

Fall 2015

GEOG/ASIA 294-02
Geography of Asia

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:00-4:30pm
Class Meeting Location: Carnegie 107

Instructor: I-Chun Catherine Chang
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm & Wednesdays, 10:50-11:50 pm, or by appointment
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Course Introduction

Whether the twenty-first century will be dominated by the “rising Asia” has spurred recurring debates in policy and academic circles. But what is Asia? How can we understand this diverse region where more than half of the world’s population resides? In this course, we will first deconstruct the idea of Asia as a cartographic entity to excavate the layered social-cultural meaning and geographical diversity of the “Asias.” We will also place the “Asias” in a global context to reveal how contemporary Asia anchors the changing world political economy and cultural imaginations outside the West. We will begin with important theoretical debates on (East) Asian development that prevailed in the 1980s and 1990s, including discussions about the colonial past, the path-dependency of development and uneven industrialization, regional disparities and mega-urbanization. We will then use these debates as the foundation to explore the contemporary globalizing Asia. What are the important connections between Asian countries, and with other parts of the world? What are the role of the “Asias” in international governance and geo-politics? Can China replace the United States as the dominant geo-economic power? These are the questions we will explore in this course.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Identify major historical events shaping contemporary Asia;
- Describe and appreciate the complexity and diversity of “the Asias”;
- Apply geographical approaches and concepts to examine the uneven development in Asia;
- Analyze how globalization influences Asia and interacts with its local social, cultural and political contexts;
- Identify positive and negative effects of global economy on Asia, including national economies and individual livelihoods;
- Compare different visions and perspectives on Asia proposed by academics, governments, and non-profit organizations;
- Critically discuss problems pertaining contemporary Asia, and analytically assess the merits of proposed solutions.

Attendance

Regular attendance at lectures is required. The midterm exam, final exam, and assignments will test you not only on the assigned course readings but also on lecture materials that will be frequently supplementary to the readings. In-class activities are also essential to enhancing your capacity for applying what you learn in lectures and readings in real life situations. Lecture slides used in lecture will be posted on our Moodle site; they will not be circulated via email. *If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up with the course materials.* Handouts will be distributed from time to time in class. *The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts for students who are absent from class.*

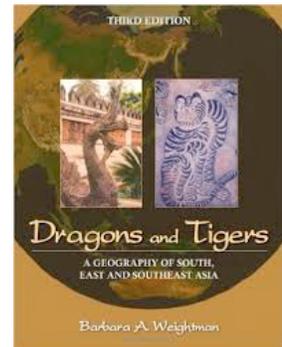
Required Readings

The lectures and activities will make most sense if each week's readings are completed *before* the relevant lectures and activities. You are responsible for everything covered in the lectures, activities, text and the readings. It will be almost impossible to cover and understand the required readings if you leave them to the last minute, right before exams. This makes it strongly advisable that you not only attend all lectures but also stay on top of each week's readings, making it easier to follow lectures and asking questions on an ongoing basis, rather than succumbing to last-minute anxiety.

There is a required text for this course:

Weightman, B. 2011. *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East and Southeast Asia*, 3rd edition, Wiley.

Other required readings and supplement materials will be posted on the course Moodle site. You should print out each week's readings in advance of, and read them prior to, their assigned date in the syllabus and bring them with you to class in order to facilitate your full class participation. Unless otherwise stated, audio or video clips used in class will also be available on the course Moodle site.



Producing a Positive Learning Environment

To give students the opportunity to think about Asia in new ways, we will have to work together to create a positive learning environment. For this to happen, I expect your cooperation in at least three ways:

- The first expectation is respecting the rights of other students to learn.
- The second is to acknowledge and respect the diversity of participants in this class. Discussion of controversial issues is encouraged. Even if you don't agree with the points of view of others, as citizens of this class we all share a responsibility for respecting all individuals as fair-minded persons. Diversity is a strength in our society at large and here

at Macalester College. In this class you will be asked to maintain an open mind to the differences around you, and place positive value on that diversity.

