# 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 patters, 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 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.

**Master Syllabus: GEOG 354** 

#### **Textbook**

Barbara A. Weightman, Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia, 3rd ed. New York: Wiley, 2011

# **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.