of popular culture, and historical overviews, we will look at a selection of nation-states, some which have successfully negotiated the tensions between groups (South Africa and Japan), others that have come apart (Yugoslavia), and those that are struggling (Ireland). The purpose is to explore how governments have been created, why they did or did not work, and what this might mean as countries struggle for social, political, and economic freedom.

Active, appropriate class participation is expected (25% of grade). There will be an in-class midterm (25%), between eight and ten in-class writes or video responses (10%), the Academic Festival project (15%), and a final research paper (25%).

The research paper is to be no longer than ten pages. The syllabus notes when a topic, thesis statement, draft, or final paper is due. The purpose of this exercise is to have you find an area of interest, create a sophisticated and meaningful thesis question, collect appropriate data, and using your own analysis, respond to the inquiry. We will go over proper form, citation procedures, and how to make judgements on the quality of the data you collect. You will informally present your findings at the end of the semester to the class.

(Only Asian content is reproduced here.)

**Week 1**
Introduction, discussion of syllabus, texts, and video, critical thinking.

**America**
"On the Pulse of the Morning," Maya Angelou. How do we define ourselves, or what is an American? In-class response write.

**Week 2**

**China**
Video, *Gate of Heavenly Peace* (Frontline) and website (pbs.org)
Please read the website before class with special attention to the chronology and the names of people.

**Week 3**
Second half of video. What characteristics of Chinese government make it sustainable or not? Using China as an example, generate a list of categories to analyze whether a government is sustainable.

**Week 4**

**Media**
How should we analyze the media? Set up media analyses of newspapers and weekly/monthly publications.
Are there additional characteristics of sustainable government to be added to the list? Should a free press be among them? After these discussions, do you see the situation in China in a different light?

Read *Radical Democracy*, C. Douglas Lummis, pp. 1-78: Big D/little d democrats and beyond the rhetoric

**Week 10**

**Japan**
*Silence*, Shusaku Endo, pp. 1-87
Endo is a modern Japanese Christian. How can he take on the voice of a Portuguese priest in the 1600s? Is he convincing?
Japan and Christianity. Why did the government fear foreign faith?

**Week 11**

Endo, pp. 88-end.
What does the novel tell us about the political stability of Japan? Can we add more characteristics to our list of those necessary for sustainable government? How does the government resolve tension? Is force sustainable?

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