GLBL 3301

**Current Asian Affairs**

Late Fall 2019 - Online Course

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| Instructor | Dr. Malliga Och | Office | North Gravely Hall 116 |
| Phone | 208-282-3717 | Office Hours | T/TR 12.30 – 2 pm |
| Email | ochmall@isu.edu |  | M/W/F 1:00 – 3:00 pm (by appointment only) |

**Welcome to class!**

The Rise of China, the Sri Lanka Easter attacks, the on-going North Korea nuclear crisis, the oppression of minorities – these are just some of the current issues in Asian politics. Asia as a region is complex, multifaceted, and critical to international politics. During the next eight weeks, we will explore current events in East and Southeast Asia. Each week, we will learn about a current event in Asia and discuss its implication in relation to other countries in Asia.

**What are the learning objectives for this class?**

Upon completion of this course you acquired the following skills and knowledge:

1. Develop an understanding of the history, politics, and foreign relations in Asia (Module 1)
2. Develop intercultural skills and learn how to critically read and analyze the news (Module 2)
3. Formulate a coherent and convincing argument (Module 3)

**What do I need to complete this course?**

All readings, videos, and podcasts are available on Moodle. For reference throughout the semester, please consult these sources (also on Moodle):

1. Brookings Institute – Center for East-Asian Policy Studies: https://www.brookings.edu/center/center-for-east-asia-policy-studies/
2. The East West Center: https://www.eastwestcenter.org
3. Council on Foreign Relations – Asia: https://www.cfr.org/asia
4. Center for Strategic and International Studies – Asia: https://www.csis.org/regions/asia
5. Harvard University Asia Center: https://asiacenter.harvard.edu/
6. Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University: https://aparc.fsi.stanford.edu/

**How do I earn my grade?**

Rather than a traditional course that grades each student on a scale from 0 to 100%, you will actively be involved in your learning. There will be a variety of assignments and each student can choose how much to do in order to get the grade she or he wishes. This will allow students to direct their learning in this course in the manner that best suits their learning objectives. Essentially, the grade you earn is completely up to you!

For each graded assignment in this course, you must satisfactorily complete the assignment to receive credit. The threshold for satisfactory completion depends on the type of assignment. Each graded assignment includes a detailed description of the minimum specifications (or tasks) for satisfactory completion.

Satisfactory completion of assignments helps you earn your preferred final grade in the course. Below are the exact requirements you need to meet for each letter grade.

***Note****: You must fulfill the minimum requirements in each cell of a column in order to earn that final grade.* If you do not meet the minimum requirements for a D in this course, you will receive an F.

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|  | **Minimum Grade Requirements** | | | |
| **Assignments** | D | C | B | A |
| **Module 1:** Lesson Response | Pass 3 out of 6 | Pass 4 out of 6 | Pass 5 out of 6 | pass 6 out of 6 |
| **Module 2:** critical news analysis | Pass 3 out of 6 | Pass 4 out of 6 | Pass 5 out of 6 | Pass 6 out of 6 |
| **Module 3:** Op-Ed |  |  | Pass Op-Ed | Pass Op-Ed |

**How do I know how well I did on an assignment?**

For each assignment in this course, you will have explicit specifications, or tasks, related to that assignment. In order to receive credit for completing the assignment, you must satisfy all the specifications for that assignment. *Grades are awarded as pass or fail – there is no partial credit.*

If you ever find yourself doing an activity in this class and you’re not sure what it is supposed to accomplish, don’t’ hesitate to let me know. I read each word of your work and appreciate a good effort and independent thinking. You can reach out to me (email, phone, in person) to make sure you understand what I’m asking for in each assignment. Asking for clarification or help is a good solid effort and documentation of your learning. Don’t be afraid to ask!

