

**COURSE TITLE: ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS**

**COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 2100**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr./Fr. Lan Ngo, S.J.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

This is an interdisciplinary study of Asian civilizations to major developments in the histories and cultures of the monsoon region. Topics for discussions in this class will emphasize the intellectual, cultural, social and political factors, which shaped the civilizations of Asia and the Pacific. The course seeks to understand the civilizations of the monsoon region from the Prehistoric era until the period of Europe's expansion. The Asian countries covered in this course will be mainly of India, China, and Japan. However, research topics and presentations toward the end of the semester will help us to delve deeply into various subject areas chosen by the members of the class.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Identify and describe major historical events and essential cultural traits of the monsoon countries.
2. Interpret regional characteristics of the monsoon region within the larger global context.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of history through oral presentations and writing.
4. Examine patterns of thought and belief, values and worldviews, institutions and personalities, event and experiences, and forms of creative expression that contributed to the distinctive civilizations of Asia.
5. Produce an informed and articulated evaluation on a scholarly researched monograph of a chosen topic.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:** None

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*
- Colin Mason, *A Short History of Asia* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).
- Paul A. Cohen, *Discovering History in China: American Historical Writing on the Recent Chinese Past*

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

- Attendance and active participation in the discussion (10%)
- Ten (10) of twelve (12) quizzes (30%)
- A "review of literature" paper (30%)
- Oral presentation (15%)
- Book review (15%)

**COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Asian Societies and Cultures**

**COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 2300**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 1:45 – 3:25 PM**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Heangjin Park**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

The course explores sociocultural dynamics in modern and contemporary Asia. We will question: How did Asian societies adapt to modernization, Cold War, and globalization? How have modernization and globalization transformed traditional social, cultural, gender, and religious dynamics in Asia? How do peculiar social structures, cultural patterns, and affective dynamics condition individual, social, and institutional behaviors in Asian societies? By discussing these questions using academic literature in Anthropology and Sociology, students will develop critical insights into contemporary social and cultural phenomena across Asia.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Examine peculiar social structures, cultural practices, and affective dynamics that condition cultural and social phenomena in contemporary Asia.
2. Analyze social and cultural changes in Asia within the contexts of modernization, (post)colonization, Cold War, and globalization
3. Develop foundational knowledge of Asian societies and cultures, preparing them for advanced-level social studies ASPA courses.
4. Understand basic social scientific concepts, methods, and analyses used in the anthropological and sociological literature on Asian societies and cultures.
5. Cultivate critical insights into Asian societies and cultures and apply them to analyze current social and cultural phenomena.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

No / Basic interests in Social Sciences (Anthropology & Sociology) literature and Asian societies and cultures

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Digital copies of the class readings will be provided.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

For each class, 20-30 page reading will be required for class learning and discussion. The class will run as an open seminar, so active participation—listening, asking questions, and sharing thoughts with classmates—will be expected. Students will rotate to participate in in-class presentations of class readings, topic reviews, and research projects.

**COURSE TITLE:** Economic and Political Issues in Contemporary Asia

**COURSE NUMBER:** ASPA 3500

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBA

**INSTRUCTOR:** Heangjin Park

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

What is happening in Asia today? How are these political and economic events related to the historical formation of Asian societies? How are Asian countries and people interconnected with one another to shape current events? More importantly, what is Asia, and why and how does Asia matter to our everyday lives here?

This three-part course introduces a few crucial moments, places, people, things, and ideas that have shaped Asian societies in the 20th and 21st centuries. The first part focuses on the colonial and imperial orders in the early 20th century and how they affect the current political debates in Asia. The second part examines the series of wars and violence in mid-20th century Asia and lingering trauma. The third part explores the economic development in late 20th and early 21st century Asia and its implication on gender, class, and culture. Reading and discussing the literature on Asian societies in Anthropology, Sociology, History, Cultural Studies, and Political Science, students will build up interdisciplinary insight into the current events in Asia and reflect on their relationship with Asian societies, people, and cultures.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Understand the historical, social, and cultural contexts behind current issues in contemporary Asia
2. Understand the conditions and dynamics of colonialism, Cold War, and neoliberalism across Asian countries
3. Develop critical insights into “Asia” based on qualitative social scientific literature (Anthropology, Sociology, History, Cultural Studies)
4. Conduct independent research on current issues in contemporary Asia using interdisciplinary methods and perspectives

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:** No required background

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Digital copies of the course reading materials will be made available for students through the William H. Hannon Library.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

The credit standard for this 4-unit standard 15-week course is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit), including:

- Scheduled course meetings
- Regular academic reading and writing
- In-class presentations
- Independent ethnographic research that may require off-campus activities

