

**Modern Asian Political Philosophy**  
**POSC 592.05**

Spring 2012  
MR 2:00-3:50 p.m.  
JPA 189  
Office Hours: M 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,  
R 12:00-1:00 p.m., and by appointment

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Course Description: A comparative examination of the historical background and key expository or literary texts of prominent East- or South-Asian political theorists who wrote sometime between the mid-1800s and the present. Major topics include democratization, colonialism, nationalism, women's rights, nonviolence, and the political effects of traditional Asian religions and cultures. Counts as a Political Theory class for POSC majors and as an Asian studies course for INTS majors. For the spring of 2012 semester, also counts as a Political studies class for INTS majors so long as they are not also counting it as an Asian studies course.

Prerequisites: None.

Student Learning Outcomes: After successfully completing this course, a student should be able to:

- summarize the Asian arguments for democracy and self-determination and explain how these ideas have shaped contemporary efforts to resist authoritarianism and colonialism in the region;
- identify the key arguments Asian thinkers have used to oppose or justify the use of political violence; and
- explain how traditional Asian culture helps or hinders the welfare of women and the advance of human rights in general.

This course promotes one of the Program Learning Outcomes for the Political Science major. A student who completes this major should be able to “analyze and apply theories of politics and society to contemporary politics.” The first and third Student Learning Outcomes, in particular, encourage undergraduates to use Asian thinkers’ ideas to explain political outcomes in this part of the world. The class also advances one of the Program Learning Outcomes for the International Studies major. For instance, this semester’s material should prepare students to “demonstrate competency in one functional [i.e., political studies] or regional [i.e., Asian studies] specialization” and “develop skills to . . . relate cross-culturally” in an East-Asian environment.

How Course Advances Christian Mission of Pepperdine: Since in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek,” we must assume that God cares just as much about, say, the 1.3 billion residents of China or the 1.2 billion people in India as about the close to 300 million citizens of the United States. Because the Sermon on the Mount proclaims “blessed be ye poor [ . . . and] ye that hunger now,” we can be doubly sure that Jesus is concerned about Asians; some of the poorest,

most malnourished people in the world live in this region. Christian missionaries from North America and Western Europe have been trying to evangelize and develop East and South Asia for centuries, with some visible success. If Pepperdine students plan to work in missions or service there, it is vital that they familiarize themselves with the cultural, societal, and political realities of the area. Even if they remain in the United States, they will probably interact with East Asian immigrants on the job, in their extended families, or at church. Pepperdine undergraduates are more likely to view ethnic Asians and the countries of Asia as Christ sees them if these students have acquired an accurate understanding of Asian society.

**Requirements:** Successful completion of this course will require attending regularly and participating actively in class discussions (10% of grade), submitting to the professor via e-mail two insightful questions on each classic text to be presented in class (10% of grade; graded on a modified pass/fail basis), leading class sessions on several classic texts (10% of grade; graded on a pass/fail basis), writing a research paper comparing two major Asian political philosophers (25% of grade), and completing an in-class midterm (20% of grade) and a final exam on the course readings and their historical backgrounds (25% of grade). The final paper is due Friday, Apr. 20, the midterm is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 20, and the final exam takes place Wednesday, Apr. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the Disabilities Services Office (TCC 264; x6500) as soon as possible. Students needing to be absent during a religious holiday should also notify the instructor beforehand.

**Academic dishonesty is inexcusable!** Examples include writing notes on one's extremities and consulting said notes during a closed-book exam, forging the professor's signature, downloading term papers from the Internet, copying a paper from another student, hiring a graduate student to write your term paper for you, and submitting the same term paper for two classes without having previously obtained the permission of both instructors. If you are caught cheating in this class, I will do my best to see that you at least receive an F for the course. The Seaver College Academic Integrity Committee may impose additional sanctions, including suspension from Pepperdine. In short, don't even think about it!

Online evaluations will be required for this course. The evaluation period opens on the WP/WF deadline day (Apr. 13) and closes at midnight on the Sunday preceding the start of final examinations (Apr. 22). Please be sure to complete the course evaluation to ensure the improvement of future versions of this class.

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures and review sessions presented by the instructor, are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other

person. Electronic devices other than laptops (e.g., cell phones, PDAs, calculators, recording devices) are not to be used during lectures or exams without prior permission of the instructor.

A student requesting a grade change on substantive grounds (e.g., the number of points given for a particular answer on an exam; substantive grounds do not include errors in adding up the total number of points for an exam) must submit her or his request to me in writing within one week of the date I returned the graded assignment to her or him. My response will be in writing and is subject to review by and carbon-copying to the chair of the Social Science Division.

Readings: The following works are *required* and may be purchased at the Malibu campus bookstore:

- Aung San Suu Kyi. 2010 [1995]. *Freedom from Fear*. New York: Penguin.  
 Bhutto, Benazir. 2008. *Islam, Democracy, and the West*. New York, NY: Harper.  
 Fukuzawa Yukichi. 2009[1875]. *An Outline of a Theory of Civilization*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.  
 Rizal, José. 2010 [1887]. *Noli Me Tangere*. Manila, Philippines: Guerrero Publishing.

