

Semester at Sea/ University of Pittsburgh
Course Syllabus

Discipline: Anthropology

Semester and Year: Summer 2004 (**modified 26 June 2004**)

Course Number and Title: ANTH 1787, Political Economy of the Pacific Rim

Faculty Name: Prof. Eriberto P. Lozada Jr.

Suggested Prerequisites: None

Course Description

This course focuses on the interdependence of politics and economics in the countries of East Asia, and how the “East Asian miracle” and later “Asian Crisis” reflect the political economy context that led to the rapid development of China, Japan, Korea, and other smaller states in East Asia. This course will also overview theoretical perspectives in political economy that inform different understandings of economic development, the relationship between politics and economy, and the impact of globalization and new technologies on the region as a whole. To explore the political economy of the Pacific Rim, we will read particular East Asian case studies such as the computer and information technology industry, the steel industry, and the condition of industrial workers in East Asia.

Course Objectives

- to understand the political economy of the Pacific Rim
- to examine particular industries and economic practices that reflect specific historical, political, cultural, and economic contexts
- to study the factors behind the “East Asian miracle” and “Asian crisis”
- to use different theoretical perspectives in political economy to analyze the political economy of the Pacific Rim
- to develop a better understanding of the relationship of one’s own society to the countries in the Pacific Rim

Course Readings

Wilk, Richard 1996. *Economies and Culture: Foundations of Economic Anthropology*. Westview Press. ISBN: 0-813-32058-5. (\$33.00)

Woo, Wing Thye, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Klaus Schwab 2000. *The Asian Financial Crisis: Lessons for a Resilient Asia*. MIT Press. ISBN: 0-262-69245-7.

Additional articles available from instructor.

Class Schedule (modified 25 June)

21 June, C1	Introduction to Class Video: Commanding Heights (1)
24 June, C2	Political Economy Theory Reading: Article from Yergin and Stanislaw's Commanding Heights (from instructor) Video: Commanding Heights (2)
25 June, C3	Reading: Islam and Chowdhury article (from instructor) Video: Commanding Heights (3) Assignment: Response Paper Due
26 June, C4	Video: Commanding Heights (4)
27 June, C5	Video: Commanding Heights (5) Reading: Wilk chapter 4
1 July, C6	Video: Commanding Heights (6) Reading: Wilk chapter 5
2 July, C7	Country Case Studies: China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam Reading: Lingle article (from instructor) Assignment: Response Paper Due
3 July, C8	Reading: Eckert article on Korea (from instructor)
4 July, C9	Reading: Vogel, <i>Four Little Dragons</i> excerpt (from instructor) Assignment: Response Paper Due
10 July, C10	Reading: Luong article on Vietnam (from instructor) Assignment: Research Paper Proposal Due
19 July, C11	Reading: Naughton excerpt (from instructor) Assignment: Response Paper Due
26 July, C12	Reading: Davis article (from instructor)
27 July, C13	Reading: Hartford article on China IT (from instructor) Assignment: First Fieldwork Project Due
28 July, C14	Reading: Vogel, <i>Japan as Number One</i> excerpt (from instructor)
2 August, C15	Case Study: Asian Financial Crisis Reading: Woo, Sachs, and Schwab Chapters 1, 2
10 August, C16	Reading: Woo, Sachs, and Schwab Chapters 3, 4 Assignment: Response Paper Due
11 August, C17	Reading: Woo, Sachs, and Schwab Chapters 5, 6 Assignment: Second Fieldwork Project Due
12 August, C18	Reading: Woo, Sachs, and Schwab Chapters 7
13 August, C19	Reading: Woo, Sachs, and Schwab Chapter 10 Assignment: First Draft of Final Paper Due
14 August, C20	Case Study: Workers in East Asia Reading: Aihwa Ong article (from instructor)
14 August, C21 (extra day)	Reading: Anita Chan article (from instructor)
15 August, C22	Reading: Li Zhang article (from instructor)
16 August, C23	Reading: Kim Seung-kyung article (from instructor) Last Day of Class
18 August	Assignment: Final Paper Due

Field Component

The field projects are designed to familiarize students with the conduct of ethnographic field research and to apply the various theoretical models in the study of political economy to a particular situation. This will involve two written submissions: the first will be fieldnotes, and the second will be an analysis in the form of a short essay. Fieldnotes should include diagrams, maps, and picture (if possible). The essay will be limited to 4-5 pages, and will concisely summarize how your observations fit in with the issues we have discussed in the course. Possible fieldsites include factories, technology markets, stock exchanges, local American Chambers of Commerce/consulates, and foreign business offices. Here are some suggestions to think about:

- Start mapping out the locale in which the selected site is situated, noting people you identify in key roles (i.e., managers, workers, executives, etc.) How does the design of the site reflect social or cultural issues? What messages are implied in the division of space?
- Are there cultural practices surrounding the workplace that seem unfamiliar to you? Why?
- Are there particular social roles that differ from what you experience in your own culture? From your observations, what is different about economic practices or commodities?
- What do working conditions look like to you? Are they different than what you have experienced in your own culture?

Methods of Evaluation

The most important work in this course is to be prepared for each class meeting; this means having thoroughly read the material and being prepared to discuss particular points from the reading. Readings are due on the day listed in the class schedule. I will not lecture on the readings, but will discuss the implications and difficult points in the material.

Response papers: 10%

Each student will have to write five (5) response papers, one page and double-spaced. They are individually ungraded and require only timely submission for full credit. See the handout for more information.

Field Projects: 30%

All students will conduct two (2) small field projects that involve participant-observation research conducted outside the classroom. These will be graded on both the effort and detail of the fieldnotes and on the contextualization of theoretical ideas discussed in class and in the readings. The fieldwork project can also be extended to substitute either as a second short essay or term paper.

Term Paper: 40%

The term paper will be a longer essay (12-15 pages) that is worth 40% of the final grade (20% final paper, 15% draft of paper, 5% proposal). The long essay will be due on 18 Aug 2004, and the draft of the essay will be due on 28 July 2004. Topics for the long essay, which can be based on field research conducted locally (i.e., expansions of a field project from above), will be selected by each student, but must be discussed with the instructor prior to 4 July 2004. The proposal (worth 5% of the final grade) must include a bibliography and methodology, submitted to me by 10 July 2004.

Class Participation: 20%

Active participation requires that each student come to class prepared, having read the assigned material before class.

Reserve Library List

Top Priority

- Wilk, Richard 1996. *Economies and Culture: Foundations of Economic Anthropology*. Westview Press. ISBN: 0-813-32058-5.
- Woo, Wing Thye, Jeffrey D. Sachs, and Klaus Schwab 2000. *The Asian Financial Crisis: Lessons for a Resilient Asia*. MIT Press. ISBN: 0-262-69245-7.
- Yergin, Daniel and Joseph Stanislaw 2002. *The Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy*. Free Press. ISBN: 0-684-83569-X.
- Rowen, Henry S. 1998. *Behind East Asian Growth: The Political and Social Foundations of Prosperity*. London: Routledge. ISBN: 0-415-16519-9.

Second Priority

- Islam, Iyanatul and Anis Chowdhury 2001. *The Political Economy of East Asia: Post-Crisis Debates*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0-195-54090-5.
- Noble, Gregory W. 1998. *Collective Action in East Asia: How Ruling Parties Shape Industrial Policy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.