

GEOGRAPHY 205

GEOGRAPHY OF PACIFIC-ASIA

Spring Term, 2015, Monday & Wednesday 8.30am-9.50am, Lillis 111

Instructor: Tom Ptak tptak@uoregon.edu Condon 275, Office Hours: Mon/Wed 10-11am

GTF: Kuan-chi Wang kuanchi@uoregon.edu Columbia 246 Office Hours: Monday 12-1pm



What is this course about? The Pacific-Asia region is characterized by immense biophysical, social, cultural, economic and political phenomena. At times it can be overwhelming when trying to comprehend the immense diversity in the people, places and environments that are features of this part of our world. This course seeks to understand the often confusing, complex and contradictory nature of this region through an approach integrating broad geographic themes with case studies at regional, national and local scales. Through examining the wide variety of phenomena occurring in this part of the world, students will develop and understanding of the planet's most dynamic and rapidly changing region, Pacific-Asia.

Course Text Book:

This course will not adopt a standard text book, however, students will read a novel through the duration of the term which will be complimented by supplemental readings.

Novel: The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck, available on Amazon.com

Supplemental readings will be posted to blackboard. All readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

Assessment Criteria:

Lecture Based Pop Quizzes 10%

Discussion Section Attendance and Participation 10%

Weekly Writing Exercises 10%

Mid Term Exam 20%

Second Mid-term Exam 20%

Term Assignment 30%

Course Expectations:

Academic Honest Policy:

I have uploaded this as a separate document to the blackboard website. Please make sure you are familiar with it.

Positive Learning Environment:

Everyone should respect the classroom as a place of learning. It is absolutely essential that all students show respect towards the instructor, teaching assistants and classmates at all times. I urge everyone to make concerted efforts to understand and appreciate that through having a wide variety of people in the course, participants will come from a diverse array of backgrounds and subsequently will bring with them significantly different experiences.

It is important to not only show basic respect, but to pay attention to other people's opinions, especially during the discussion of sensitive or controversial topics, even if you strongly disagree with their position. This is in order to ensure a positive learning experience for everyone, and to ensure that students have the ability to learn from each other during this course.

Laptop and Cell Phone policy:

Under no circumstances are cell phones allowed during lectures or discussion sections, no exceptions. If students are using cell phones during class they will be asked to leave. Laptop computers are to be used for note taking only. Students who wish to use laptops will be required to sit in the front rows so as not to distract other students or those instructing. Anyone found to be surfing the internet, using social networking sites or playing games will lose the privilege of laptop use during class time and at the discretion of the instructor may have marks deducted from their final grade. Please respect your instructor, teaching assistants and your fellow students and help create a positive learning experience.

Please be aware that this syllabus is subject to change. Therefore it is imperative that students attend lectures, discussions, and stay up to date with all course communication through the Blackboard system.