

GEOGRAPHY of Asia

GPY 354, Sec. 01

Winter 2012

Instructor: *Kin M. Ma*

Office Hours: Tue./Thurs. 11:30a-12:30pm, Mon. 1:00-2:00pm and by appt.

Office: B-4-204 Mackinac (MAK-B)

E-Mail: makin@gvsu.edu

Phone: (616) 331-3351 OR Dept. Office: 331-3065 (B-4-105 Mackinac)

Website: <http://bb.gvsu.edu> | GPY 354 Sec. 01 OR <http://faculty.gvsu.edu/makin>

Days	Meeting Times	Classroom
M, W, F	11:00-11:50 AM	174 Lake Superior Hall (LSH)

Required COURSE MATERIALS: 1) **Weightman, Barbara A.** (2011). *Dragons and Tigers: A Geography of South, East, and Southeast Asia*, 3rd Ed., John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ, (ISBN: 978-0-470-87628-2); 2) **Collinwood, Dean W.** (2011). *Japan and the Pacific Rim*, 10th Ed., Global Studies Series, McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series: New York, NY, (ISBN: 978-0-07-337985-2); 3) **Dhussa, Ramesh C.** (2012). *India and South Asia*, 10th Ed., Global Studies Series, McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series: New York, NY (ISBN: 978-0-07-802617-1); 3) **Zhu, Zhiqun** (2012). *China*, 14th Ed., Global Studies Series, McGraw-Hill Contemporary Learning Series: New York, NY, (ISBN: 978-0-07-802619-5); 4) **GOODE's World Atlas**, 21st Edition (Chicago: Rand McNally, 2005) or a relatively recent edition (20th Edition is acceptable). (ISBN: 978-0528650003).

All the above items are available at GVSU Campus Bookstore. Additional reading material may be assigned throughout the semester. Readings will be indicated by Editor Author, Article number, and Article Author.

COURSE CONTENT & OBJECTIVES

What is "Asia"? Is Asia merely a social construct or a geographic reality? What opportunities and constraints does Asia's environment present? How did the fortune and roles of the Asian nations in the global system change over the past 500 years? How to feed the 4 billion people? Has Japan succeeded? Can the world accommodate one or two more economic power(s)? Does globalization benefit or hurt the Asian nations? What is Confucianism? What is the Kashmir conflict about? Is there an "Asian value"? These are just some examples of the key issues that we will explore in this class.

The overall objective of the course is to provide you a geographic perspective in analyzing and understanding the past, present and future of the environment, people, and culture of Asia. The course will utilize a multi-disciplinary framework and integrates systematic (theme) and country study approaches. In the first half of the semester, we will investigate several broad themes that are vital in understanding Asia as a world region. These themes will be amplified through in-depth analyses of individual countries/regions in the second half of the semester.

Active learning will be key to your success in this class. Hands-on activities, not just lectures, will be the hallmark of the pedagogical approach used in this course. You are expected to read and write extensively and to actively participate in all class activities. Besides brief introductory lectures, the bulk of class time will be devoted to in-class discussion, small group work, exercises, presentation, etc. The primary focus of the course will be on East, Southeast, and South Asia.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Overall you are expected to 1) read the assigned chapter(s) before class, 2) attend every class, pay attention in class, take notes, and 3) actively participate in all class activities. If you are absent you may miss important course material or announcements. All students are responsible for all course information and announcements whether or not they were present. Please *bring your atlas, and appropriate textbook to class*. For in-class exercises as well as mapping assignments, you will *need at least five different color pencils and a calculator*. In this course you will be assessed via class participation, in-class discussion, a group project, one mapping exercises, one take-home exam, and several map/image quizzes, and a final exam.

Important Dates

Course Grade Format

Course component	Points	Percent	Deadlines
1) Class participation	50	12.5%	Continuous
2) Group project	80	20.0%	Presentation continuous
			Report due Monday, April 9
3) Article Present/discussion	25	6.3%	Continuous
4) Mapping exercises	75	18.8%	TBA
5) Take-home midterm	80	20.0%	Week Seven
6) Map/image quiz	90	22.5%	TBA
Total points possible	400	100.0%	

(1) Class Participation (50 points)

- Active participation will be key to your learning experience in this class. You will be evaluated on your overall level of participation in class activities. This includes demonstrating preparedness for class, willingness to contribute to discussions as well as class attendance.
- Please keep in mind: *this component is NOT just about attendance*. In other words, even if you attend all class sessions, you may not receive all the points if you do not actively participate in class discussion. Of course, you need to be there to participate. As such, attendance will be taken daily. One (1) point will be taken off your grade for every class you miss. You will be allowed **TWO absences** without penalty.

