PS 460/560: Political Economy of Asia

Spring 2015
Classroom: 208 DEA
Class meeting time: 10:00-11:20 am Mondays and Wednesdays
Professor Tuong Vu, PhD
Office hours: TBA
Office location: 918 PLC
Email: thvu@uoregon.edu
Course website: through https://blackboard.uoregon.edu

Course description: This course addresses two main issues: (1) the relationship between states and markets in Asia, and (2) the transformation of social classes during economic transformation. Geographically, about half the course will be devoted to Southeast Asia and half to Northeast Asia.

Evaluation: The class will be organized as a seminar. Students are expected to attend all sessions, read the course materials carefully before class, and participate actively in class discussion. Grades will be based on class participation (20%); five short reflection papers (20%); a 5-6 page (double-spaced) theory paper (20%); and a 10-12 page (double-spaced) take-home final exam (40%). Students are expected to make one presentation based on their reflection paper. Guidelines for writing reflection papers and presenting are given on a separate sheet.

Additional requirements for graduate students: you are expected to read not only required but also recommended materials, discuss them during class, write three additional reflection papers, and write a 15-page final exam (or research paper if you prefer, but please discuss the topic with me during week 2 at the latest. Research papers can be of any topics of interest to students but must be related to the main themes of the course, with prior approval by instructor).

Theory paper: due in class on April 21. This paper is aimed to test your understanding of theories about economic development learned in the first two weeks of class. Guideline for this paper will be posted on blackboard by the end of the first week.

Final take-home exam: due Wednesday, June 11, at noon. The exam will ask you to compare different patterns of economic development and state involvement in three different national or regional contexts of your choice. Guideline for this paper will be posted on blackboard by the end of the eighth week. Please put a hard copy in the instructor’s mailbox by the PS Office (no need for stamp from the office). No late or emailed exam accepted.

Readings: Except the required books below, other required or recommended readings are available from Blackboard, marked by the sign [B] in this syllabus.

- Hagen Koo, Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation (Cornell, 2001)
- Teri Caraway, Assembling Women: The Feminization of Global Manufacturing (Cornell, 2007)
- Akira Suehiro, Catch-Up Industrialization: The Trajectory and Prospects of East Asian Economies (Hawaii, 2008)
Minxin Pei, *China’s Trapped Transition: The Limits of Developmental Autocracy* (Harvard, 2006)

**Course schedule:**

**WEEK 1**

March 30: Overview of class

April 1: Theory of late development
- Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapters 2 & 3, pp. 32-74

**RECOMMENDED:**
- Alexander Gerschenkron, *Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective* (1968), pp. 5-30

**WEEK 2**

April 6: Policy prescriptions
- Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 6, pp. 123-151

**RECOMMENDED:**
- Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 10, pp. 231-256

April 8: Culture and social institutions

**RECOMMENDED:**

**WEEK 3**

April 13: State and state institutions
- Akira Suehiro, *Catch-Up Industrialization*, chapter 5, pp. 105-122

**RECOMMENDED:**

April 15: Origins of state institutions
• [B] Tuong Vu, Paths to Development in Asia (2010), pp. 1-19

RECOMMENDED:
• Atul Kohli, State-Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialization in the Global Periphery (2004), pp. 1-24

WEEK 4
April 20: Colonial legacies
THEORY PAPER DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS

RECOMMENDED:
• [B] Tuong Vu, Paths to Development in Asia (2010), chapter 2, pp. 20-49

April 22: Varieties of capital
• Akira Suehiro, Catch-Up Industrialization, chapters 7 & 8, pp. 152-199

RECOMMENDED:

WEEK 5
April 27: State and capital
• Akira Suehiro, Catch-Up Industrialization, chapter 9, pp. 200-230

RECOMMENDED:

April 29: The financial crisis of 1997
• Akira Suehiro, Catch-Up Industrialization, chapter 4, pp. 75-102
• Ha-Joon Chang, The East Asian Development Experience, chapters 5 & 6, pp. 179-225
WEEK 6

May 4: Japan’s lost decade

• [B] Richard Katz, Japan: The System that Soured, chapters 1 & 2
• Steven Vogel, Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry Are Reforming Japanese Capitalism (Cornell, 2006), chapter 2, pp. 22-50

RECOMMENDED:
• Steven Vogel, Japan Remodeled, chapter 1, pp. 1-21

May 6: Challenges to Reform

• Ha-Joon Chang, The East Asian Development Experience, chapter 9, pp. 279-310
• Steven Vogel, Japan Remodeled, chapters 3 & 7, pp. 51-77, 205-224

RECOMMENDED:
• Steven Vogel, Japan Remodeled, chapters 4, 5 & 6, pp. 78-204

WEEK 7

May 11: Socialist states: China & Vietnam

• Minxin Pei, China’s Trapped Transition, chapters 1 & 3, pp. 17-44, 96-131

RECOMMENDED:

May 13: Socialist states 2

• Minxin Pei, China’s Trapped Transition, chapters 4 & 5, pp. 132-205

RECOMMENDED:

WEEK 8

May 18: State and Labor 1

• Akira Suehiro, Catch-Up Industrialization, chapter 11, pp. 257-284
• Hagen Koo, Korean Workers, 23-99

RECOMMENDED:

May 20: State and Labor 2
• Teri Caraway, Assembling Women, pp. 36-131
RECOMMENDED:
• Teri Caraway, Assembling Women, pp. 1-35
• Hagen Koo, Korean Workers, pp. 1-22, 188-217

WEEK 9
May 25: Memorial Day--No class
May 27: State and the Peasantry 1
• Andrew Walker, Thailand’s Political Peasants, chapters 1-3, pp. 34-110
RECOMMENDED:
• James Scott, The Moral Economy of the Peasant: Rebellion and Subsistence in Southeast Asia (1976), 1-55

WEEK 10
June 1: State and the Peasantry 2
• Andrew Walker, Thailand’s Political Peasants, chapters 4, 5 & Conclusion, pp. 111-165, 219-232
RECOMMENDED:

June 3: State and the Peasantry 3
RECOMMENDED:

TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, AT NOON.
Please put a hard copy in the instructor’s mailbox by the PS Office (no need for stamp).
No late or emailed exam accepted.