

JSISA405/ANTH 449: Social Change in Asia  
Professor Sorensen  
April 15, 2020

**Study Sheet for 2020**  
**Take-home Midterm**

I will post the midterm on Canvas and the course website on April 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. It is due on Canvas on **Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> 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. You will be asked to answer one question each from the two sections of the essay. Each question should be typed and should be limited to about 500 words (2 pages double-spaced):

Part I. A single descriptive essay (choice between several examples) in which you will be asked to describe a phenomenon or social institution that has been described in the readings and class.

I. A single interpretive essay (choice between several examples in which you will be asked to formulate an argument about a point of interpretation discussed in class. There will be no single right or wrong answer for this question.

The best exams will integrate class lecture with the readings. If the question is a two or three-part question, be sure to answer all the parts of the question. In both essays I will look for specific citations to the lectures and readings. Author and page number (or slide number) in parenthesis should mark your citations to the readings or lectures. You should not have to do any reading outside the class assignments to write the exam.

In the descriptive essay I will look for a well-organized answer that integrates the reading and lectures. I will not necessarily look for creativity in this essay but will take into account the scope of your answer. As the length of your answer is limited, one of the things I will be looking for is your ability to pick out the information that *is most important*. You won't be able to mention everything, so you will have to make your judgement about what should be included and what is extraneous.

For interpretative essays I am looking for your ability to make an argument. The question will be about something for which there is no single right or wrong answer. Thus, for this essay you need to begin with a thesis stating what you are arguing for or against, and the rest of your essay should include reasons that support your argument. You can cite facts from the readings or lecture, cite examples from the readings or lecture, and use other techniques to support your argument. I do not have to be convinced that you are absolutely right for you to get a good grade as long as you make a good argument with good reasons and examples. (You will not be penalized for mistakes that I judge you would have no way of knowing from lectures or readings).

You will not be required to know East Asian words unless they are listed on this sheet, or handouts 1-3. Foreign words in square brackets [ ] are suggested but not required. Those of you who know Asian languages are free to use foreign words in any script in your exam, but *you have to use them properly and will be penalized if you use them improperly* (either because you misspelled them, wrote the wrong character, used them in the wrong context, or with the wrong meaning). There is no advantage in using foreign words, but some of you may find them

convenient.

### **Sample Description and Interpretive Questions**

(1) Know the material on Handout #1 and be able to list and rank-order the countries of East Asia by the dimensions listed on the handout including form of government. Be able to use this information to characterize the significance of Japan, South Korea, North Korean, the PRC, Taiwan, or Vietnam in the current world system. Think about how you would use these indicators to talk about something interesting.

(2) Be prepared to explain how the postwar system of a divided Korea and China and a united Vietnam emerged (eventually) out of the ashes of World War II. Why is Taiwan not recognized as sovereign by the United Nations?

(3) Be prepared to compare and contrast three competing view of nature: (1) the traditional view of a landscape full of qi and spiritual animals, (2) the disenchanted world of commodities to be used for development, (3) the romantic view of nature as something to be preserved for its own sake.

(4) Why does Weller think that convergence through the spread of modernity and globalism is a factor that can easily be overemphasized in explaining current discourse about the environment in Taiwan and the PRC?

(5) What was Mao's view of nature, and what reasons does Judith Shapiro give for this view leading to major environmental destruction? Do these reasons apply to North Korea as well?

(6) How did the American system of national parks develop? What are the characteristics of American-style national parks compared to those of Japan or Taiwan?

(7) Why does Weller think that Taiwan national forests are more Japanese-influenced than Taiwan national parks? Do you agree?

(8) What is the United National Model (IUCN) for nature preservation, and how does it differ now from the American model? What reasons does Weller give for the PRC following the UN model more than the American model?

(9) What does Weller identify as specifically Chinese ways of appreciating nature today?

(10) Why is garbage more of an issue in industrial society that it was in preindustrial society?

(11) What is distinctive about Taiwan's industrialization and urbanization compared with that of South Korea in terms of firm size, distribution, and urbanization patterns? How might this have influenced the timing of development and intensity of labor and environmental movements in the two countries.

(12) Be prepared to compare and contrast Taiwan and China environmental protest in terms of the ladder of escalation, the manner of political mobilization, the relationship to environmental

administration, and the role of national NGOs. Could you call China (PRC)'s environmental protest a social movement using Liu's criteria?

(13) Both Weller and Tilt emphasize the importance of competing priorities of higher and local government in complicating environmental policy. Weller says, "There are policies from above, and countermeasures from below." What does this mean? Would you think this concept is relevant for understanding Judith Shapiro's views of environmental activism in the PRC as outlined in Chapter 5, "Public Participation and Civil Society"?

(14) Tilt sees two pillars and three processes (strategies) of environmental action. What are they? Give examples of the dynamics of this interaction and how it hinders or helps environmental policy in both Taiwan and the PRC.

(15) How does Liu contrast the power of labor and environmental movements, and their direction of movement? Is this convincing? Why does Liu think that grievance alone is not enough to start a social movement?

(16) How can you recognize a social movement, and when does Liu think a social movement emerges?

(17) How does Liu explain the late development of a labor movement in Taiwan? Be sure to consider the size and distribution of enterprises, whether workers could "opt out", the KMT's "incorporationist" attitude toward labor, and KMT's ways of mediating labor disputes.

(18) How did Taiwan respond to its "crisis of legitimacy" 1971-9 when China's UN seat was transferred to the PRC and the US also recognized the PRC.

(19) Why does Liu think Taiwan's "incorporationist" policy not work for the environment?

(20) How does Liu explain the early development of a labor movement in South Korea? Be sure to consider the size and distribution of enterprises, the movement of workers, exclusion of labor from politics, and the failure of compulsory arbitration.

(21) How does Liu explain the late development of an environmental movement in South Korea?

(22) To what extent have environmental movements in Taiwan and South Korea developed similarly to those of Japan? (Interpretive Question).

(21) Why does Liu think an Urban/Rural Cross class coalition was necessary for an environmental movement to emerge in Taiwan?

(22) What is the main difference between the way labor movements developed in Taiwan and South Korea from their earlier Euro-American counterparts?

(23) What organizational resources did Korean labor have that Taiwanese labor seemed to lack?

(24) What does Liu see as the current problems and future of the labor and environmental movements in Taiwan and South Korea? What are the changes they face and how are they adapting to them.

(25) Do you think democracy is necessary for a society to develop a robust labor and/or environmental movement? Do you think such a movement is necessary to address working conditions and environment destruction?