(2) Group project (80 points)

This is a group assignment. Each group should consist of two (2) students. The *objective* of this project is that you learn to research, write and present a paper on a topic of significant importance to an Asian country/region. You can pick a **country/region & topic** listed in [Appendix-A](#) at the end of the syllabus. You may choose to work on another topic related to the chosen country with my approval.

This assignment consists of two parts: 1) in-class presentation (40 points) and 2) a project report (40 points). Your project must be *sharply focused*. For both the project report and, especially, the powerpoint presentation, you are *required to utilize a variety of geovisualization tools* (digital maps, imagery, analytic diagrams, etc.) to communicate your thoughts, ideas as well as facts about the country/region & topic you have chosen.

Project timeline:

- ☞ *Oral presentation* in the week as indicated in the course schedule (see below). Must be presented in Powerpoint. 15 minute time limit. Powerpoint files due to instructor by 5:00PM the day before your scheduled presentation via Assignment on Blackboard or on disk. Please

DO NOT send your slides as email attachment. You should be prepared to defend your project in subsequent Q&A session.

☞ Monday, Nov. 23 – *Project written report* due. Electronic submission of your project report is strongly encouraged through Blackboard.

(3) Article Presentation and Lead Discussion (25 points)

You will have a choice of articles to choose from the assigned readings. You need to present the main points of the articles and also lead class discussion regarding the article(s).

(4) Computer Mapping exercise (30 points) / Mapping Asia cultural ethnic mosaic (45 points)

There will be a Computer mapping assignment worth 30 points. If condition permits, you will have an opportunity to learn how to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to make maps. Instructions for the mapping exercises will be given out in class.

(5) Midterm (80 points)

This is a take-home exam. The exam will be in essay question format. The essay questions will test your ability to synthesize the key concepts discussed in class and to apply them to real-world issues. Exam questions will be given out in *Week Seven*. You will have one week to return the exam.

(6) Map/image quizzes (90 points)

There will be several map/image quizzes. These quizzes test your knowledge of important placenames, unique geographic features, etc. covered in class. Test dates will be announced in class.

Map Quizzes (30 points each)

There will be three (3) quizzes in multiple choice, and true/false type of questions. Review Guides will be provided. There will be **NO** make-up quizzes.

*Requests for exams or quizzes at times **other** than regularly scheduled are **strongly discouraged** and will be granted only for extreme emergencies (with proof required).* Please contact me EARLY before a potential time conflict so that we can make the proper arrangements. Call me if there are problems.

General Requirements of All Written Assignments (Exercise reports, midterm, etc.)

- It is your decision as to how long your paper should be. The ability to organize and communicate your thoughts and arguments in *well-structured* and *concise* writing is a crucial skill that will be assessed in this class, among other things.
- Your paper should be *original and analytical*. Informed, coherent, and logical argumentation, NOT description or opinion, is what is required.
- *Professional writing* (good structure, appropriate referencing, proofreading, etc.) is expected.
- You are responsible for maintaining *academic integrity*.
- All writing work must be *type written, 1.5-line spaced, and using 11 point font size, 1" margins*.

Late Papers Policy

The price of a late assignment is **20% per day late, and AFTER 2 days late, the paper will NOT be accepted**. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please come and discuss it with me or e-mail me at makin@gvsu.edu **BEFORE** the deadline; the earlier the better.

Email

E-mail will be periodically sent to the entire class regarding items or class Powerpoint presentations that I have posted to the Blackboard website. It is important that you are checking your GVSU Google e-mail address you have been assigned REGULARLY. E-mail messages are sent to the CLASS and NOT to individuals. I am NOT responsible if your e-mail account reaches the disk space limit and the messages I send bounces. I **CANNOT** keep up with over 150 students

and the potential bounce back of messages because of specific problems. It is **YOUR** responsibility to manage your email account and allow enough space for additional messages.

