

Culture & Society of East Asia
POLS 4230/5230-80
Fall, 2017
3 credit hours

Dr. Nathan Blank

Office: LH 193, 125 College Drive, Casper, WY 82601

Office Hours:

MWF 8-9 am

T,Th 8-9:30 or by appointment

Office phone: 307-268-2272

Email: nblank@uwyo.edu

Lecture/discussion: via Zoom conferencing software, MWF 11-11:50 a.m.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/297809736>

Course description:

Discusses how culture, history, social systems and political institutions of East Asian nations have contributed to their political economy of rapid industrialization and social transformation.

Course objectives:

On completion of the course the student will

1. Understand the history and social systems of major East Asian states.
2. Understand how culture, religion, colonialism, resources, traditions, and conflict have shaped the current geopolitical situation in Asia today.
3. Appreciate how key figures and events from the past still shape contemporary East Asia.
4. Be able to articulate the broad outlines of life, culture, and politics across East Asia.
5. Have further developed his/her critical and analytical skills, and writing abilities.

Course materials:

There are four texts that are required for this course.

The International Politics of the Asia Pacific: Third and Revised Edition (Politics in Asia) 3rd Edition - Michael Yahuda - ISBN-13: 978-0415474801

The End of the Asian Century: War, Stagnation, and the Risks to the World's Most Dynamic Region - Michael R. Auslin - ISBN-13: 978-0300212228

Course requirements:

Each student will write three response papers. These are to be 3-5 pages in length. They should summarize the broad outline of the argument from a specific reading and then offer some critical commentary of (which does not necessarily imply disagreement with) that argument. Students will sign up for the papers in advance. They are due by noon of the day that we will be discussing that reading. Students can simply upload those to canvas as a Word attachment. There will also be a final exam, which will be largely essay in format. It will be open note and

open book. Do not plagiarize, however. I will review final exam answers with an eye towards plagiarism. I have caught students cheating on online exams and have given them an F for the course; I am willing to do so again. There will also be a final seminar paper of approximately 10-12 pages. The paper is due at the start of class on November 30th. (The guidelines for papers statement at the end of the syllabus applies to both the response and seminar papers.) Class participation will also be graded.

Evaluation Criteria:

Final Course Grade – Grading Scale – Grade Determination – Grade Weight

This point breakdown is an estimate only:

First Exam	100 Points
Second Exam	100 Points
Third Exam/ Final Exam	100 Points
Response Papers (3 x 25)	75 Points
Seminar Paper	100 Points
Presentation (2 x 50), Discussion lead (50)	150 Points
Participation	50 Points
Attendance	50 Points

A = 725-652

B = 651-578

C = 577-504

D = 503-430

F = 429 and below

Your grade will be calculated according to the point values listed above based on the total points possible and the total points you have accumulated throughout the semester. It is therefore possible for you to keep an accurate record of your grade in the course.

**** Each and every quiz, test, assignment, etc. not completed will receive a 0 (zero) and will be added in accordingly.

Graduate students are required to read two additional books over one of the central topics of the course (e.g., books that delve more deeply into a regional topic of your choice). These books are to be selected in consultation with me and a book review (of five to seven pages) is due over each book. The seminar paper is expected to explore the selected topic with a greater level of depth, and thus will need to be of a greater length (probably around 20 pages). I also expect that the additional readings will begin rather early in the semester, so that they will be able to contribute what they are reading to the class discussions.

For graduate students, each book review is worth 75 points and the final paper is worth 150 points.

For graduate students, there are 925 points possible. Final grades will use the same 90/80/70 percentage scale.

Student Behavior: Treat everyone with respect and respect will be returned unto you. “It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” -Aristotle

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism and all other offenses listed under University Regulation 802 rev 2) will not be tolerated. Any violations of University policy will be handled through University procedures explained at <http://www.uwyo.edu/a&s/AppealsDishonesty/GuidelinesDishonesty>

Punishment for violations of academic dishonesty standards will vary according to the severity of the offense. Generally, at the low end they will be a zero for the assignment; at the high end they will be an F for the semester. In addition, violators will be reported to the Judicial Affairs office under the Dean of Students. Two infractions being reported to this office typically result in that student being ejected from the University. I take academic honesty seriously. If I catch a student engaging in plagiarism, it will gravely affect your semester grade. The usual punishment is an automatic F for the semester. I have done this before and will not hesitate to do so again.

Accommodations for persons with documented disabilities require student registration with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall, 766-6189, TTY 766-3073. Please make every effort to register and inform me of your needs as soon as possible.

No electronic devices (excepting silenced cell phones) will be allowed in class unless first approved by the instructor. Text messaging, passing notes, and similar forms of inattentiveness will lower your participation grade.

Attendance Policy – The University assumes that students will seek to profit from the instructional program and will recognize the importance of attending every class meeting of courses for which credit is expected. Responsibility for notifying faculty of absences, and for arranging potential make-up, rests with the students. Students are allowed two unexcused absences. After that their overall grade will be lowered by ten (10) points for each absence. Conversely, those students with perfect attendance will receive an extra 20 points at the end of the semester.

Civility – Civil behavior enhances the academic setting, and is expected at all times. The academic environment welcomes a difference of opinion, discourse, and debate within a civil environment.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus (and the schedule herein) is articulated as an expectation of class topics, learning activities, and expected student learning. However, the instructor reserves the right to make changes in this schedule that, within my professional judgment, would result in enhanced or more effective learning on the part of the students. These modifications will not substantially change the intent or objectives of this course and will be done within the policies and procedures of the university.

Accommodations of disabilities:

It is the policy of the university to provide appropriate accommodation to any student with a documented disability. If you need special accommodations in this course, please talk to me at the earliest possible time.