- The third expectation is attendance and participation. You are expected to be present at the beginning of class and stay until the end, and to fully participate in class discussions and activities. You are asked to turn off your cell phone before entering the classroom and not to use electronic devices for activities not related to the course. Your course attendance and participation will affect your grade.

In return, I promise to be on time, to address your questions and concerns, to give you feedback on your performance, and to return graded materials in a timely manner. You can expect I reply your emails in 48 hours, and you are encouraged to meet me and discuss your questions and concerns during the office hours.

Students with special needs: All of us learn in different ways and with varying degrees of success. If you know of any factors in your life that may hinder your abilities to learn up to your potential in this course, please notify me at once. You should also contact the Disability Services of Student Affairs (119 Weyerhaeuser Hall; Phone: 651-696-6220; Email: studentaffairs@macalester.edu), who have more expertise than I in determining what special steps need to be taken to enable you to participate fully.

Academic Honesty

Unfortunately, it is necessary to remind everyone that academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Honesty and integrity is expected at all times. Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to the College's guidelines. You are responsible for learning about these policies (<http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/>), so that you can meet this responsibility. By participating in this course, *you agree to submit your assignments in digital form if requested*, enabling the instructor to ensure they are not plagiarized from other materials available on the Internet and elsewhere.

Grading

Students taking the course on an A-F basis will be graded as follows:

- A – achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B – achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C – achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D – achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- S – achievement that is satisfactory (equivalent to a letter grade of at least C-).
- F – NC, signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit (e.g., academic dishonesty, above), or (2) is incomplete, with no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I”.
- I – Incompletes. A grade of incomplete may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor, if requested by the student, under the following conditions: 1) at least three-quarters of the required work for the course has been completed, 2) unforeseen circumstances beyond the

student's control (usually restricted to illness or family emergency) preclude completion of the remaining work for the course by the semester deadline, 3) the student is not on strict academic probation. Note that poor planning or having a lot of work to complete at the end of the term are not, in fairness to other students, considered circumstances beyond a student's control.

Grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

A 93-100%	B+ 87-89.9%	C+ 77-79.9%	D+ 67-69.9%	F 0-59%
A- 90-92.9%	B 83-86.9%	C 73-76.9%	D 60-66.9%	
	B- 80-82.9%	C- 70-72.9%		

Assignments

In this course, you will be expected to submit four written assignments. Detailed instructions for the assignments will be handed out and discussed in class. All written assignments must be printed out and turned in during class; no electronic submission will be accepted. It is your responsibility to ensure all the assignments are submitted on time.

Grade Allocation and Deadlines

Mid-term exam	20%	10/20 in class
Final exam	20%	12/15 in class
Assignment 1: Analyzing an Asian dish		
Presentation	2%	Due 10/01 in class
Paper	8%	Due 10/01 in class
Assignment 2: Sub-region profile		
Presentation	5%	Due 10/27 in class
Paper	10%	Due 10/27 in class
Assignment 3: Following an Asian thing		
Presentation	5%	Due 12/10 in class
Paper	20%	Due 12/10 in class
Assignment 4: Asian diasporas	10%	Due 12/03 in class

These dates and deadlines are non-negotiable with the exception of extraordinary circumstances such as a personal or family medical emergency (in which case official documentation to the effect must be provided). Should you have any concerns regarding academic disputes, scholastic misconduct, or sexual harassment, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs located at 119 Weyerhaeuser Hall (Phone: 651-696-6220; Email: studentaffairs@macalester.edu), and the Academic Programs Office at 215 Weyerhaeuser Hall (Phone: 651-696-6036). The Office of Student Affairs and the Academic Programs Office websites, with the College's policies on these issues, are at

<https://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/>

<https://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/>.

See next page for course schedule.

Course Outline and Readings

[*optional readings]

09/03: Course overview

No assigned reading.

Topic 1: What is Asia?

09/08: Defining the region: major issues

Weightman, B. 2011. The big picture, in *Dragons and Tigers*, Wiley, 1-25. (chapter 1)

09/10: The social and spatial construction of Asia

Duara, P. 2010. Redux: Conceptualizing a region for our times, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 69:4, 963-983.