Module 1:Lesson Response

Every week you need to provide a lesson response based on the assigned videos, podcasts, or readings. To pass the assignment, you must:

1. Share a specific part of the weekly lesson that you thought was interesting
2. Provide an explanation why you found that part of the lesson particularly interesting
3. Connect the discussion of specific part of the weekly lesson that you thought was interesting to previously assigned readings
4. Answer is written in complete and full sentences
5. Answer is at least 200 words
6. Submit assignment on time

Module 2:Ability to critically read and analyze the news

To pass this assignment, you must do the following:

1. **Select a news article on the topic of the week** which must be
   1. less than a month old and
   2. from an Asian news outlet (see Moodle for a list of reputable news outlets)
2. **Provide citation for news article** according to the Chicago Style Manual: Author First Name/Initial Surname, "Article Title," Newspaper Title, Month Day, Year, URL
3. **Summarize the article**. A summary must include (for detailed instructions on how to write a summary see: https://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Current-Events-Summary)
   1. The Who: The person or group involved in the story (~1-2 sentences)
   2. The What: which event/issue is being discussed? (~2 sentences)
   3. The When: when did this event occur? (~1 sentence)
   4. The Where: where did the event occur? (~1 sentence)
   5. The Why: what factors gave rise to the problem? (~2 sentences)
   6. The How: what happened? Discuss the ways the events took place and the connection between them (~3 sentences)
4. **Explain how the article fits with the week’s topic**.

Module 3:Formulate a coherent and convincing argument

For the final module, you will pretend to write an Op-Ed for USA Today. The news publication requires op-eds to be 650-900 words in length. They want pieces that are incisive and compelling, and that include issues at the top of the news, or that introduce wholly new subject matters. **You can only attempt Module 3 if you qualify for an A or B in module 1 and 2 by Nov 24th, 2019.**

You can write the op-ed related to any issue that we discussed in class. The op-ed is due on December 8th at noon. Use this guide on how to write an Op-Ed: https://www.theopedproject.org/oped-basics/

To receive a pass for this assignment, you need to fulfill the following requirements:

1. Meet the word requirement
2. Have a ledge/hook
3. Have an explicit thesis/argument
4. Provide three arguments. Each argument must include two pieces of evidence.
5. Include a ‘to-be sure’ paragraph where you address potential criticism to your argument and show how that counterargument is invalid
6. Conclusion must circle back to your ledge/hook.

**What if I my work did not meet the requirements for a pass?**

For Module 1: You can revise and resubmit a failed assignment without penalty if you failed fewer than half of the grading criteria. Revisions are due by the following Sunday at noon

For Module 2: You can revise and resubmit a failed assignment without penalty if you failed fewer half of the grading criteria. Revisions are due by the following Sunday at noon.

For Module 3: You can revise and resubmit your Op-Ed by December 12th at noon.

Participation: Every week I will post a discussion prompt on the discussion board. If you post a response and engage with a post of a fellow student in a meaningful and respectful manner (do you agree or disagree with the post? Why or why not?) a total of three weeks, I will reward you with a bonus of a half letter grade on your final grade. If you engage meaningfully every week, I will reward you with a full letter grade.

**What if I do not submit my assignment in time?**

You can submit assignments up to one week late. However, there is no revise and resubmit option for late assignments. The penalty for late assignments is half a letter grade of your final grade, this means that if you fulfill all requirements for a B but you hand in *more than 2* assignment late, you will receive a B-. If you hand in more than 4 assignments late, the penalty is a full letter grade of your final grade and so on.

If you submit all your assignments on time, you will receive a bonus of half a letter grade, i.e. if you met all requirements for a B *and* you submitted everything on time, you will receive a B+ as your final grade.

**What are the guidelines for this course?**

In order to make sure our course runs smoothly, we need to have some policies and ground rules in place for how we will interact with each other.

*How do I communicate with the instructor? How will he communicate with me?*

You can email me at any time (ochmall@isu.edu) or visit during my office hours. I am happy to help you with any of the assignments or just discuss your thoughts! If you cannot make it to office hours, please email me to set up an appointment.

