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Office hours:

21F.030 Spring 2015

Introduction to East Asian Cultures: From Zen to K-Pop

The course examines various aspects of culture in both premodern and modern East Asia, ranging from literature, art, performance, cuisine and film. Focusing on China, Japan and Korea, each week we will analyze a specific cultural phenomenon, or aspect of material culture. We will also consider the central influence of major philosophical systems such as Confucianism and Buddhism on East Asian cultures. A comparative perspective will be employed to examine the cultural links, *and* the cultural differences between these major East Asian countries. The course will also introduce students to a variety of methodologies for the study of culture (e. g. cultural studies, anthropology, and history). The study of gender and sex roles will be an integral part of this subject. This class is suitable for students of all levels, and requires no language background. Students who wish to fulfill the MISTI-Singapore requirement may do the final project on Singapore. Taught in English.

The course includes field trips to the MFA and the Peabody Essex Museum.

Policy on academic integrity. I expect all students to be familiar with MIT's policies and guidelines on academic integrity as outlined in the handbook on academic integrity:

<http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/>

Please review all the guidelines in the handbook, including the information on responsible paraphrasing:

<http://web.mit.edu/academicintegrity/writing/paraphrasing.html>

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses and will be dealt with according to MIT policy and procedures.

Laptop policy: laptops and electronic reading devices are permitted in class for the sole purpose of consulting class materials or taking lecture notes. Use of e-mail, web surfing, and any work related to other classes is prohibited.

Intended Learning Outcomes: by the time you complete this course, you should be able to:

Identify the countries included in the formal regional term "East Asia," and the shared features that are said to mark "East Asian civilization."

Identify examples of regional variation or diversity within East Asia, and across historical time.

Understand the basic tenets of Confucianism and Buddhism, and their influence on select works of East Asian literature and arts.

Explain the tension between globalization and localization as exemplified in particular examples from contemporary East Asian cultures.

Understand diverse definitions of the word "culture," and explain how these definitions help us to understand why "East Asian culture" is not a fixed, and unchanging entity.

Demonstrate improvement in writing concise, readable prose.

Requirements: In addition to the class readings, students will be required to write a 1-2 page journal reflecting on cultural issues nearly every week. The journal prompts and explanation of journal system are available on stellar. At the end of the semester, students will compose a final journal portfolio working with concepts learned in the class. Students will complete a total of approximately 20 pages of writing by the end of the semester. Students will also be expected to give informal oral presentations throughout the term. A quiz will be administered near the end of term in order to assess student mastery of basic concepts covered in the class. There will be a final oral presentation based on an original research project selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. A written bibliography will accompany the oral presentation. All topics must be approved by the instructor.

Grading: Class participation 25%*, oral presentation (with bibliography) 15%, weekly journal 15%, graded journal 5%, quiz 15%, final portfolio 25%

* Class participation: students are expected to attend every class, having completed the homework assignment, prepared to participate actively in class discussion and/or answer questions about the reading. This means no unexcused absences. Students who miss film viewings will be expected to make them up on their own time. **Students are required to designate a special folder for their journal and bring it to class weekly.** All journal entries must be kept in this folder and organized appropriately. We will be working with the journals in class as needed.

*****No class absence, except in cases of illness, or family emergency. Please inform me in advance by e-mail.**

Absence in cases of ILLNESS are always excused with e-mail notification from student.

Readings: All books are on reserve at Reserve Reading Library (Bldg 14)
readings marked with *on Stellar

Required Texts

Haboush, JaHyun Kim, tr., *The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong - The Autobiographical Writings of a Crown Princess of Eighteenth-Century Korea.* University of California Press **ISBN-13: 9780520200555** \$28.95

Shen Fu; Sanders, Graham (Translator, Intro and Notes by) *Six Records of a Life Adrift.* Hackett Publishing Company, Incorporated **ISBN-13: 9781603841986** \$13.95

Recommended Texts

Watson, James L. (Editor, Author) *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia.* Stanford University Press **ISBN-13: 9780804749893** \$23.95

we have a dedicated librarian for our class:

Michelle Baildon

Philosophy, History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, & Society Librarian

Hayden Library: 14S-230 / Dewey Library: E53-168N

Tel. 617-253-9352

Week 1 Introduction

Thursday, September 6: Introduction to East Asia

Tuesday	
Thursday	

Week 2 Introduction to East Asia

Tuesday	
Thursday	

Tuesday, September 11 lecture

Thursday, September 13 discussion

Readings:

*de Bary, *Sources of Chinese Tradition* pp.15-33 (Confucius), 48-53 (Taoism), 266-274 (Introduction to Buddhism)

*"Thinking about Culture," in *Comparing Cultures*, 3-11

*Amy Chua, "Why Chinese Mothers are Superior"

* Dominic Ziegler, "Tiger Cubs v Precious Lambs"

Journal due

Week 3 Zen Buddhism and Japanese Arts

Tuesday	
Thursday	

Tuesday September 18: lecture

Thursday September 20: discussion

*de Bary, "Zen Buddhism," 226-229, 255-260

*Selections from Nitschke, *Japanese Gardens*, "Rocks in the Sand," 65-109, "Path and Goal," 115, "The Rustic Tea Garden," 146-156, "Wabi- restraint and poverty," 160-162, look at all pictures pp. 64-167.

