GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

POLITICAL SCIENCE 155 – STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

1.      Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

POSC 155 State and Society in 3 3 hours lecture:48-54 hours

the Asian Pacific 96-108 outside-of-class hors

  144-162 total hours

2.       Prequisites

          None.

          Corequisite

          None.

          Recommended Preparation

          None.

3.       Catalog Description

An historical, cultural and social science based comparative analysis of the evolution and current conditions of significant political/economic/social communities within the Asian Pacific Region. The course will focus on the endurance of traditional cultures, the intermingling and grafting of the Asian traditions, the influence of Western values and institutions, socioeconomic development and change, the relationship between individuals and institutions of state, national identity and nationalism, and the importance of globalization for the region. States studied through the above lenses may include China, India, Japan, states of Southeast Asia, the Koreas, Australia, New Zealand, the Russian Pacific, the island states of the Pacific, and states of Central and South Asia.

4.       Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Compare and contrast the cultures and political institutions of three or more states from the Asia Pacific region.

b. Analyze the role of gender, minority status, poverty, social stratification, and the environment in the politics of diverse societies.

c. Analyze films and create deliverables that will demonstrate a working knowledge of the societies under investigation and the ability to use metaphor and analogy as a means of understanding economic, social, and political phenomenon.

d. Evaluate how the societies under investigation represent different ways of viewing the world.

e. Examine how institutions work within cultural frameworks to solve social, economic, and political problems.

5.       Instructional Facilities

a. Access to DVD player and projector.

b. Access to the Internet.

c. Access to a Network Based Learning Management System such as Blackboard.

 6.      Special Materials Required of Student

a. Access to the Internet and Network Based Learning Management System account.

b. Access to electronic data storage media.

 POLITICAL SCIENCE 155 – STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC Page 2

 7.      Course Content

a. Comparison/Analysis of the evolution of society and state in three to four significant countries from the Asian Pacific region.

b. Films that introduce the students to the cultural context of a given society and focus on a major social or political problem relevant to the society under investigation.

c. Investigation of intra and intercultural dialogues occurring between and within the societies under investigation.

d. Exploration of institutional growth and effectiveness within the societies being studied.

e. Role of the individual, gender, and ethnicity within the economic, political, and social realities of the given societies.

f. Balance between environmental and economic concerns within each of the societies.

g. Reaction of these societies to globalization and the role of security in their self-understanding.

 8.      Method of Instruction

a. Lectures.

b. Films.

c. Blogging.

d. In class discussions.

e. Reading assignments.

f. Research assignments.

 9.      Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. Critical film reviews.

b. Essay Examinations including a final exam.

c. Participation in classroom and network based discussions.

10.     Outside Class Assignments

          Each week students will:

a. Read thirty – sixty pages of assigned reading materials from text.

b. Read internet based materials as assigned.

c. Make two substantive posts twice a week regarding the viewed films and other topics of concern needing greater clarification.

d. Conduct research for their major research assignments.

11.     Texts

1. Required texts(s):

(1) Charlton, Sue Ellen M. *Comparing Asian Politics: India, China, and Japan*, Second Edition, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2004.

(2) Nisbett, Richard *The Geography of Thought,* 2nd edition, London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing Ltd, 2005.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

Suggested Readings:

(1) Chakravarti*,* Sumita*. National Identity in Indian Popular Cinema 1947-1987*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993.

(2) Lee, Hyangjin *How East Asian Films Are Reshaping National Identities: Essays on the Cinemas of China, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong,* Ceredigion, United Kingdom: Edwin Mellen Press, 2007.

(3) Mahbubani, Kishore. *Can Asians Think? Understanding the Divide between East and West,* 3rd edition, New York, New York: Times Edition, 2004.

 POLITICAL SCIENCE 155 – STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE ASIA PACIFIC Page 3

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

* 1. Identify and analyze the interactions of the cultures of China, India, and Japan and how these interactions influence their respective identities and institutions.
  2. Identify and analyze the role played by Western institutions and values in the dynamic process of the construction and deconstruction of social and political identity in China, India, and Japan.
  3. Identify and analyze the complexities of gender, ethnicity, and class that are vital to the dialogue about cultural, national, and global identity within China, India, and Japan.

Date approved by the Governing Board: May 20, 2008