*Hui, W. 2010. The idea of Asia and its ambiguities, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 69:4, 963-983.

*Andaya, B. A. 2010. Response to Prasenjit Duara, "Asia Redux", *Journal of Asian Studies*, 69:4, 1015-1020.

*Mrazek, R. 2010. Foating. No gears shifting, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 69:4, 1021-1025

*Duara, P. 2010. Response to comments on "Asia Redux", *Journal of Asian Studies*, 69:4, 1027-1029.

In class: Boston University "what is asia?" workshop recording

Topic 2: The Basics

09/15: Overview of Asian physical geography

Weightman, B. 2011. Environment and people, in *Dragons and Tigers*, Wiley, 26-59. (chapter 2)

09/17 & 09/22: Agriculture and food

Weightman, B. 2011. Agriculture, food and food security, in *Dragons and Tigers*, Wiley, 119-149. (chapter 5)

Introducing assignment 1: Analyzing an Asian dish

09/24 & 09/29: Population and urbanization: general patterns

Weightman, B. 2011. Population, gender and disparity, in *Dragons and Tigers*, Wiley, 60-85. (chapter 3)

Weightman, B. 2011. Development, urbanization, migration, and quality of life, in *Dragons and Tigers*, Wiley, 86-118. (chapter 4)

10/01: Assignment 1 presentations and discussions (Assignment 1 due in class)

Introducing assignment 2: Sub-region profile

Topic 3: Uneven geographies of Asian development

10/06 & 10/08: The East Asian miracle

- Wan, M. 2008. The East Asian miracle, in *The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth and Power*, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 131-169. (chapter 5)
- Krugman, P. 1994. The myth of Asia's miracle, *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec: 62-78.
- * The East Asian miracle, Policy Research Report of the World Bank, 1993, pp. 1-26 (Introduction).
- Routley, L. 2012. Developmental states: A review of the literature, *ESID Working Paper*, 03/Feb: 1-25.
- *Johnson, C. 1999. The developmental state: odyssey of a concept, in Woo-Cumings, M. (ed.) *The Developmental State*, 32-60.

10/13 & 10/15: Asian financial crisis: end of the economic miracle?

- Wan, M. 2008. The Asian financial crisis, in *The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth and Power*, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 171-198. (chapter 6)
- Hale, G. 2011. Could we have learned from the Asian financial crisis of 1997-98? *Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Economic Letter*, February 28. (<http://www.frbsf.org/economic-research/publications/economic-letter/2011/february/asian-financial-crisis-1997-1998/>)
- Asian financial crisis timeline:
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/crash/etc/cron.html>
- *Robins, Fred. 2000. Asia's 1997 Crash: its Character, Causes and Consequences, in *The East Asian Development Model: Economic Growth, Institutional Failure and the Aftermath of the Crisis*, Palgrave, 17-52.
- *Feng, Y. 2000. Political foundations of economic management: An interpretation of economic development and economic crisis in East Asia, in Richter, F. (ed) *The East Asian Development Model: Economic Growth, Institutional Failure and the Aftermath of the Crisis*, Palgrave, 71-96.
- *Lingle, C. 2000. The institutional basis of Asia's economic crisis, in Richter, F. (ed) *The East Asian Development Model: Economic Growth, Institutional Failure and the Aftermath of the Crisis*, Palgrave, 53-70.
- In-class documentary: The Crash & Asian Values Devalued

10/20: Mid-term exam

10/22: Fall break, no class.

10/27: Assignment 2 presentations and discussions (Assignment 2 due in class)

10/29: The "factory of the world"

- Wan, M. 2008. The political economy of East Asian production, in *The Political Economy of East Asia: Striving for Wealth and Power*, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 199-236. (chapter 7)

11/03 & 11/05: Gender inequality and economic growth

- Saptari, R. 2000. Production processes and the gendering of industrial work in Asia, *Asian Studies Review*, 24(2), 147-159.
- Matthews, R. and Nee, V. 2000. Gender inequality and economic growth in rural China, *Social Science Research*, 29(4): 606-632.
- Seguino, E. 1997. Gender wage inequality and export-led growth in South Korea, *Journal of Development Studies*, 34(2): 102-132
- In-class documentary: China blue

