This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor or department.

Students are responsible for using the most current version of the syllabus.

POLS 4390.001 – Asian Politics
Fall 2015 Syllabus, Version 1.0
Instructor: Dr. Jennifer L. Epley
Office Location: Bay Hall 341
Office Telephone: (361) 825-2554

Office Hours:
- In person on campus or by telephone: To be determined
- By appointment (in case of class or employment conflicts only).

Email: jennifer.epley@tamucc.edu
- Please consider e-mail as official correspondence.
- Efforts will be made to address your e-mail within 48 hours. If you do not receive an email within 48 hours, please send a follow-up email.
- No email correspondence on weekends.
- No email correspondence on the day before an examination or deadline.
- E-mail communications should be about class business. E-mail is not the place for summaries of lectures, discussions, or readings, however.
- Please use the subject line in a way that indicates the content of the message. Please also use professional language and include your full name, section number, and a complete inquiry in the body of the message. Unprofessional emails will result in non-response.
- Please keep copies of e-mails that are sent and received for records purposes.

Course Section Details for Registered Students:
61824 POLS 4390.001 – Asian Politics is a “hybrid” course. There is a combination of regular face-to-face in-class sessions and online work. This class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-10:45am in Island Hall Room 268.

Course Description & Objectives:
Political Science 4390 is an upper-level Comparative Politics course about contemporary political issues within and amongst countries in Asia. The course will survey various institutions, political processes and behaviors, and public policy debates in the region of Southeast Asia in particular. Given the limited time and resources we have during one semester, this Comparative Politics course will concentrate on three country cases: Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Additional Asian countries (e.g., China and Japan), along with countries such as the United States and various states in Europe, are incorporated into the readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments as needed. Specific thematic areas include the modern state, democracy, political economy and development, globalization, participation (e.g., elections, social movements, and protests), race and ethnicity, gender, and religion. We will examine politics at the micro-level and macro-level in an effort to understand modern “successes” and “dilemmas” and prospects for the future.

In an effort to help students improve their critical thinking skills and information literacy, the overall course will be structured as a simulated think tank. Students will get hands-on research experience with actual data and current events. As in a real life think tank, students will also have opportunities to work (and be evaluated) as individuals and in groups. There will be “private” and “public” components to the learning process and professional development.
Learning Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
1. Describe “basic facts” about institutions, political processes and behaviors, and public policy debates in Asia.
2. Understand and evaluate how government and politics work in multiple Asian countries.
3. Effectively conduct and present an analysis of a political phenomenon of interest.

Required Texts:
All required readings will be posted online via Blackboard or provided in class.

Required Course Websites:
- Blackboard online (https://iol.tamucc.edu/) → Free access

Performance Evaluation and Grading:
Your final course grade will consist of the following components…

5% Country Reports
Individual students will be assigned specific countries and tasked with creating a formal background report related to politics, economics, cultures, geography, etc.

20% Annotated Bibliography & Research Process Report
In small groups, students will collaborate on creating an annotated bibliography on a specific topic and set of country cases. Bibliographies must consist of correct APSA citations and complete abstracts. Students will also collaborate on a research process report describing their methodological approach (and related pros and cons) to searching for resources.

40% Literature Review
Part I (20%): As individuals, students will produce literature summaries for a designated number of journal articles that address the theories, methods, hypotheses, variables of interest, conclusions, and pros and cons of each piece.
Part II (20%): Building from Part I and in small groups, students will work together to produce a literature review (i.e., a lengthy, unified report of existing theories, arguments, data, and conclusions by social scientists) on an assigned topic. Supplemental quantitative and qualitative data (e.g., tables, graphs, and commentary) will also be included in the literature review.

15% Reflective Essay
Students will have the opportunity to write an individual reflective essay connected to the course material and their experiences during the semester conducting research.

20% Attendance & Active Participation: Attendance is mandatory, especially since this course is structured as a simulated think tank. Active participation is critical for success in this course. Absences will be registered by a sign-in sheet. Punctuality is also vital. Be on time. When students are on time, the class can finish on time. Compulsive unexcused lateness (meaning three or more times) may be deemed as absences. Once the sign-in sheet is completed, you will be considered absent if you have not yet arrived. Your first absence from class for any
reason will be excused (i.e., a “freebie”). It is then course policy to deduct 1 percentage point from your final course grade for each subsequent, unexcused absence from class.