In addition, the remaining texts are available on Courses, on the internet, or elsewhere as detailed below.

Schedule:

Week 1 (Jan. 9 & 12): Introduction to Course; Logistics; Simplicity and Self-Sufficiency/Gandhi

- Reading: Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj*, chaps. "Why Was India Lost?" "What is True Civilization?" "Machinery," "What is Swaraj?" "Civilization," "How Can India Become Free?" and "Conclusion" (available at: <http://www.mkgandhi.org/swarajya/hindswaraj.htm>)

Week 2 (Jan. 19): Nonviolence/Gandhi

- Reading: Gandhi, "The Power of Nonviolence," "Training for Nonviolence," "Application of Nonviolence," "The Nonviolent State," "Violence and Terrorism," and "The Nonviolent Society" (available at: <http://www.mkgandhi.org/articles/peace.htm>)
- **Note:** No class Monday: Martin Luther King Day.

Week 3 (Jan. 23 & 26): Chinese Communism/Mao Zedong

- Reading: for Monday: Mao Zedong, "Problems of Strategy in Guerrilla War Against Japan" (all chaps. except 6; available at <http://www.marx2mao.com/Mao/PSGW38.html>); for Thursday: Mao Zedong, "On Contradiction" (all chaps. except 3 & 4; available at <http://www.marx2mao.com/Mao/OC37.html>)

- Week 4 (Jan. 30 & Feb. 2): Politics and Traditional Chinese Culture/Lu Xun & Bo Yang  
 - Reading: for Monday: Lu Xun, "The True Story of Ah Q" (all chaps. except 3 and 4; available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1921/12/ah-q/index.htm>); for Thursday: Bo Yang, *The Ugly Chinaman and the Crisis of Chinese Culture* (on Courses).
- Week 5 (Feb. 6 & 9): The "Asian Values" Debate/Lee Kuan Yew & Kim Dae Jung  
 - Reading: for Monday: Lee Kuan Yew, "Culture Is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew" (available at <http://www.lee-kuan-yew.com/leekuan-yew-freedzakaria.html>); for Thursday: Kim Dae Jung, "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 73, No. 6 (Nov. - Dec., 1994), pp. 189-194, (available at <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/50557/kim-dae-jung/is-culture-destiny-the-myth-of-asias-anti-democratic-values?page=show>)
- Week 6 (Feb. 13 & 16): Asian Democracy/Sun Yat-sen; Midterm Review  
 - Reading: Sun Yat-sen, *Three Principles of the People* (on Courses)  
 - **Note:** Open review on Thursday for midterm; please bring questions on previous course material.
- Week 7 (Feb. 20 & 23): Midterm; Asian Democracy/ Liu Xiaobo  
 - Reading: Liu Xiaobo, "That Holy Word, 'Revolution'" (available at <http://www.tsquare.tv/links/LiuXiaobo.html>)  
 - **Note:** Midterm exam on Monday. No class week beginning Feb. 27: Spring break.
- Week 8 (March 5 & 8): Asian Democracy/Charter 08 group; Islam and Democracy/ Benazir Bhutto  
 - Reading: for Monday: Anonymous, "Charter 08" (available at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2009/jan/15/chinas-charter-08/>); for Thursday: Benazir Bhutto, *Islam, Democracy, and the West*, chaps. 2 & 6
- Week 9 (March 12 & 15): Women's Rights/Kartini & Kumari Jayawardena  
 - Reading: for Monday: Kartini, *Letters of a Javanese Princess*, letters 1, 10, 15, & 23 (available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/34647/34647-h/34647-h.htm>); for Thursday: Kumari Jayawardena, *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World* (preface, introduction, and conclusion; Payson Library e-book)
- Week 10 (March 19): Human Rights/Aung San Su Kyi  
 - Reading: for Monday: Aung San Su Kyi, *Freedom from Fear*, chaps. 6, 13, 16, 17, 20, & 21  
 - **Note:** No meeting on Thursday; Joel presenting paper at Western Political Science Association meeting in Portland.

Week 11 (March 29): Field Trip (Little India, Filipino and Indonesian Consulates)

- **Note:** No class Monday, but all-day field trip to Los Angeles on Thursday.

Week 12 (Apr. 2 & 5): Education and “Civilization”/Fukuzawa Yukichi

- Reading: for Monday: Fukuzawa Yukichi, *An Outline of a Theory of Civilization*, chaps. 3 & 4; for Thursday: same, chap. 9

Week 13 (Apr. 9 & 12): Colonialism and Nationalism/José Rizal & Lin I-hsiung

- Reading: for Monday: José Rizal, *Noli Me Tangere*, Author’s Dedication, chaps. 1, 11, 59, 60-62, & Epilogue; for Thursday: Lin I-hsiung, *The Heart’s Temper: On Nonviolent Protest*, and selected essays (in Chinese; English translation on Courses)

Week 14 (Apr. 16 & 19): Globalization and its Critics/Arundhati Roy; Review for Final Exam

- Reading: Arundhati Roy, *The Algebra of Infinite Justice* (on Courses)

- **Assignment:** final research paper due in my Social Science or e-mail box by 5:00 p.m. on April 20.

Final exam scheduled for Wednesday, Apr. 25, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.