11/10 & 11/12: Tracing Asian production networks

- Introducing assignment 3: Following an Asian thing
- Ian Cook et al (2004) Follow the Thing: Papaya, *Antipode* 36: 642-664.
- NPR Planet Money T-Shirt project (<http://www.npr.org/tags/190719989/planet-money-t-shirt>)
- [11/12: Research day: not meeting in class]

Topic 4: Rising Asia and globalizing Asia

11/17 & 11/19: China's reform and recent trends

- Naughton, B. 2007. Introduction, in *The Chinese Economy: Transitions and Growth*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1-14
- Naughton, B. 1995. Introduction: China's Economic Reform in Comparative Perspective, in *Growing Out of the Plan: Chinese Economic Reform, 1978-1993*, Cambridge, 1-20.
- "China's economy is inefficient, but it is not unstable," *Economist*, August 17th, 2013.
- In-Class documentary: Win in China

11/24: India, Singapore, Hong Kong: different development models?

- Lam, N. 2000. Government intervention in the economy: A comparative analysis of Singapore and Hong Kong, *Public Administration and Development*, 20: 397-421.
- Hsueh, R. 2012. China and India in the age of globalization: Sectoral variation in postliberalization reregulation, *Comparative Political Studies*, 45 (1): 32-61.
- Introducing Assignment 4: Asian diasporas' life experience

11/26: Thanksgiving: no class

12/01: Asian diasporas

- Parrenas, R. and Siu, L. 2007. Introduction: Asian diasporas, in Parrenas, R. and Siu, L. (eds) *Asian Diasporas: New Formations and New Conceptions*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1-28.
- Lan, P. 2007. Legal servitude and free illegality, in Parrenas, R. and Siu, L. (eds) *Asian Diasporas: New Formations and New Conceptions*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 253-278.

12/03: China in Africa (Assignment 4 due in class)

Guest lecture; readings TBD.

12/08: Regional collaborations

Das, D. 2013. China and the Asian economies: Mutual acceptance, economic interaction and interactive dynamics, *Journal of Contemporary China*, 22 (84): 1089-1105.

Ba, A. 2003. China and ASEAN: Renavigating relations for a 21st-Century Asia, *Asian Survey*, 43(4): 622-647.

“Japan and South-East Asia: Hand in Hand,” *Economist*, June 1st, 2013.

12/10: Assignment 3 presentations and discussions (Assignment 3 due in class)

12/15: Final exam

1:30-3:30pm, Tuesday, Carnegie 107

(see details here: macalester.edu/registrar/schedules/2015fall/finalexams/index.html)

Any suggestions that will enhance the learning are welcome. Therefore, please note that the class schedule and readings may be subject to change. It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes.

See next page for course calendar.

Calendar: Activities, Assignments and Deliverables			
Date	Topic	In-Class Activities	Deliverable
September	03	Course overview	
	08	Defining the region	
	10	The social and spatial construction of Asia	Journal of Asian Studies forum
	15	Asian physical geography	
	17		
	22	Agriculture and food	Introducing assignment 1
	24	Population and urbanization	
October	01	Assignment 1 presentations and discussions Introducing Assignment 2	Assignment 1
	06		
	08	The East Asian miracle	
	13		
	15	Asian financial crisis	Documentary about AFC
	20	Mid-term exam	
	22	Fall break; no class.	
	27	Assignment 2 presentations and discussions	Assignment 2
29	The “factory of the world”		
November	03	Gender inequality and economic growth	
	05		Documentary: China blue
	10	Tracing Asian production networks	Introducing assignment 3
	12		Research day: not meeting in class
	17		
	19	China’s reform and recent trends	Documentary: Win in China
	24	India, Singapore and Hong Kong	Introducing assignment 4
26	Thanksgiving: no class		
December	01	Asian diasporas	
	03	China in Africa	Guest lecture
	08	Regional collaborations	
	10	Assignment 3 presentations and discussions	Assignment 3
	15	Final exam	