**Excused Absences:** Students will be excused from class to facilitate their religious observances. You must provide notice of anticipated religious absences in advance. Absences from class will be excused for other reasons if you can provide written documentation from a doctor, coach, academic advisor, or other professional staff member appropriate to the nature of the absence. Such cases include sickness or other medical reasons, officially-sanctioned trips for members of the university’s academic and athletic teams, and accommodations for students with special needs. At the instructor’s discretion, she may provide alternative means for you to fulfill missed responsibilities.

**Late Policy and Make-Up Policy:**
No late work is accepted. No exceptions. No make-up work is permitted. No exceptions. Students know the work and deadline schedules in advance and should manage their time and commitments accordingly.

**Grading Scale:**
A = 90 – 100  B = 80 – 89  C = 70 – 79  D = 60 – 69  F = 59 and below

**Additional Notes:**
No extra credit options are available for this course. No exceptions. Please do not request extra credit from the instructor at any point in time (especially at the end of the semester).

**Grade Appeal Process:**
*Assessments – Students have one week from the date that a score is posted on Blackboard for each individual component to make a grade appeal.* First see the instructor during office hours to discuss the matter. Students may be asked to submit a written/typed appeal letter for documentation purposes.

*Final Grade – OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AS OF 7/3/2015:* Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Dropping a Class:** The instructor hopes that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Please refer to the academic calendar online for information about the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Academic Honor Code:** Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the University Student Handbook. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student

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has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student’s own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Violations of the Academic Honor Code will not be tolerated.

***Academic Dishonesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism***: Academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism of any kind are unacceptable. There are no exceptions. Consequences for academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism include, but are not limited to, a failing grade for an assignment or exam, a failing grade for the course, noncredit for an assignment or exam, additional work, and/or direct referral to university officials.

If academic dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism is suspected on any assessment, the instructor reserves the right to impose restrictions on future assessments for an individual or the entire class as needed.

Please also note that the university requires that faculty members formally report all instances of academic misconduct. Here is the form for your reference: http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/Academic%20Misconduct%20Incident%20Form%208-17-11.pdf and here are the official procedures: http://studentaffairs.tamucc.edu/assets/procedure_academicmisconductcases.pdf

**Academic dishonesty** includes, but is not limited to, the use of unauthorized information during a quiz or exam, plagiarism, submitting the same paper for multiple courses without permission, or depriving another student of the ability to perform his or her work. The term **cheating** includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; (2) dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments, plagiarism; or (3) the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the university faculty or staff.

The term **plagiarism** includes, but is not limited to, the use by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. Plagiarism also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling or distribution of term papers or other academic materials. If you have questions about the university’s policy on academic dishonesty, please see the Student Code of Conduct at http://judicialaffairs.tamucc.edu/StudentCofC.html.

ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL LANGUAGE AS OF 5/21/15:

After review and consideration from appropriate advisory bodies, the University has revised University Procedure 13.02.99.C3.01 Academic Misconduct Cases. Please note the expansion of the definition of “plagiarism” to include intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own. Additionally, the procedure has been updated to reflect the Academic Integrity Committee as the body to consider grade appeals and academic misconduct cases, as well as identifies the selection process of committee members. Detailed information can be found on the University Handbook of Rules and Procedures website. Contact for interpretation or clarification is the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Classroom Policies:**
• **Attendance is mandatory.** There is a strong, positive correlation between high class attendance and high course grades. Students who regularly attend class receive a myriad of benefits from learning in real-time with face-to-face contact with the instructor and peers.
  
  o **Students must provide their original signature on an attendance sheet at each class meeting.** The university requires that faculty members keep track of student attendance, particularly for the purpose of reporting in the SAIL system any information related to “stopped attending” or “never attended” (including exact dates). **Do not sign in for other people besides yourself.** Please pass the sign-in sheet around the room efficiently to ensure that everyone is documented as needed.
  
  o **STARFISH:** [http://casa.tamucc.edu/starfish.php](http://casa.tamucc.edu/starfish.php)

  “The Center for Academic Student Achievement is hosting Starfish, an Early Alert software program for identifying undergraduate students who need assistance from academic support services at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The Early Alert program offers convenient early warning identification capabilities and connects students to a collaborative “Success Network” of faculty, advisors, and specialized support staff to address students’ needs and inquiries in real time.

  The Early Alert program allows faculty and staff to identify the academic needs of TAMUCC’s undergraduate students at any point during the academic term. Starfish provides early alerts, or “flags”, when raised by faculty or staff; generate emails notifying the student, and members of the student’s “Success Network” of course progress and academic concerns needing to be addressed.

