



# GEOGRAPHY OF ASIA

**GEOG 350.001 (WI)      Spring 2004**

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Lectures: MWF 9:00-9:50  
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**THEMES:** *Geography of Asia* examines geographic issues in the context of East and Southeast Asia, including the Koreas, Japan, the Chinas, Mongolia, the Russian Far East, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, and Timor-Leste. We will *not* cover South, West, or Central Asia. General themes include the historical growth of these modern states and contemporary political issues; religion, language, and other cultural issues; gender issues and minority groups; economic growth and development; urbanization; and contemporary environmental issues and problems. The course is Writing Intensive and will involve a fair amount of research, writing, and class presentations.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Learning objectives include: 1) Gaining a general knowledge of the geography of contemporary Asia; 2) Understanding differing perspectives and approaches to the geography of the region; 3) Gaining a familiarity with the literature on the geography of Asia; 4) Learning how to conduct and present research on regional geography; 5) Improving academic writing skills.

**REQUIRED READING:** The two required texts are *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation* by Thongchai Winichakul (University of Hawai'i Press, 1994), and *China's Past, China's Future: Energy, Food, Environment* by Vaclav Smil (Routledge/Curzon, 2004). A copy of *Siam Mapped* is available on reserve reading at the library. You are required to attend all student presentations.

**PREREQUISITES:** You are expected to have some background knowledge of geography as well as the ability to communicate clearly in both writing and orally.

**GRADING:** This is a *Writing Intensive* course, and therefore there is a lot of writing! There are *no exams*, so you will be assessed entirely on your writing projects (and presentation). There are four writing projects:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1. Country Briefing #1 (Political)	25%	5 pp
2. Country Briefing #2 (Environment)	25%	5 pp.
3. Journal Article Review	15%	3 pp.
4. Research Paper	<u>35%</u>	<u>12 pp.</u>
	100%	25 pp.

Grading will be based on the following scale:

A	90-100%	Outstanding
B	80-89%	Superior
C	60-79%	Satisfactory
D	50-59%	Poor
F	<50%	Failure

You may hand in a draft of any assignment at least one week before the deadline for editorial assistance. You are *required* to hand a draft of your country briefings and journal article review to other students for comment. You *must* hand in a proposal, outline, and first draft of your research paper by the deadlines noted. Details will be given in class.

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS:** Penalties may be assessed for work handed in after the deadline. Normally the penalty will be 3% of the grade per each day late. Further information will be made available in class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the University Disability Services Office – Campus Center Rm 311, 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY) – as early in the semester as possible.

**ADVISING:** Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the university and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress toward graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH-Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements and for all decisions.

**PROBLEMS:** If you are having any problems with fulfilling the course requirements or any difficulties in understanding course materials or policies, please see me immediately.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours are for *you!* Please feel free to drop by my office during office hours *for any reason*, either related to course work or just to talk. If you cannot make my regular office hours, then make an appointment to see me at another time to be sure that I'm in.

# OUTLINE

## **COURSE TOPICS**

1. Introduction: Defining Asia
2. Historical background: The emergence of modern states
3. Religion, language, and culture
4. Gender and minority groups
5. Economic growth and development
6. Urbanization
7. Environmental issues and problems

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES (subject to change)**

**Country Briefing #1 (Political)** due on Monday, February 9

**Review of a journal article** due on Monday, March 15

**Country Briefing #2 (Environment)** due on Monday, April 12

**Research paper** due on Wednesday, May 5

## **CLASS PRESENTATIONS (subject to change)**

**Country Briefing #1 (Political)** on January 26-February 6

**Review of a journal article** on February 23-March 12

**Country Briefing #2 (Environment)** on March 29-April 12

**Research paper** on April 19-May 5

*Details about the required readings and assignments will be given in class.*

*Syllabus and outline are subject to change.*