

**SOC 751: Development in Asia**, Section 1, CRN 89203, 3 Units, Spring 2015-2016  
Wednesday, 12-2:30pm, Kuykendall 401B  
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This course focuses on Asian economic and political development, as well as its links to broader cultures and social structures.

Within social science, Asian development, and East and Southeast Asian economic development in particular, has occupied a prime location in the mind of social scientists studying processes of social change and globalization over at least the past half century. Though the mania for finding a single "Asian Model of Development" has died down somewhat in recent years, social sciences theories dedicated specifically to explaining the distinctive characteristics of Asian development retain a great deal of prominence. These theories can be classified roughly into two broad contrasting approaches, Developmental State/Neo-Authoritarianism and Post-Confucianism/Network Society. These approaches both reject conventional neoclassical or Marxist explanations, and include both micro and macro components. Both approaches originally organized their analysis around country-level comparisons, but have moved increasingly towards greater analysis of the regional and global interactions between supra- and super-national actors. However, their literatures still exist in relative isolation from one another and have contrasting emphases. Most obviously, the Post-Confucianism approach tends to be a bottom-up in its approach to social analysis, while the Developmental State approach tends to be top-down. In addition, at the micro-level, the Post-Confucianism literature focuses on social norms as the basis for decision-making, while the Developmental State literature focuses on rational calculation. Finally, at the macro level, Post-Confucianism typically uses social network concepts (and occasionally formal network representations) to describe social structure, while the Development State typically uses state-civil society and class-based concepts.

Empirical study of the region typically focuses on key types of collective actors such as states, firms, organized labor, political parties, and social movement organizations, as well as the interactions between actors within or across each type and the institutions that govern them. Study of these interactions can be organized on a country-by-country basis, though, as with theory, they are increasingly focused on the region as a whole. Indeed "regional development" has become somewhat of a mantra in the study of East Asian development.

The requirements for this course will be fairly flexible. The assigned readings will generally be articles that are posted on or linked to the course Laulima website. They will be interdisciplinary, drawing primarily from the disciplines of sociology, economics, and political science, which occasional forays into anthropology and psychology.

The main assignment for the course will be a seminar research paper. Students will be responsible for writing a paper in a journal article format, due at the end of the course, with the subject matter related to any topic(s) covered in the course. It is expected that you will start formulating these papers early on, and we will check on and discuss their status at multiple points as the course proceeds. Grades for the paper will be based upon the extent to which the final course draft could, with further revisions not involving wholesale structural change, be plausibly considered for publication in a prominent journal within the student's academic field of study. This paper will due on Laulima on the last day of the final exam period.

For each week where there are reading assignments, students will prepare and post on Laulima a set of comments and/or study questions that we will use in guiding discussion and be prepared to elaborate on these points in class discussion. These should show that the student has done the assigned reading, understands the content of the material, has put some thought into developing their contributions.

For weeks that involve discussion of student papers, students are expected to prepare and post paper topics and abstracts (first stage), outlines and section summaries (second stage), and rough drafts (third stage) of their paper. At each stage, the student should try to demonstrate progress towards a final draft of their seminar research paper and be prepared aid other students in making such progress.

## **Weekly Topics:**

Note. These topics and schedule are tentative may be adjusted based upon student interests and the dynamics of seminar discussions.

WEEK 1 (1/13). **Introduction to the Course**

WEEK 2 (1/20). **Asian Development: To What Extent is Asia a "Region" and How do we Define It?**

WEEK 3 (1/27). **Student Paper Discussion - Topics and Abstracts**

WEEK 4 (2/3). **Post-Confucianism: Alternatives to the Protestant Ethic and "Asian Values"**

WEEK 5 (2/10). **Post-Confucianism: Network Models and Guanxi**

WEEK 6 (2/17). **Developmental State: Pre- and Post-Crisis**

WEEK 7 (2/24). **Developmental State: Institutional Variations and Neo-Authoritarianism**

WEEK 8 (3/2). **Student Paper Discussion: Outlines and Section Summaries**

WEEK 9 (3/9). **States, Families, and Businesses: Renegotiating the Public and Private**

WEEK 10 (3/16). **Regional Patterns of Exchange: Relational Contracting or Rent-Seeking?**

Spring Recess (3/23)

WEEK 11 (3/30). **Labor and Inequality: Economic Rights in the Post-Miracle Era**

WEEK 12 (4/6). **Parties and Regimes: Stability, Soft Authoritarianism, and "Asian Values"**

WEEK 13 (4/13). **Social Movements: Mobilizing Coalitions of Morality**

WEEK 14 (4/20). **Student Paper Discussion: Rough Drafts**

WEEK 15 (4/29). **Regional Cultural Flows: Integrating or Segregating?**

WEEK 16 (5/4). **Neo-Nationalism, Pan-Asianism, and Cosmopolitanism: The Fight for Regional Identity**

**Final Paper Due 5/9, 2pm**