  Students can actively engage with members of their “Success Network” at any time. Early Alerts raised for students, however, will elicit an Early Alert response originating from CASA, supplemented by Academic Advising, and may include additional support from campus programs including Student Engagement and Success, Enrollment Management, PASS, and other academic support programs from TAMUCC.”

  **Progress reports will help to identify students’ academic needs, including:**
  
  - Poor class attendance
  - Low class participation
  - Low test or quiz scores
  - Missing or incomplete work
  - Midterm grades below a C
  - In danger of Failing

• **Be on time to class.** Please be considerate of your peers and the instructor by being punctual. If you are more than ten minutes late to class without advanced notice or valid documentation, please do not enter the classroom.

• **Stay until the end of class.** “End of class” means when the instructor verbally releases students to leave. Please do not start to pack up your belongings too early as this is a distraction to other students and the instructor. If you need to leave early (with advanced notice with a proper
documented excuse), please sit in a seat closest to one of the classroom exits in order to minimize the disruption of your early departure.

- **Please do not talk (i.e., have “side conversations”) during lecture.** Students will be concentrating on taking notes, so talking will distract them from doing a good job. There will be designated periods in which students will have the opportunity to discuss course material with classmates. Talking is permitted at those times. **Questions for the instructor about the presented material are still welcomed and encouraged during lectures. Please raise your hand and the instructor will answer questions as needed.**

- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual **respect** the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. **Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom.**

- **The instructor will assume that prior to class you have made an earnest effort to understand the material.** This will allow you to be prepared to engage the material in more detail or address misunderstandings during class. Reviewing “basic facts” will primarily be reserved for examinations, not lectures or office hours.

- There will be opportunities for the instructor to answer your questions and for you to discuss important questions with your peers. Students are invited to have open discussions and respectful debates during designated periods. Indeed, such debates are essential both for your learning and for progress in political science more generally. To foster an intellectually supportive environment, students should adhere to the dialogue guidelines (see extra handout included this syllabus).

- **Unless directed by the instructor for specific course activities, the use of laptops, mobile phones, texting devices, entertainment gadgets, music devices, headphones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc. is prohibited.** Phones in particular should be set to “vibrate” if you must have a phone to receive emergency calls. Phones should not be visible to other students or the instructor. In other words, keep your phone in a bag, backpack, pocket, etc. **The abovementioned items limit a student’s active participation, can disturb other students, and distracts the instructor.** If a student is found to be using any of the aforementioned technological devices without permission, the instructor will politely request that the student stop using the device. A student will be asked to leave the class if found using the device again. This disciplinary process takes time away from lecture and discussion, so please do not disrupt the entire class by taking such a chance.

- **The instructor’s lecture slides are not posted online because of…**
  - **Copyright issues:** Academic material such as syllabi and lecture slides are proprietary, and unfortunately some professors have had negative experiences with putting their materials out in the public domain.
  - **Attendance and “crutch” issues:** Some students are prone to missing class if slides are available because they view the slides as a substitute for lecture. Missing class has
several potentially negative consequences, so the instructor “helps” these students by providing an incentive to attend class. We also avoid possible misinterpretations of slide material if we can handle questions and concerns in real time in class. In addition, some students might treat lecture slides as a “crutch” (e.g., simply memorizing slides) rather than truly developing their own knowledge base and understanding or using the resources that are already readily available to them (like their own notes).

*** The lecture slides in class are primarily for visual learners who need to both hear words and see text as they are learning. They are not meant for students to copy as a substitute for prior studying. Also, students should not frantically try to write down everything from the lecture slides. If students come prepared, most of the lecture should not be new. Lecture is simply another time and place to encounter the material again since repeat exposure helps with memory and understanding. As such, your in-class lecture notes do not need to be extremely lengthy. Additionally, please pay attention to what is not on the slides, that is, the extra examples and vocabulary the instructor mentions that are related to the slides. Students should keep track of such examples and terms. If students are too busy trying to write everything from the slides, they may miss other key information from the instructor and their peers.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. Please also contact the instructor early if you require assistance.

Veterans: If you are a veteran who is experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the instructor and/or the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816. Veterans can find more information online at [http://vets.tamucc.edu/](http://vets.tamucc.edu/).

Student Caregivers: If you have caregiving responsibilities (e.g., parent of a child or care for elderly parents) and you anticipate scheduling difficulties, please discuss this at the beginning of the semester with the instructor to work out an appropriate strategy in advance.