****Sending Email****

When writing email to the instructor, for easy identification of your name and your class section, in the Subject Line of the messages, include the Class and Section Number. e.g., "**Gpy354_01, 'Your topic.'**" Always sign your **FULL** name at the end of your e-mail, since I do **NOT** know who "CuteLittleMissMuffet" or "HeMan#1" people are. Emails **without FULL Name NOR subject line** will **NOT** be responded to.

Course Grade Distribution

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
95-100	90-94.9	87-89.9	84-86.9	80-83.9	77-79.9	74-76.9	70-73.9	66-69.9	60-65.9	<60

Note: There are NO 'A+' NOR 'D-' grades.

Special Learning Challenges: Each student learns in his or her own way. If you have a disability that will require special accommodations in this course, please contact the **Disability Support Office (DSS) in 200 Student Services (STU), 616-331-2490**. The DSS will assist me in providing the necessary accommodations in order to enhance the learning environment for you. If you have already done so, DSS will provide you with a letter that describes your specific needs and the necessary accommodations. Please bring that letter to my attention AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, and **PRIOR** to the due date of the first course requirement, e.g., the quiz.

Student Code and Plagiarism: According to GVSU's General Academic Policies, here are the stated policies:

1. No student shall knowingly, without authorization, procure, provide, or accept any materials which contain questions or answers to any examination or assignment;
2. No student shall, without authorization, complete, in part or in total, any examination or assignment for another person;
3. No student shall, without authorization, allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, by another person;
4. No student shall knowingly plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own;
5. No student shall submit work that has been previously graded or is being submitted concurrently to more than one course without authorization from the instructor(s) of the class(es) to which the student wishes to submit it.

Tentative Course Outline

Wgt = Weightman (Dragons and Tigers); **Zhu** = (China); **Coll.** = Collinwood (Japan and Pacific Rim); **Dhus.** = Dhussa (India and South Asia)

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Other/Assignment due
1	Jan. 9	What is "Asia"?		
1	Jan. 11, 13	Asia Climate	Environmental Foundations, Wgt 1-27, 26-47	1/13,5pm,Add Deadline
2	Jan. 16	Monsoons and Rice Culture	Wgt 35-47	
2	Jan. 18, 20	Rice Culture/ Importance of Tea	Wgt 199-124, 262-263	
3	Jan. 23	Population Challenges in Asia	Wgt. 60-72, Meulenberg Artic.	"Six Billion and Beyond" Video
3	Jan. 25, 27	Eastern Minds and way of life	Wgt. 7-14, 279-283	
4	Jan. 30	The Silk Road/ Age of the Mongols	Mongols Web reading (see BB link)	
4	Feb. 1, 3	East Asian "miracle"/financial crisis	Wgt 86-102	
5	Feb. 6	Poverty /Inequality/ Migration	Wgt. 102-118	
5	Feb. 8	East Asia:"Middle" Kingdom (China)	Zhu, pp. 2-46, Wgt, 270-278, 296-315	
5	Feb. 10	Agriculture/Land/Develop. Experience	Zhu, Art. 4, Friedman; Art. 5, Lam; Art.6 Thibodeau	
6	Feb. 13	Socialism and Energy Demands	Zhu., Art. 18, Orlik/Rozelle; Art. 14, Hargreaves	Mid-term Exam given
6	Feb. 15	China's Rise	#5 China Present ;Zhu, Art.2,Thompson, 25.Shambaugh	
6	Feb. 17	A Nation Divided: Taiwan, HongKong	Zhu,Hong Kong Report, p.49-70,	
7	Feb. 20	A Nation Divided: Taiwan, HongKong	Zhu.,Art.32,Masters(HK), Coll. Art.11,Shriver/Stokes	Mid-term Exam DUE (2/20)
7	Feb. 22		<i>(Taiwan)</i> , #3 Hong Kong Present; #2 Taiwan Present	East Asia Map Quiz
7	Feb. 24	Japan: Rising Sun, and Culture	NO Class, Though Read	
			Coll., Japan Report, p.22-36	
8	Feb. 27	Japan: Rising Sun, and Culture	Coll., Japan Report, p.22-36	Inside Japan, Inc. Video
8	Feb. 29	Japan: Rising Sun, and Culture	#6 Japan Present , Coll., Art. 15, Marquand	
8	Mar. 1	the TWO Koreas: Unification?	Coll., N. Korea Rpt, p.98-103; S. Korea Rpt, p.118-123	
			#4 Koreas Present; Wgt. Ch. 13	
9	Mar.5,7,9	SPRING BREAK	(NO Classes)	
	Mar. 9	5:00PM, Drop Deadline for 'W'		

