Master Syllabus

GEOG 354: Geography of Asia

Course Description

The geography of South, Southwest, Southeast, and East Asia. A survey and analysis of the physical geographic patterns, bases of cultural diversity, and the changing spatial aspects of political organization. (3 credit hours).

Course Objectives

Geography 354 is an upper division course designed to provide a detailed treatment of the spatial aspects of both the physical and human environments of Asia. While primary attention is given to the physiographic, climatological, cultural, agricultural, political, urban and industrial processes, issues such as gender, tourism, labor, and environmental problems are also approached from a spatial perspective.

Course Rationale

The regions of Southwest, South, Southeast, and East Asia each assumed great economic and political prominence on the world stage beginning in the 1970s and their places in the global economy is expected to grow for the foreseeable future. Because of the region’s increased integration into global economy, the objectives of GEOG 354 are basically two-fold. First, students must come to fully appreciate the rich and complex historical and cultural diversity of Asia. Second, it is imperative that students come to understand the diverse manner in which each of these countries has been integrated into the global economy. Each country is confronted by a particular set of economic circumstances requiring different economic development paths. GEOG 354 is one of a handful of upper division regional elective courses offered to all majors and also attracts students from other departments in the College of Science and Humanities.

Course Content and Format

The content of the course and lecture is organized on the same basis as that found in the textbook. Exam questions come from four sources; lecture material from textbook content, lecture material not found in the textbook, newspaper articles posted on the course Blackboard course site, and textbook material not discussed in lecture. Diligent attention to all four sources are required for good exam performance. Because geography is very much a visually-based discipline, slide presentations and videos will be presented when appropriate.
Textbook


Methods for Evaluating Student Performance

There are three methods of evaluating student performance. First, students are evaluated on the basis of performance on five multiple choice exams worth 65% of the final grade. The final or fourth exam is not cumulative. The second method of evaluating student performance is two take home essay assignments based upon instructor chosen scholarly journal articles. These essay assignments are worth 20% of the final grade. The third evaluation instrument are two place name/map identification exams administered during the first few weeks of the semester. These map exams are worth 10% of the final grade. The fourth method of evaluating student performance requires writing a critical review of a feature length film. This assignment is worth five percent of the final grade.

SESSION ONE

Chapter 1- The Big Picture: Major Influences
Chapter 2- Environments and Peoples
EXAM ONE

SESSION TWO

Chapter 3- Population, Gender, and Disparity
Chapter 4- Development, Urbanization, Migration, and Quality of Life
Chapter 5-Agriculture, Food, and Food Security
EXAM TWO

SESSION THREE

Chapter 10- East Asia: Center of the World
EXAM THREE

SESSION FOUR

Chapter 11- East Asia: Great Dragon Rising
Chapter 12- Korea and Taiwan Rising
EXAM FOUR
SESSION FIVE

Chapter 14- Southeast Asia: Transition Among the Nagas
Chapter 14- Mainland Southeast Asia: Turmoil and Peace
Chapter 15- Insular Southeast Asia

EXAM FIVE

Evaluating the Course

Student evaluation of the course using university and department course evaluation forms.