Journal due

*D. Suzuki, "Painting, [Haiku], Swordsmanship, Tea Ceremony," in *Zen Buddhism*, 279-294

Week 4 Literati Culture in Late Imperial China

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

Tuesday, September 25 -- lecture

Thursday, September 27 -- discussion

Shen Fu, *Six Records of a Life Adrift*, (ch 1-3)

*Clunas, "Furnishing the Self in Early Modern China," 21-34

*Wen Zhenheng, "Treatise on Superfluous Things," excerpts

*"The Scholar's Garden," 4-9

journal due

Week 5 MFA Week – Art and Material Culture

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

Tuesday, October 2: field trip to Museum of Fine Arts **"Beyond the Screen" Exhibit and East Asian Galleries**

*Fang, "Introduction," *Treasures of the Chinese Scholar*, 1-3

*Zhang, "The Chinese Language and Scholar Objects," *Treasures of the Chinese Scholar*, 15-17

*Zhang, "Scholar Objects and Folk Beliefs," *Treasures of the Chinese Scholar*, 23-26

[review readings from week 3]

Thursday, October 4: discussion

MFA Journal due

Week 6 Lady Hyegyong's *Hanjungnok* and Korean Confucianism

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

Tuesday October 16: lecture

Thursday, October 18: discussion

Haboush tr., *The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyoung*, “Introduction,” “The Memoir of 1795,” “The Memoir of 1805”, Look through the illustrations between pp. 195-197

*****Graded Journal due**

Week 7 East Asian Foodways I

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

: discussion

China:

*Simoons, “Food in and Chinese Thought and Culture,” 13-37

*Cooper, “Chinese Table Manners: You Are How You Eat,” *Human Organization* 45: 179-84 (1986)

Japan:

Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, "Rice As Self: Japanese Identities through Time," *Education about Asia* 9.3 (2004): 4-9

*Richie, “A Taste of Japan: Introduction,” and “Okashi,” *A Taste of Japan*, 90-96

Korea: "Korean Cuisine, the history of 5000 years," in *Korean Cuisine: a Cultural Journey*, Chung Haekyung [translator, Lee Yoojin], Seoul, Korea: Thinking Tree Pub., 2009.

Recommended:

Francesca Bray, “Rice, Technology, and History: The Case of China” *Education about Asia* 9.3 (2004):

Week 8 East Asian Foodways II

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

James Watson, "Food As a Lens: The Past, Present, and Future of Family Life in China," *Feeding China's Little Emperors: Food, Children, and Social Change*, 2000, 199-212

Anne Alison, "Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch-Box as Ideological State Apparatus," *Anthropological Quarterly* 64.4 (1991): 195-208.

Oishinbo: A Surprising Taste (manga) from *Oishinbo à la carte* / story by Tetsu Kariya ; art by Akira Hanasaki ; translation, Tesuichiro Miyaki, 2009, excerpt

Kyung-koo Han, "Some Foods Are Good to Think: Kimchi and the Epitomization of National Character," Korean Social Science Journal 27.1 (2000): 221-225.

Rec:

"*Jewel in the Palace: Korean Wave and the Royal Cuisine*," in *Korean Cuisine: a Cultural Journey*, Chung Haekyung [translator, Lee Yoojin], Seoul, Korea: Thinking Tree Pub. 2009.

Field trip to Peabody Essex Museum, Salem

Reading:

*Berliner, Yin Yu Tang: The Architecture and Daily Life of a Chinese House, pp vii-xiii, 3-15

journal due next Tuesday

Week 9 Cool Japan: Anime

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

Tuesday, October 30 lecture

Thursday, November 1 discussion

Condry, *The Soul of Anime*, Chapter 3, "Early Directions in Postwar Anime," and Chapter 4, "When Anime Robots Became Real," <http://www.scribd.com/doc/117380368/The-Soul-of-Anime-by-Ian-Condry>

Journal due

Week 10

	The Korean Wave
Tuesday	Lecture <i>Winter Sonata</i> , clip <i>Jewel in the Palace</i> , clip
Thursday	Discussion Doobo Shim, "The Growth of Korean Cultural Industries and the Korean Wave," in <i>East Asian Pop Culture: Analyzing the Korean Wave</i> , 2008, 15-32. Keith Howard, "Coming of Age: Korean Pop In the 1990s," in <i>Korean Pop Music: Riding the Wave</i> , 2006, 82-98. KoChan, Brenda, and Wang Xueli. "Of prince charming and male chauvinist pigs:

	<p>Singaporean female viewers and the dream-world of Korean television dramas." <i>International Journal of Cultural Studies</i> 14.3 (2011): 291-305.</p> <p>Journal due</p>
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Week 11 Consumer Culture in Contemporary China

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

Tuesday, November 13:

Thursday, November 15: discussion

Karl Gerth,

Li Zhang

Karl Gerth, "Lifestyles of the Rich and Infamous: The Creation and Implications of China's New Aristocracy," *Comparative Sociology*, Volume 10, Issue 4 (2011), pages 488 – 507

Journal due

Week 12 Westernization, Globalization, or Localization?

Tuesday	lecture
Thursday	discussion
	Journal due

Tuesday, November 20: **Quiz**
discussion of final projects

Thursday, November 22:

James Watson, "China's Big Mac Attack," *The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating*, Watson and Caldwell eds. 2005, 70-79.

Theodore Bestor, "How Sushi Went Global," *The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating*, Watson and Caldwell eds. 2005, 13-20.

Sangmee Bak, "McDonald's in Seoul: Food Choices, Identity, and Nationalism," *chapter 4*, Watson ed., *Golden Arches East*

*Wang, *Brand New China*, chapter 1, "Local Content"

Recommended:

Watson ed., *Golden Arches East*, chapters on Hong Kong and Taipei

Week 13

Tuesday	
Thursday	

Tuesday, November 27 -- student presentations

Thursday, November 29 -- student presentations

Week 14

Tuesday	
Thursday	

Tuesday December 4: student presentations

Thursday December 6: student presentations

****final portfolio due**

Week 15

Tuesday	
Thursday	

Tuesday December 11: last day of class/party