

POLS 152: Politics of Asia  
Fall 2006, MWF 12:30-1:50, WPC 142

Prof. Nathan Batto  
George Wilson Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-5 and by appointment  
Email: nbatto@pacific.edu  
Phone: 946-7636

**Course Description:** This is a course about politics in East, Southeast, and South Asia, a region encompassing roughly half of all the people on Earth. We will particularly focus on politics in five countries: Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand, and India. In each country, we will look at how power is distributed, examining relationships both between people and politicians and among politicians.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. understand recent history and political developments in various Asian countries
2. understand the patterns of power in these countries
3. improve your ability to read critically and discuss your insights cogently
4. improve your ability to write clearly, succinctly, and persuasively

**Required Texts:**

1. Paul Brass. 1994. *The Politics of India since Independence*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Cambridge University Press.
2. Gerald Curtis. 1999. *The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions, and the Limits of Change*. New York: Columbia University Press.
3. Susan Shirk. 1993. *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

**Other readings** will be available on Blackboard. You are also encouraged to follow current politics in Asia. One good source is *Asian Survey*. In the January/February issue each year, an expert writes a review of politics during the previous year for each country in Asia. There are several English language newspapers freely available on the internet. Some of the more useful for this course include:

1. New York Times (general)
2. International Herald Tribune (general)
3. Japan Times (Japan)
4. Daily Yomiuri (Japan)
5. China Daily (China)
6. The Standard (Hong Kong)
7. Taipei Times (Taiwan)
8. China Post (Taiwan)
9. The Nation (Thailand)
10. Bangkok Post (Thailand)
11. The Times of India (India)
12. The Tribune (India)

**Course Grade:** Your course grade will depend on four short papers (10% each), one long paper (40%), an in-class presentation of your long paper (10%), and class participation (10%).

1. **Short papers:** The semester will roughly be divided into five periods on Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand, and India. Near the end of each period, I will hand out essay prompts. You should write a 3-5 page essay addressing one of these questions. This essay will be due one week after the prompts are handed out. At the end of the semester, I will take the four highest grades. You may write all five essays and drop the lowest grade, or you may choose to write only four of the essays.
2. **Long paper:** You will write one 15-18 page research paper on a topic of your choosing. This paper may be about politics in one of the five focus countries, some other Asian country, or it may be a cross-national comparison. You must obtain approval of your topic from me by the end of the fifth week (Sept 29). You must also meet with me some time during the ninth and tenth weeks (Oct 23-Nov 3) to discuss your progress on the paper. The paper will be due on the last day of classes (Dec 15). Your paper should show evidence of significant outside research using scholarly books and journals. Most blogs and websites are not considered “scholarly.”
3. **Presentation of your research paper:** During the last two or three weeks of the semester (depending on enrollment), you will present your research paper to the class. You will have 10-12 minutes to make your presentation. You should figure out how to effectively present your paper in the time allotted; simply reading your paper will not be acceptable.
4. **Class participation:** You are expected to participate in class discussions. If you come to class having already read and thought about that day’s reading assignments, you will have no problem. If I find that students are not prepared to discuss, I reserve the right to give reading quizzes or give other reading assignments.

**Attendance:** I will not be taking attendance. This does not mean that you should skip class. You are responsible for all information presented in class, whether you are present or not. There will almost certainly be things that you need to know that will not be available anywhere else.

**Late Assignments:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless you have made other arrangements with me prior to the due date. Late assignments will be docked one letter grade for each day they are late. That means that a paper that would have gotten an A if it had been turned in on time will get a C if it is two days late.

**Honor Code:** The Pacific Policy on academic honesty may be found in *Tiger Lore*.

**Learning or Physical Disabilities:** If you need accommodations because of a certified learning or physical disability, you must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities to inform them of your needs. Be aware that professors are kept on a “need to know” basis – your privacy is maintained, and we are only told what we need to know to accommodate your learning needs.

**Course Schedule:**

Aug 30-Sept 1

Readings:

Huntington. *Political Order in Changing Societies*. chs 3, 7

Sept 4-Sept 8

NO CLASS Sept 4!

Readings:

Anderson. *Practicing Democracy*. chs 6, 7

Sept 11-Sept 15

Readings:

Curtis. *Election Campaigning Japanese Style*. Chs 1-3. Note: This is NOT from the book that you purchased!

Bouissou. "Organizing One's Support Base under the SNTV"

Fukui and Fukai. "Campaigning for the Japanese Diet"

Sept 18-Sept 22

Readings:

Curtis. *The Logic of Japanese Politics*. Chs 2-5

Paper #1 topics handed out Sept 22

Sept 25-Sept 29

Readings:

Hiwatari. "Japan in 2005."

Shirk. *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*. Chs 3-4

Paper #1 due Sept 29

Must obtain approval for research paper topic by Sept 29

Oct 2-Oct 6

NO CLASS Oct 6!

Readings:

Shirk. *The Political Logic of Economic Reform in China*. Chs 5-14.

Oct 9-Oct 13

Readings:

Oi. "The Evolution of a Clientelist System."

Wank. "Bureaucratic Patronage and Private Business."

O'Brien and Li. "Selective Policy Implementation in Rural China."

Bo. "The Institutionalization of Elite Management in China."

Tiewes. "The Problematic Quest for Stability"

Oct 16-Oct 20

Readings:

Yang. *Remaking the Chinese Leviathan*. Chs 2-3

Paper #2 topics handed out Oct 16

Oct 23-Oct 27

Readings:

Roy. *Taiwan: A Political History*. Chs 6-7

Rigger. *Politics in Taiwan*. Ch 4

Liu. "Campaigning in an SNTV System."

Batto. "Vote-buying not as easy as one-two-three."

Rigger. *From Opposition to Power*. Chs 2, 5

Paper #2 due Oct 23

Oct 30-Nov 3

Readings:

Chu. "The Legacy of One-Party Hegemony in Taiwan"

Roy. *Taiwan: A Political History*. Ch 8

Diamond. "Anatomy of an Electoral Earthquake."

Must meet with professor to discuss progress on research paper by Nov 3

Nov 6-Nov 10

Readings:

Baker and Pasuk. *A History of Thailand*. Ch 9

Surin. "Thailand's Two General Elections in 1992."

Ockey. "The Rise of Local Power in Thailand."

Callahan and McCargo. "Vote-Buying in Thailand's Northeast."

Anek. "A Tale of Two Democracies."

Paper #3 due Nov 10

Nov 13-Nov 17

Readings:

Somchai. "Civil Society and Democratization in Thailand."

Sombat. "The 1997 Constitution and the Politics of Electoral Reform."

McCargo. "Thailand's 2001 General Elections: Vindicating Reform?"

Pasuk and Baker. *Thaksin*. Chs 3, 6.

Paper #4 topics handed out Nov 17

Nov 20-Nov 24

NO CLASS Nov 22!

NO CLASS Nov 24!

Readings: none

Nov 27-Dec 1

Readings:

Brass. *The Politics of India since Independence*. Chs 1-3

Wolpert. *A New History of India*. Chs 23-24.

Paper #4 due Nov 27

Dec 4-Dec 8

Readings:

Brass. *The Politics of India since Independence*. Chs 4-6

Wolpert. *A New History of India*. Chs 25.

Dec 11-Dec 15

Readings:

Nayar. "India in 2004."

Other readings to be determined

Paper #5 topics handed out Dec 11

Research paper due Dec 15

Paper #5 due Dec 18