Seminar on Asian Politics:
Asian Political and Economic Development in a Global Context
Fall 2006 / 44-492-02
Mon/Wed/Fri 2:00-2:50PM BCH 211

Dr. Sheng Ding
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Bloomsburg University
Email: sding@bloomu.edu
Office: BCH 315A x4336
Office Hours:
M/W/F 3:00 – 5:00 or by arrangement
Please help me get to know you!

The 21st century has often been called the “Pacific Age,” that is, Pacific Asian countries have received more and more attention as either established or rising powers in world economics and politics. Job markets throughout Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia are offering tremendous travel and work opportunities of a lifetime. As American business continues to expand into Asia at an unprecedented pace, many multinational corporations seek individuals with background knowledge of Asian countries. What you will learn from this class can be an invaluable career move for you future.

In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, people can feel directly and indirectly the increasing importance of Asia in the post-Cold War global affairs. How to understand and deal with this fundamental change in contemporary world? This course is a general survey of the politics, economics, culture, and other aspects of Asia, with a focus on Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and South Asia. Starting with the general environment of Asia, this course covers the history, politics, economics, culture and international relations of major Asian powers and discusses the main economic and security issues that concern Asian countries in the globalization era.

Participation in class discussions is a requisite of the class and students are invited to bring their own personal perspectives to bear on the topics we will tackle. Students will be expected to think critically, interpret texts and formulate their own ideas in verbal and written form.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Required Text Reading: all the required text readings of this course will appear in electronic forms. Either they are available to download from course website (coming soon…) or they can be found through the electronic journals at the Bloomsburg University library. On the webpage of required text readings, links to the readings will be posted and updated throughout the semester, and so students must visit the course web site regularly.

- Required Daily Reading: students are required to read all of Asia-related news report on the New York Times everyday; and Students will be required to read a journal of major stories (Times, Newsweek, Economist, or US News & World Report). 15-20% of exam questions will come from your daily reading.
EVALUATION:

Class Attendance, Participation and Presentation (25%)

- It is essential for students to read the required materials before class and attend all class sessions. Class attendance is mandatory (10%). An unexcused absence will lead to the loss of a half point in your class attendance and participation grade. Active participation in class discussions are a vital part of this course (5%). Your questions and comments will never be judged by your political opinions.
- Each student is also required to make a brief (about 10 minutes) in-class presentation of recent news on Asia during the course of semester (10%). The presenter should not only tell the class what happened, but also provide some background to help understand the news story better. After each presentation there will be a short period in which the presenter replies to questions or comments from the audience. For the preparation of the presentation, there are many English-language websites that cover news on Asia. Some of those are linked from the online resources web page for this course.

Midterm Exam (25%)

- A midterm exam may consist of geography map of the Northeast Asia and South Asia; some sets of multi-choice; several short answers; one essay question; etc.

Final Examination (25%)

- A final examination may include geography map of the Southeast Asia and some other countries in the Asia-Pacific Rim; some sets of multi-choice; several short answers; one essay question; etc.

Research (25%) (5% BONUS)

- During the course of the semester, students will write one short paper with the theme of “Asian Political and Economic Development in a Global Context.” This prompt is purposefully vague to give students adequate leeway to explore ideas of particular individual interest. Although paper is due on the first class right after the Thanksgiving Break, early submission is extremely encouraged. Paper should be 10 pages in length, double-spaced. Electronic submissions are not accepted. Students must submit a hard, paper copy. Students must cite at least twelve sources for their paper. Please see the detailed paper requirements in the last page.

- During the course of the semester, students can publish any form of writing in any local or national newspaper. For example, students are encouraged to write a brief (100-150 word) “letter to the editor” that states your views on some American foreign policies or some major world issues. This letter may comment on an article, which you have read in that paper. Email this “letter to the editor” to the instructor after your submission. Only the published writing can be eligible for 5% bonus. Unpublished writings will not contribute any point to your final grade.

Tentative Class Schedule
(Coming soon…)
Tentative Required Text Readings:
(Coming soon…)

Paper Requirements

Sources:

Students must cite at least twelve sources for their paper. Since this a synthetic essay, students are expected, though not required, to use readings assigned for class. At least six resources must be outside sources, not found on the course syllabus. These may be books or articles from mainstream newspapers, journals, or respected magazines (no random Internet website from a Google search!).

Internal citations or footnotes are required for resources cited in the paper. Papers must also include a works cited page with bibliographic references. As students may be aware, there are many citation styles. Students may choose any, as long as they are consistent. For help with both internal citations and the works cited page a style manual is recommended (e.g. Diana Hacker’s A Pocket Style Manual). The following is also a good resource, although only for works cited page:
<http://dept.seattlecolleges.com/libraries/Citation_Style_Guides/>

Formalistic requirements:

Papers must be typed and printed out for submission. Electronic submissions are not accepted. Paper must be 6 pages in length, single-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides. The recommended font size is 12 point regular. The recommended font is Times New Roman in all cases.

Paper (25%) will be graded according to the following metrics:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of English</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Form</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</tbody>
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Both exams will be administered in class. Students will be able to make up exams only if they provide the documentation of illness, accident, etc, and notify instructor not later than 24 hours after the exam. If a make-up exam is necessary, its time and place will be declared by the instructor.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with Bloomsburg University’ policies on academic honesty. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.

Class attendance is mandatory. Unexcused lateness and early retreat are not accepted. Remember to turn off cell phones and any other “noisy” electronic devices during class.

Your ideas, your arguments and text must be your own.

Everything which is not your own must be noted.

In writing for political science courses, cheating is most likely to take the form of plagiarism. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Use footnotes or endnotes to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, or borrowed ideas.

I will explain how to use footnotes and endnotes in class, in section, and in handouts.

If you don't know what footnotes or endnotes are...Ask!

Do not copy other people's old papers. Do not copy or buy papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources.