

Struggle for Justice

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Mark Tracy
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【Course Outline / Description】

Rumors about criminal justice systems in Asia are common and often exaggerated. Newspapers report that Japan is a homogenous crime-free society while they publish pictures of caning in Singapore. This course will introduce the student to the nature of crime and criminal justice systems in several Asian countries. The main focus of the course is on Japanese criminal justice.

Along with other areas of focus, the class will examine how the Japanese criminal justice works to produce one of the lowest rates of crime in the developed world. We will learn why Japanese prosecutors win 99.98% of their trials and we will try to discover why the vast majority of criminal suspects confess.

We will examine the recent reforms of the criminal justice system in Thailand and measure the effect they have had on crime. After we have explored the intended and immediate results of the reforms we will try to discover how the system has allowed extra-judicial killing of thousands of suspects.

Our study of the criminal justice system in China will teach us to place the concept of criminal justice within the broader perspective of politics and sovereignty. We will examine those ways in which the system is changing and predict future change. We will also try to identify the ways in which criminal law is being used to limit the main threats to political stability in China. Finally we will place the death penalty debate into a global context by examining the strike hard campaigns and China's implementation of the death penalty.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Students "can do" an exercise which demonstrates their understanding of the complexities involved in creating a criminal justice system. Students "can do" a comparison between the subject countries and their own country and students "can explain" how the different cultures have affected their systems.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

See Rapport

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

David Johnson, The Japanese Way of Justice
White Paper on Crime
UNAFEI Criminal Justice Profiles

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Final Exam 34%

Quizzes 66%