

JSISA405/ANTH 449: Social Change in Asia
Professor Sorensen
April 20, 2020

**2020 Take-home
Midterm**

Write two essays, one from each section of the exam, in well-argued and well-formed paragraphs. It is due on Canvas on **Wednesday April 29th by 11:59PM**. There will be no class that day. It is open book, and you have more than a week to work on it. All necessary information for the exam has been presented in lecture and reading. No outside reading is required or expected. Each answer should be typed and should be limited to about 500-750 words (2-3 pages double-spaced). Be sure to cite the readings when appropriate giving author and page number in parentheses.

I: Descriptive Essay. Using material from the readings and lecture write a well-organized essay describing one of the following phenomena or institutions in Taiwan, South Korea, and/or China (PRC). Be sure to answer all parts of the question citing the readings and lecture.

- A. Compare and contrast environmental protest in Taiwan, China, and South Korea in terms of the ladder of escalation, the discursive struggle, the manner of political mobilization, the relationship to environmental administration, and the role of national NGOs. Could you call China (PRC)'s environmental protests or NGOs a social movement using Liu's criteria?
- B. Describe the main difference between the way labor movements developed in Taiwan and South Korea from their earlier Euro-American counterparts? To what degree do you think the differences between the labor movement in Taiwan and South Korea can be explained by (1) the severity of labor's grievances in each case, (2) labor's organizational infrastructure and information networks, (3) traditions and local culture (both discursive and institutional), (4) the political and class structure of society.

II: Interpretive Essay. This essay has no single right or wrong answer; I'm looking for a good argument rather than for a "right" answer. Thus, formulate a thesis, and then argue for it in well-organized paragraphs that give persuasive examples and evidence from the readings and lecture. Be sure to answer all parts of the question.

- A. Do you agree with Judith Shapiro that national identity is a key factor influencing environmental policy in China (PRC)? Can this same argument be made for Taiwan, South Korea, or Japan?
- B. Bryan Tilt sees two pillars and three processes (strategies) of environmental action in the PRC. Do these pillars and processes seem adequate to move environmental protection sufficiently forward, or do you think that the absence in the PRC of social movements such as Liu has described for Taiwan and South Korea fatally weakens environmental

protection?

- C. What changes do the labor movements in Taiwan and South Korea currently face? Do you think it is possible for either country to continue to maintain a vigorous labor movement in the face of globalization in which products are produced by global supply chains rather than within one country?