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts (CLA) requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information, please call (361) 825-3466.

S.A.I.L. System: S.A.I.L. is a secure online student portal where you can access your student, academic, and financial aid records at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Students can find information related to registration, class schedules, course catalogs, tuition and fees, grades, etc. at [http://sail.tamucc.edu/](http://sail.tamucc.edu/).
Statement of Academic Continuity: In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email where possible. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Fall 2015 Academic Calendar from http://registrar.tamucc.edu/calendars/index.html:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 26</th>
<th>Classes begin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Last day to late register or add a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 6</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26-27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from the University</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3-4, December 7-9</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Last day to apply for December 2015 graduation</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>Fall Commencement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For the latest information on dates and deadlines, please inquire at the appropriate university office (e.g., Academic Affairs Office, Office of the Registrar, Dean’s Office of your major, main department of your major, etc.), with your academic advisor, and your professors.

Course Schedule: All dates, assignments, and evaluations are subject to change with advanced notice. Please pay attention to Blackboard (https://iol.tamucc.edu/) for updates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schedule</th>
<th>Course Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: August 27th</td>
<td>Course Introduction: Syllabus, Dialogue Guidelines (group discussion and consensus), Professor-Student Relations, Professor Background, and Student Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 3    | September 8-10th | 8th – Country Case: Malaysia  
10th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 4    | September 15-17th | 15th – Country Case: Philippines  
17th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 5    | September 22-24th | 22nd – Country Case: Indonesia  
24th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 6    | September 29th & October 1st | 29th – COUNTRY REPORTS AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY & RESEARCH PROCESS REPORT DUE. Class meeting will consist of in-class discussions about the research process.  
1st – “How to do a Literature Review: Part I”       |
| 7    | October 6-8th | 6th – Country Case: Malaysia  
8th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 8    | October 13-15th | 13th – Country Case: Philippines  
15th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 9    | October 20-22nd | 20th – Country Case: Indonesia  
22nd – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 10   | October 27-29th | 27th – LITERATURE REVIEW PART I DUE. Class meeting will consist of in-class discussions about the research and writing process.  
29th – “How to do a Literature Review: Part II”       |
| 11   | November 3-5th | 3rd – Country Case: Malaysia  
5th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 12   | November 10-12th | 10th – Country Case: Philippines  
12th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 13   | November 17-19th | 17th – Country Case: Indonesia  
19th – Think Tank Sessions       |
| 14   | November 24-26th | 24th – LITERATURE REVIEW PART II DUE. Class meeting will consist of in-class discussions about the research and writing process.  
26th – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)       |
| 15   | December 1-8th | 1st – Last Day of Class: Slide Presentations  
8th - REFLECTIVE ESSAY DUE to Bay Hall 341 by 12pm (noon) exactly. No late papers will be accepted under any circumstances.       |
GUIDELINES FOR DIALOGUE

1. **Confidentiality.** We want to create an atmosphere for open, honest exchange.

2. **Our primary commitment is to learn from each other.** We will listen to each other and not talk at each other. We acknowledge differences amongst us in backgrounds, skills, interests, and values. We realize that it is these very differences that will increase our awareness and understanding through this process.

3. **We will not demean, devalue, or “put down” people** for their experiences, lack of experiences, or difference in interpretation of those experiences.

4. **We will trust that people are always doing the best they can.**

5. **Challenge the idea and not the person.** If we wish to challenge something that has been said, we will challenge the idea or the practice referred to, not the individual sharing this idea or practice.

6. **Speak your discomfort.** If something is bothering you, please share this with the group. Often our emotional reactions to this process offer the most valuable learning opportunities.

7. **Step Up, Step Back.** Be mindful of taking up much more space than others. On the same note, empower yourself to speak up when others are dominating the conversation.

8. **Maintain a safe atmosphere.**

Source: The Program on Intergroup Relations, University of Michigan, CRLT Handout (page 8), August 26, 2008.
Please complete this page and submit it online via Blackboard. Keep a copy for your own records, too.

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Syllabus / Contract Agreement

I, ________________________________, have read all of the pages of Dr. Epley’s Fall 2015 syllabus for Political Science 4390.001 – Asian Politics. I fully understand the expectations, rules, regulations, resources, and schedule explained in that syllabus. I agree to abide by its conditions as well.

_________________________________________
(Signature)

_________________________________________
(Student Number)

_________________________________________
(Date)

_________________________________________
(Course Number & Section)