Unit Two Final Portfolio Assignment
Due Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Part I: Write a 5 to 7 page research paper that explores the system of government and political goings on of a country other than the United States. For this paper you will need to find 3 sources that are not from Writing About the World. One of these sources must be a scholarly book that you check out from Davidson Library. One source must be from a peer-reviewed academic journal (Jane Faulkner showed you how to find peer-reviewed journals). Your final source must be from a newspaper or magazine.

Your goal with this paper is to learn as much as you can about your country’s political system and history (both recent and distant), and judge how closely its current political system adheres to the tenets for good government found in one of the three “classical” texts we have read in this unit (Confucius, Plato, Jefferson). In your paper you can choose to critique the classical texts as well, particularly if you feel that the country you are researching provides a better model for the running of an ideal state. Some things (among many) to keep in mind:

-What obligations are placed upon the citizen? (military service, jury duty, etc.)
-What are the obligations of the rulers? (services, access, accountability)
-Is the country a multi-party system?
-Who ultimately makes the laws?
-Was the country a colonizer, one of the colonized, or neither?
-What rights does the press have?
-What basic freedoms are citizens guaranteed?
-What basic freedoms are not guaranteed?

You should not answer all of these questions directly in your paper, but you should keep them in mind as you are doing your research. Also, understand that while you are doing general research on a country, you are most likely going to focus on one or a few small aspects of its political system.

Purpose/Expectations: The purpose of this paper is to see if you can research a topic in such a way that the research you do is applicable to something beyond the presentation of facts. You must take what you learn and place it in conversation with texts that have formed the foundations of both Western and Eastern political theory. For example, you may choose to explore how a country selects its government officials and then compare that with Plato’s concept of the “Guardians.” This can then lead into a critique of both Plato’s concept, and also a critique of the structure of “your” country’s government.

All papers must adhere to MLA formatting and citation practices, and mechanical errors should be at a minimum. Your paper should be well organized, with clear links and transitions between ideas. You should have a concrete, focused thesis that addresses both the country you are researching and the classical text you are critiquing. Your paper must have the appropriate number of sources, and also show that you have researched beyond sources that merely back up your position. Your paper should draw on your source
material in a fresh and analytical way, not simply to move the paper forward. Your introduction should be clear, and your conclusion should be more than a mere recapitulation of the points you have made in your paper. Always strive to say something interesting, especially when you are leaving the reader.

**Part II:** Create an annotated bibliography containing citations and summaries of at least 5 sources pertaining to your paper. Instructions for this will be given in class on Wednesday, November 1, so plan on being in class that day.

**Part III:** Hand in your 4 one page responses/summaries done at home for homework. You will be turning these in during class, but I will hand them back to you, and you should place these with your final portfolio. These should be more polished than your in class exercises, as you have more time to work on them.

**Part IV:** Hand in your 2 in class exercises from this unit, as well as all of your reading quizzes/free writes. The in class exercises should be typed up, though they are not expected to be fully polished pieces of work. The reading quizzes/free writes do not need to be typed up.

**Percentages:**

**Part I:** 65%

**Part II:** 10%

**Part III:** 15%

**Part IV:** 10%