracy and economic growth? Or is Confucianism prone to authoritarianism and corruption? Is Asian capitalism different from America capitalism? What are the philosophies behind Japan and China's economic successes? Instructor encourages active participations in discussions by all students. Discussions are important because through discourse we could: 1) reach a shared understanding of basic terms and concepts, which meanings are often lost in translation or prone to misunderstandings, 2) foster our tolerance for divergent views, and 3) develop the skills to formulate and present one's own arguments in response to others'.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are required to take midterm and final exams that consist of short essay questions. You are also required to write a 7-9 page research paper due at the end of the semester. Instructor asks you to submit a 1-2 page research topic statement before the spring break. Class participation grade includes attendance, positive contributions to class discussions, and your performance of short quizzes and homework occasionally assigned.

Final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Class attendance and participation 15%

Midterm exam 25%

Research topic statement 5%

Term paper 20%

Final exam 35%

REQUIRED BOOK

- JeeLoo Liu, *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy: From Ancient Philosophy to Chinese Buddhism*. Blackwell Publishing. 2006.

The book is available for purchase in the bookstore. Additional readings are posted in Blackboard or available on line.

CLASS RULES

1. Please turn off your cell phones when you enter the classroom.
2. Please don't be late for class. If you are late for attendance call at the beginning of class, your do not get a credit for the attendance of that class.
3. Leaving classroom during class sessions is discouraged except for medical and other emergencies. Please stay in classroom for 70 minutes.
4. You are expected to read all assigned readings before each class and to submit assignments on time.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

All Students should be aware of their obligations under the Academic Honesty Policy published in the Moravian College Student Handbook. Please see:

<http://www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>.

STUDENT WITH DISABILITIES

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS*

*Subject to revision and update during the semester.

(Jan. 18, 20) Introduction and Warming up

Discussion of class goals, expectations and assignments. No readings.

Ancient and Pre-Modern Asian Political Thought

(Jan. 25, 27) *Yi Jing (I-Ching)*: The Cosmological Foundations of Chinese Philosophy

Reading:

*Liu, Introduction and Ch. 1.

(Feb. 1, 3) Confucianism: Confucius, Mencius, and Xunzi

*Liu, Chs. 2-4.

**The Analects*: <http://www.yellowbridge.com/onlinelit/analects.php>

(Feb. 8, 10) Daoism, Mohism and Legalism

*Liu, Chs. 5-8.

*Lao Zi (Tzu), *Dao De Jing (Tao Te Ching)*: <http://www.chinapage.com/gnl.html#00>

(Feb. 15, 17) Buddhism

*Liu, Part II, Introduction.

(Recommended) Liu, Chs. 9-12.

(Feb. 22, 24) Military Strategies and Ethics: Sunzi and Samurai Code

*Sun Zi, *The Art of War*, <http://www.chinapage.com/sunzi-e.html>

*Inazo Nitobe, *Bushido, the Soul of Japan*, (1905). Skim.

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/bsd/bsd02.htm>

(Feb. 29) Review for midterm exam

March 2: Midterm exam (Closed book, closed notebook)

Spring break

Asia's Nation-Building Struggles: Fascism, Maoism, and Genocide

(March 14, 16) State Shinto and Japanese Fascism

Readings:

*Sanderson Beck, Imperial Japan (historical background)

<http://www.san.beck.org/21-8-ImperialJapan1894-1937.html>

*BBC Shinto history

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/shinto/history/history_1.shtml#section_5

*BBC Shinto and Nationalism

http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/shinto/history/nationalism_1.shtml

*Kita Ikki, "An Outline Plan for the Reorganization of Japan" (in Blackboard).

Research topic statement assigned

(March 21, 23) Maoism and Chinese Communism

March 21, Research topic statement due in class

Readings:

*"Quotations from Chairman Mao" (Little Red Book). Skim.

<http://art-bin.com/art/omaotoc.html>

(March 28, 30) Ho Chi Minh and Khmer Rouge: Guerilla War and Genocide

Political thought and ideology of Ho Chi Minh and Khmer Rouge (Communist Party of Kampuchea).

What ideology and political thought did cause the Cambodian genocide?

Readings:

(Ho Chi Minh)

* "Vietnamese Declaration of Independence," (1945).

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/ho-chi-minh/works/1945/declaration-independence.htm>

* "The Imperialist Aggressors Can Never Enslave the Historic Vietnamese People" (1952).

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/ho-chi-minh/works/1952/01/x01.htm>,

* "The Path which Led me to Leninism," (1960).

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/ho-chi-minh/works/1960/04/x01.htm>

(Khmer Rouge)

*"Historical Overview of the Khmer Rouge," Northwestern University, School of Law

<http://www.cambodiatribunal.org/history/khmer-rouge-history#overview>

*Ben Kiernan, "External and Indigenous Sources of Khmer Rouge Ideology" in Sophie Quinn-Judge and Odd Arne Westad eds., *The Third Indochina War: Conflict between China, Vietnam and Cambodia, 1972-79*, pp. 187-206 (in Blackboard).

(Recommended)

*Film, "*S-21: The Khmer Rouge Killing Machine*" (2003, 101min).

Contemporary Thought: Asian Capitalism and Democracy

(April 4, 6) Asian Capitalism: Confucian Capitalism?

Is there a link between Confucianism and corruption, or between Confucianism and economic growth?
What are the weaknesses and strengths of Asian economic model?

Readings:

*Robert Elegant, "Removing the Veils From East Asian Corruption," *The New York Times*, January 19, 1996. <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/01/19/opinion/19iht-edrob.t.html>

*Nicholas D. Kristof, "Crisis Pushing Asian Capitalism Closer to U.S.-Style Free Market: How different?" *The New York Times*, 17 January 1998.
<http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/55/078.html>

(April 11, 13) China's Socialist Market Economy

What is the philosophical foundation of China's socialist market economy? Discussions of Deng Xiaoping Thought and Jiang Zemin's "Three Represents."

*Selected works of Deng Xiaoping, vol. II and III (1982-92).

Read the following three articles

*"Hold High the Banner of Mao Zedong Thought and Adhere to the Principle of Seeking Truth from Facts" (1978)

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/vol2/text/b1220.html>

*"Building Socialism with a Specifically Chinese Character" (1984)
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/vol3/text/c1220.html>

*"Seize the Opportunity to Develop the Economy," (1990)
<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/dengxp/vol3/text/d1170.html>

*Jiang Zemin, "Three Represents" by the Communist Party of China.

<http://english.cpc.people.com.cn/66739/4521344.html>

(April 18, 20) Asian Democracy: Asian Values, Human Rights and Democracy

*Zakaria Fareed, "Culture is destiny - A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew." *Foreign Affairs* 73, no.2 (1994): 109-126. (in Blackboard)

*Kim Dae-Jung, "Is Culture Destiny?" *Foreign Affairs* 73, no.6 (1994): 189-194. (in Blackboard).

(April, 25) Discussion of Term Paper

Term paper due

(April, 27) Review for final exam

Final exam: Tuesday, May 3 at 11:30AM