Wk	Date	Topic	Reading	Other/Assignment due
10	Mar. 12	So.Asia: British Empire/nation Building	Dhus., SouthAsia, p. 3-32;	Ethnic Group Map Exercise
		India	Wgt. 215-236	
10	Mar. 14	India Population, Energy, Devp	Dhus., India Rpt., p. 35-50;	Ethnic Group Map Exercise
			Dhus. , Art. 8, Lamont; Art. 7, Corbett	
10	Mar. 16	Pakistan, Afghanistan	Wgt. 180-198; Dhus., Pakistan Rpt, p. 77-84;	
			Afghan Rpt.p.51-55, Dhus, Art.11, Khan; Art. 34, Grare	
11	Mar. 19	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka	Dhus. , Banglad. Rpt., p.56-60; Sri Lanka Rpt., p. 85-89	
			Dhus., Art. 18, Hasbullah/Korf (Sri Lanka)	
11	Mar. 21	Sri Lanka, Bhutan	#13 Bangladesh Present; #16 Pakistan	South Asia Map Quiz
11	Mar. 23	"Mapping Asians in the U.S." Lab	B-2126 MAK GIS Computer Lab	
12	Mar. 26	SE Asia: Unity in Diversity	Dhus, Indonesia Report, p.70-75; Wgt. 467-471	
		Indonesia, E. Timor	#7 Present; Dhus., E. Timor Rpt. p. 61-64	
12	Nov. 28	Sri Lanka, Bhutan	#17 Sri Lanka Pres., #14 Bhutan Present	
12	Mar. 30		Catch Up	Mapping Asians Lab DUE
13	Apr. 2	Malaysia, Brunei	Dhus., Malaysia Rpt, p. 83-86; Brunei Rpt., p. 43-45	
			Wgt. 449-455	
13	Apr. 4	Thailand	Dhus. , Thailand Rpt, 130-136; Malaysia, 83-86	
13	Apr. 6	Cambodia	#6 Brunei Present; #8 Malaysia Present	
			Wgt. P.423-426, to be determined	
14	Apr. 9	Cambodia	Dhus. , Cambodia Rpt, 46-50	Group Project Report DUE
14	Apr. 11	Thailand Cont'd	#11 Thailand present;	Southeast Asia Map Quiz
14	Apr. 13	Myanmar	Dhus., Myanmar Rpt., 87-91, Wgt. P.348-356	
15	Apr. 16	Philippines	Dhus. , Philippines Report, p. 108-113	
			#10 Philippines Present	
15	Apr. 18	Vietnam	Dhus. , Vietnam Report, p. 137-142, GUEST?	
15	Apr. 20	Ethnic Group Mapping Exercise	B-2126 MAK Lab	
16	Apr. 25	FINAL EXAM, Project	11:00AM DUE in B-4204 MAK	Ethnic MapExercise Due

As of Jan. 5, 2012

Appendix-A: GROUP PROJECT – TOPIC LIST

	East Asia
1	Mongolia: the Mongols after the collapse of the Mongol Empire
2	Taiwan: Globalization of Taiwan's economy
3	Hong Kong: the changing roles of Hong Kong in East Asia
4	Koreas: Economic and Social Development differences
5	China: Future of Industrialization
6	Japan: Influence and Impact of Shintoism
	Southeast Asia
7	Brunei: why is it so rich?
8	Malaysia: Dr. Mahathir's approach to development
9	Myanmar: does democracy have a chance in Myanmar?
10	Philippines: Filipino migration to the United States: where & why?
11	Thailand: tourism & its impacts in Thailand
	South Asia
12	Afghanistan: the war on terrorism in Afghanistan
13	Bangladesh: poverty & inequality in Bangladesh
14	Bhutan: Buddhism in Bhutan
15	Nepal: the development of Nepal, challenges & prospects
16	Pakistan: U.S. relations with Pakistan
17	Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's tea industry

The country/region & topic assigned to you is _____.

Your group members are _____.

Your presentation is scheduled in week _____.