Course schedule:

The following is a tentative course schedule. You need to read the assignments before we meet, otherwise our discussions will not go nearly as well.

Given that the assigned readings are for an entire week, the *volume* of readings is rather light. The material can be challenging, however. I expect you to read the material closely, re-read sections of it, and to take notes often (outlining as you read is always a good practice). This will help you to not only develop a better understanding of the arguments, but also improve your reading skills in general.

August

Week 1 – 28th, Introduction to the course – Yahuda 1 & 2, Auslin 1, Shambaugh ch. 2 (pdf).

September

Week 2 - 4th: China: Yahuda 2 & 6, Miller ch. 3 (pdf).

Week 3 – 11th: China: Yahuda 8 & 10, Miller ch. 12 (pdf)

Week 4 - 18th: Taiwan: Miller ch. 7 (pages 110-112, 254-258) (pdf), additional articles to be linked via canvas.

Week 5 - 25th: Japan: Yahuda 7 & 11, Shambaugh ch. 8 (pdf).

October

Week 6 – 2nd: Korea: Miller ch. 5, 13 (pages 236-241), 14 (pages 260-265), Shambaugh ch. 12. (all of these will be available as pdf files via canvas)

Week 7 - 9th: Vietnam: Miller ch. 9, Kingsbury ch. 3, additional articles to be linked via canvas.

Week 8 – 16th: Singapore: Kingsbury ch. 7, Auslin 2, additional articles to be linked via canvas.

Week 9 – 23rd: Malaysia: Kingsbury ch. 6, Auslin 3, additional articles to be linked via canvas.

Week 10 – 30th: Thailand: Kingsbury 10, Auslin 4, additional articles to be linked via canvas.

November

Week 11 - 6th: The Philippines and Indonesia: Kingsbury ch. 11 & 12, Miller pages 205-208 (pdf), , additional articles to be linked via canvas

Week 12 - 13th: East Asia & ASEAN: Kingsbury ch 2 & 14, Auslin 5, additional articles to be linked via canvas

Week 13 – 20th: South China Sea/ Spratly Island Dispute, Korean Nuclear Crisis: Auslin 6 & 7, Shambaugh 15 (pdf)

Week 14 - 27th: Labor migration in East Asia: articles to be linked via canvas

December

Week 15 - 4th: The United States in Asia: Yahuda 4, Shambaugh ch. 4 (pdf), Miller ch. 7 (pdf),

Week 16 - 11th: Final exam. (The exam will actually be available online. We can discuss the implications of that in class.)

Guidelines for papers

1. Organize your thoughts and your writing. Papers generally work best if you tell the reader in the first paragraph what you will say about the topic at hand. This helps the reader know what to expect and it can also help you orient yourself as to what to put first, then second, etc., within the paper.
2. You need to avoid grammatical errors. There are several common ones. One of the most common can be found in this sentence: “Each voter should decide for themselves.” A voter is not a “themselves,” he or she is either a himself or a herself. If the subject is singular, then any pronouns referring to that subject also need to be singular. I do not care whether you choose the masculine or feminine pronoun (e.g., him or her, himself or herself), or both. Just do not make an individual into several people in the course of one sentence. Also keep in mind the other basic rules of grammar, such as when to use a comma versus a semicolon.
3. Always proofread your papers before you hand them in. Computer spell check programs are wonderful things but they do not catch many common typos (simply because you end up with another word) and other sorts of errors. There is no substitute for proofreading. I highly recommend you visit the writing center for help with your drafts.
4. Plagiarism is a serious offense and I will treat it as such. If you commit plagiarism you will, at a minimum, receive an automatic F for the course. More serious forms of punishment are also available. I have used them in the past and I will not hesitate to do so again. Plagiarism simply means that you misrepresent someone else’s thoughts and/or words as your own. If you present another person’s ideas, simply give that person credit.

- If you are, say, writing a paper over just war theory and you are drawing upon the ideas of Onora O'Neill, simply cite her work when appropriate. You do not have to begin every sentence with "As O'Neill argues," you just have to make it clear that the ideas are hers. If you want to use someone's own words, because that either puts the idea better than you ever could or for some other reason, you need to put quotation marks around the quotation. It's that simple. Re-writing a few words out of every sentence that you are getting directly from another source still counts as a form of plagiarism.
5. Please use the Chicago Style citation format. It is often used in the social sciences.
 6. Keep your margins at the standard of 1 inch and have a reasonable font. I do not appreciate someone who fiddles with the margins or font size to make his or her short paper seem longer. If your paper is short, be brave and hand in a short paper.
 7. You need to be precise in your choice of words. For example, if you write that "Plato felt that the state should help mold the character of its subjects," I would argue that you are wrong. Plato *thought* that, but don't present someone driven by his ideas, like Plato was, as a person who was merely moved by his feelings. Words mean rather specific things; use the right one to convey what you mean. Far too often students end up stating or implying something that they do not intend.
 8. Late papers will be marked down. Late seminar papers will be marked down one letter grade for each day they are late. Response papers will be accepted after noon, though they will be marked down by two letter grades. They will not be accepted after 7 p.m., however (i.e., class time).
 9. Maintain a proper tone. You should write an academic paper. Do not be too informal or use words that are not fit for an academic audience (never use profanity unless you are writing hip hop lyrics).
 10. UW has a Writing Center which can be found through the UW home page. Or you can just go to <http://uwadmweb.uwyo.edu/ctl/writing%5Fcenter/>. One component of it is an on-line help desk. UW Outreach students are just as much UW students as anyone else, and the Ellbogen Center for Teaching and Learning has some great resources. For these reasons I strongly encourage you to avail yourself of these opportunities.