I will respond to any email inquiries within 24 hours during regular business hours. If you email me a funny meme on Asian politics you will get an extra-credit.

Moodle is of central importance in this class. It is on Moodle where you submit your assignments, where I post readings and where I announce important information. Please make sure to receive Moodle notifications for the course and check into Moodle at least twice a week.

*What if Moodle is acting up?*

If Moodle is acting up (and it sure will), please contact the IT help desk at 282-HELP. Make sure to always save a copy of your assignment in case Moodle ‘eats it’ – it has happened before. If this is the case, first call Moodle for troubleshooting. If they cannot fix the problem, please email me your assignment by the deadline. If you notice a problem after the deadline has passed, email me immediately to alert me to the problem. I strongly suggest taking a screenshot of Moodle when you submit your assignment to prove that you did submit it on time.

*What if I need an accommodation?*

All students with a disability and requiring special accommodations to participate in and to complete this course must contact the Disability Resource Center (Rendezvous Building) for verification of eligibility and for determination of specific accommodations. More information here: http://www2.isu.edu/disabilityservices/

*What if I need help with assignments and writing?*

If you would like assistance with your writing, from brainstorming to a second set of eyes to check spelling and grammar, please use the Writing Center. Trained writing consultants can help you with all stages of your writing process. More information here: http://www2.isu.edu/success/writing/

*What are the expectations for academic integrity?*

For purposes of this course, plagiarism is understood to refer to:  A) Direct quotes without adequate source citation.  B) Paraphrase or précis without adequate source citation. All material: fact, theory, or hypothesis, derived from the works of others must be properly cited. Source citations must include: author, title of the work being cited, pages being referred to, and date of publication.  For journal articles, proper citation includes the above **plus**: journal title, volume number, and pages in the journal occupied by the article. Models for proper citation format may be found in: Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, University of Chicago Press, 1973.Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree.

**What is the course schedule?**

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| October 14 | Future Trends in Asia  **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Read:** Please see Moodle for your weekly readings.  **Assignments due by October 20th at noon:**   * Submit CNA * Submit LR   **Extra-credit!**   * Complete Quiz: https://lizardpoint.com/geography/asia-quiz.php?qid=40376 – please print your results from website and email it to me. If you get more than 90% on the test, you can submit one assignment late without penalty. |
| October 21 | The Rise of China  **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Read:** Readings in the folder “the rise of China” are mandatory for everyone. You can choose whether you want to learn more about   1. the One Belt, One Road Initiative, **or** 2. U.S. China Relations.   **Assignments due by October 27th at noon:**   * Submit CNA * Submit LR |
| October 28 | Hongkong Protests  **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Read:** Please see Moodle for your weekly readings.  **Assignments due by November 3rd at noon:**   * Submit CNA * Submit LR |
| November 4 | North Korean Crisis  **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Read:** Please see Moodle for your weekly readings.  **Assignments due by November 10th at noon:**   * Submit CNA * Submit LR |
| November 11 | Terrorism in Southeast Asia  **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Read:** Read the Introduction chapter in *The Evolving Terrorist Threat to Southeast Asia* e-book (on Moodle) and **one** other country-specific chapter **of your choice**.  **Assignments due by November 17th at noon:**   * Submit CNA * Submit LR |
| November 18 | Minority Rights in Asia  **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Read:** Readings in the folder “minority rights” are mandatory for everyone. You can choose whether you want to learn more about   1. LGBTQ Rights in India, **or** 2. the Rohingya Crisis, **or** 3. the Chinese oppression of the Uighurs   **Assignments due by November 24th at noon:**   * Submit CNA * Submit LR |
| November 25 | Thanksgiving |
| December 2 | **Watch**: Weekly Class Video  **Assignments due by December 8th at noon:**   * Submit Op-Ed (only if you qualify for an A or B in module 1 AND 2) |
| December 9 | Final Week |