

Governance and Conflict in East Asia

Politics 190t • 75604 • Spring 2010
University of California, Santa Cruz
Prof. Benjamin L. Read

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Course meetings: Mon/Wed/Fri 12:30p - 1:40p, Merrill Academic Building, room 3
Office hours: Mon/Wed 1:45p-2:45p in 157 Merrill Faculty Annex, and by appointment
Date of this syllabus: March 23, 2010. Subject to change; check websites for latest version.

Overview:

Understanding the politics of East Asian countries requires coming to grips with two seemingly contradictory themes. One is the long tradition of statecraft, state-building, and state-centric thinking in these political systems and their historical predecessors. The other is the equally long tradition of popular movements, contention, resistance, rebellion and revolution that has challenged, subverted, reformed and shaped these states. In this reading-intensive seminar we will engage with work that speaks to this tension and explores conflict and cooperation in state-society relations. China is the topic of special emphasis but some readings deal with other East Asian countries as well.

Specifically, in this year's version of the seminar, we will read four outstanding and recent biographies of important Asian leaders, as a window into the above topics and issues. Students will write papers examining a non-U.S. leadership figure of their own choosing.

Readings:

The books below are available for purchase at the Bay Tree bookstore. Taylor and Handley should be on reserve at McHenry Library as well. If you wish to own the book but want to try to save a little money, you might try the used books search on Amazon.com or other such services.

- Gao Wenqian, Peter Rand, and Lawrence R. Sullivan, *Zhou Enlai: The last perfect revolutionary: A biography* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2007).
- Paul M. Handley, *The king never smiles: A biography of Thailand's Bhumibol Adulyadej* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006).
- Jay Taylor, *The generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the struggle for modern China* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009)
- Justin Wintle, *Perfect hostage: A life of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's prisoner of conscience* (New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2007).

Assignments and Ground Rules:

- Please read the following items carefully before deciding to stay enrolled in this course.
- Class attendance is a firm requirement. Attendance will be taken at every session at the beginning of class. I am quite understanding about family emergencies, illness or other serious exigencies, and will treat them as excused absences if verifiable documentation is provided. See my web page for the absence form, which must be printed, filled out, and signed. Two percentage points will be deducted from your course grade for every unexcused absence. To put that in perspective, the difference between a B+ and a C+ is ten percentage points.
- This course involves a substantial amount of reading and you are required to do it. Readings must be completed before the class meeting for which they are assigned. Note that although I have strived to make it easy for you to find the readings, it is your responsibility to obtain and read these items.
- You must use and regularly check your official email account, i.e. the one that AIS or MyUCSC sends mail to.
- Assignments:

- Active participation in discussion, and leading discussion in turn, 20%
- One page-long reading response per week, 25% total
- One ten-page term paper draft, 10%
- One 12-14 final version of the same term paper, 40%
- In-class presentation on term paper, 5%
- The percentages above are subject to adjustment. All grades are given on a 0-100 scale, where 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc. A-range grades are reserved for work of exceptionally high quality.

Week 1:

Monday, March 29

- Class introduction

Wednesday, March 31

- Taylor on Chiang: Prologue and Chapter 1

Friday, April 2

- Taylor on Chiang: Chapters 2-3

Week 2:

Monday, April 5

- Taylor on Chiang: Chapters 4-5

Wednesday, April 7

- Taylor on Chiang: Chapters 6-7

Friday, April 9

- Taylor on Chiang: Chapters 8-9

Week 3:

Monday, April 12

- Taylor on Chiang: Chapters 10-11

Wednesday, April 14

- Taylor on Chiang: Chapters 12-13 and epilogue

Friday, April 16

- Wrap-up discussion on Taylor

Week 4:

Monday, April 19

- Handley on Bhumibol, Preface, Introduction, and Chapters 1-3

Wednesday, April 21

- Handley on Bhumibol, Chapters 4-6

Friday, April 23

- Handley on Bhumibol, Chapters 7-11

Week 5:

Monday, April 26

- Handley on Bhumibol, Chapters 12-15

Wednesday, April 28

- Handley on Bhumibol, Chapters 16-19

Friday, April 30

- Handley on Bhumibol, Chapters 20-22

Week 6:

Monday, May 3

- Wintle on Aung San Suu Kyi, Prologue and Chapters 1-6

Wednesday, May 5

- Wintle on Aung San Suu Kyi, Chapters 7-13

Friday, May 7

- Wintle on Aung San Suu Kyi, Chapters 14-20

Week 7:

Monday, May 10

- Wintle on Aung San Suu Kyi, Chapters 21-26

Wednesday, May 12

- Wintle on Aung San Suu Kyi, Chapters 27-31

Friday, May 14

- Wintle on Aung San Suu Kyi, Chapters 32-36 and postscript

Week 8:

Monday, May 17

- Gao on Zhou, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

Wednesday, May 19

- Gao on Zhou, Chapters 4-6

Friday, May 21

- Gao on Zhou, Chapters 7-9

Week 9:

Monday, May 24

- Gao on Zhou, Chapters 10-12

Wednesday, May 26

- Gao on Zhou, Chapters 13-15

Friday, May 28

- Gao on Zhou, Chapters 16-18

Week 10:

Monday, May 31 * **No class in observance of Memorial Day** *

Wednesday, June 2

- Student presentations

Friday, June 4

- Student presentations

The final version of the final paper is due at noon on Monday, June 7. You must turn in a hard copy in the box outside my office, and also submit an electronic version as an email attachment, by that time.