Preliminary Remarks: This course focuses on the politics of Japan, India and China while utilizing the tools of comparative politics to analyze and better understand each country. The comparative approach argues that through comparison one is able to discern patterns and dynamics through analyzing the traits of one country or countries and comparing it with another. The approach to the course emphasizes the impact of history, culture, government structures and economic change on political processes. Seven themes emphasized in the text link the material, these are:

1. The endurance of traditional cultures and their impact on contemporary politics;
2. The intermingling of Asian traditions;
3. The influence of western values and institutions;
4. The relationship between economic development and political change;
5. The links between individuals and state institutions;
6. The importance of nationalism and national identity, and;
7. The impact of globalization

There are two main goals of the course, the first is to better understand the political institutions and processes of the three Asian countries; the second is to develop critical thinking skills in order to analyze and compare. The methodological tools of comparative politics will therefore be used throughout the course, because comparison not only illuminate the significance of specific features of Asian politics but also helps us to better understand the unique features of political systems other than our own. Every effort will be made to be aware of the cultural and intellectual lenses through which we study and comprehend the culture and politics of the three giants of Asia.

Required Reading and Writing Assignments
The basic texts for the course are available at the Bryant University bookstore:


*Note: Additional Required readings are listed in the syllabus, there are available via the links posted to Blackboard.
There will be 3 quizzes, three analytical essays, two exams, weekly précis and discussion question assignments used to calculate your grade. The analytical essay assignments will be discussed and posted to Blackboard before the due date. Questions on the exams and quizzes will be short and long answer format. Questions are taken in equal amounts from the assigned readings, lectures and in class discussions. Assignments will be given the following weight in order to determine grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (3)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Essay (A)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Essay (B or C)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Essay (D or E)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Precis</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Class Preparation and Expectations**

This is an upper level course which means that students are required to ask questions and contribute to class discussions rather than simply listening to lectures. Class participation will be graded on the basis of précis and questions prepared in advance on the class discussion board via blackboard. Please be courteous to others in the class: this means observing the manners appropriate to the university setting, including arriving on time for class.

Success in this course requires work and consistent preparation; you should spend at least 15 hours per week studying for the course in addition to attending class. Strategies for doing well include: 1) actively participating in class, asking questions and contributing to class discussion; 2) attending class and taking organized notes; 3) asking questions about material you find difficult—if you don’t get it the chances are that you are not alone; 4) taking notes on the reading and reviewing them before coming to class; 5) taking advantage of office hours. It is not necessary to make an appointment during office hours; I will do my best to accommodate you if you are unable to meet with me during those times.

**Make up exams are given only for unforeseen and highly unusual circumstances that can be verified in writing.** The final examination time is on the syllabus and will be held in our regular class meeting room. Failure to take an exam at the scheduled time without notifying the instructor before the exam will result in a grade of zero for the exam. These assignments will be given at the beginning of class, and those who are late will not be given the opportunity to take it after class or after the allotted time is over. Under University guidelines, a grade of Incomplete will be assigned only when students are unable to complete a course due to circumstances beyond their control.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity**

Students should refer to the section on Academic Behavior (pg. 10) in the Student Handbook as well as the Bryant Pledge (pg.2).
Cases of plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in failure for the course, a report will be filed with the Department Chair and the case will be pursued via the channels outlined in the Handbook.

Plagiarism is defined as:
1. To steal and use the ideas or writings of another as one's own;
2. To appropriate passages or ideas from and use them as one’s own (American Heritage Dictionary, 1985, Boston: Houghton Mifflin).

Please consult the *Chicago Manual of Style* (available in the library), and/or *Elements of Style* (Strunk and White) to ensure that you are properly citing sources and not plagiarizing. You may also e-mail me and I will spot check your references or you may also visit the Writing Center.

**Course Outline**

**Understanding Asia**

1/27 – 1/29  
Defining Asia  
Reading Packet via Blackboard

2/1  
Lenses, Themes in Asian Politics  
Charlton Ch. 1 (all)

2/3-2/5  
People and Politics  
Indian Politics  
Charlton, Ch. 2

2/5  
*Quiz 1*

2/8  
Chinese Politics  
Charlton, Ch. 3

2/10  
Japanese Politics  
Charlton, Ch. 4

2/12  
**Option A Due**  
Confucian Heritages in Asia  
Reading Packet via Blackboard

2/15  
No Class President’s Day

2/17  
Buddhist Traditions Across Asia  
Reading Packet via Blackboard

2/19  
*Exam One*
Foundations of Politics
2/22
Indian National Identity
Charlton, Ch. 5

2/24-2/26
Post-Colonialism and the Modern Indian Identities
Reading Packet via Blackboard

3/1
Quiz Two

3/1-3/5
Re-creating the Chinese Nation
Charlton, Ch. 6

3/8 – 3/12
No Class Spring Break

3/15-3/17
Japan: Tension in Tradition
Charlton, Ch. 7

3/17
Option B Due

3/19
Constitutions
Charlton, Ch. 8
Review Constitutions on the Internet

Structures of Government
3/22
Quiz Three

3/22-3/24
Parliamentary and Presidential Systems
Reading Packet via Blackboard

3/26-3/29
Parliamentary Democracy in Asia
Charlton, Ch. 9

3/31
Option C Due

3/31-4/2
The Chinese Party-State System
Charlton Ch. 10

4/5-4/9
Citizen-State Relations in China
Goldman (all)

4/12
Exam Two

4/14-4/16
Regionalism and Levels of Government
Charlton, Ch. 11
Review maps
**The Individual and the State**

4/19-4/21  
The Decay of One Party Rule  
Charlton, Ch. 12  
Review Election Web Sources posted to Blackboard

4/23-4/28  
Development, Democratization and Governance  
Charlton, Ch. 13  
Reading Packet on Development

4/30-5/3  
Movements in Civil Society  
Reading packet via Blackboard

5/5  
Asian Politics and Global Transformation  
Charlton, Ch. 14

5/7  
Final Paper Presentations

**Final Exam**  
Friday May 14, 2:00-4:30 p.m. – Options D and E Due