**COURSE TITLE: Masterpieces of East Asian Literature**

**COURSE NUMBER: 3200.01**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBD**

**INSTRUCTOR: Gladys Mac**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

This course will introduce students to important works in modern Chinese, Japanese, and Korean literature. We will be specifically focusing on representations of gender and sexuality across time and space. The arrival of Western philosophies, literature, and technology in late imperial East Asia brought about large scale national and small-scale personal changes. Many of the writers we will encounter provide their unique perspectives on what they witnessed during their tumultuous lives, and how modernity altered the comprehension and interpretation of gender and sexuality over the last century.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Be acquainted with some of the most influential East Asian writers and their works from the late 19th century into the 1940s.
2. Learn about different forms of modernity in East Asia that are different from Western modernity.
3. Develop analytical skills through analyzing primary and secondary sources.
4. Conduct a research project.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/A**

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

All course materials are available on Brightspace unless otherwise noted.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

Attendance & Participation (25%)  
Quizzes (10% each, 40% total)  
Activity Lead (5%)  
Modernity Story & Annotated Bib (30%)

**COURSE TITLE: Food in Asia, Asia in Food**

**COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 3700**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 3:40 – 5:25**

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Heangjin Park**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

Food is an essential part of human (and non-human)'s biological survival, but its production, circulation, and consumption are complicatedly intertwined with political, economic, social, ethical, and cultural problems. In this course, students will deepen their understanding of Asian societies and communities through careful observation, analysis, and reflection on Asian food. The course combines academic discussion of anthropological texts with experimental fieldwork in Asian communities in Los Angeles. In this way, students will apply what they learn from the classroom to their everyday lives and milieu.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Develop critical insights into food and foodways based on academic literature in Anthropology, Sociology, Cultural Studies, History, and Asian and Asian American Studies
- Understand social issues and dynamics in contemporary Asia
- Understand racism, inequalities, and discrimination against Asian diaspora communities
- Reflect on their sociocultural, economic, and political milieu through food and foodways
- Develop ethnographic research skills to understand social issues in local communities
- Engage with local communities to promote cultural diversity and social justice

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

No / Upper-division level comprehension and interest in Social Science Literature (Anthropology, Sociology, Cultural Studies, History, and Asian/Asian American Studies); Basic interest in Asian societies and cultures

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Digital copies for the class readings will be provided.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

For each class, 30-40 page reading will be required for class learning and discussion. The class will run as an open seminar, so active participation—listening, asking questions, and sharing thoughts with classmates—will be expected. Students will rotate to participate in in-class presentations of class readings, topic reviews, and research projects. As a part of Engaged Learning, students are expected to participate in off-campus research or activities throughout the semester.

**COURSE TITLE: Popular Culture in East Asia**

**COURSE NUMBER: 3970**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA**

**INSTRUCTOR: Gladys Mac**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

This course examines and explores East Asian pop culture as sites of cultural interaction. Instead of taking the traditional approach in examining cultural products based on their countries of origin, this course will focus on products, concepts, and ideas that influence, travel between, or blend together cultures through cinema, television dramas, animation, music, social media, etc. The materials of focus were produced in various East Asian locations (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea). This course aims to direct students into considering East Asia as a region with constant cultural, political, and business interactions in the past and present. While we examine some landmark works from the areas listed above, we will also be following the trends and themes that are shaping East Asian pop culture today via academic journal articles, contemporary news coverage, YouTube, and other social media.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Introduce students to landmark works from East Asia that have shaped the development of pop culture.
2. Learn how to analyze primary and secondary literature on different types of texts and media. The readings will expose students to different perspectives on how scholars analyze popular culture, ranging from cultural, historical, anthropological, and gender studies perspectives.
3. Successfully write an argumentative essay that includes a thesis, proper citations and quotes.
4. Effectively present group projects.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: N/a**

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

All course materials are available on Brightspace unless otherwise noted.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

Attendance & Participation (25%)  
Midterm Project (15%)  
Paper (25%)  
Activity Lead (5%)  
Trending on YouTube (5%)  
Final Creative Project (20%)

**COURSE TITLE:** Transpacific Korea

**COURSE NUMBER:** APAM 3710

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBA

**INSTRUCTOR:** FACULTY

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

How can we understand Korean society, not within a narrow scope of South Korea but through transpacific mobility and connections of Korean people, commodities, and cultures? Drawing upon the literature in Anthropology, Sociology, History, and Media Studies, the course aims to develop students' perspectives on mobilities, connections, and dynamics that have shaped North/South Korea and overseas Korean communities. Through class reading and discussions, students will contextualize the implication of (post)colonialism, cold war, and neoliberalism and build up the knowledge of "Korea" in global contexts. Through film presentation and independent ethnographic research, students will analyze and reflect on transnational connections, inequalities, and discrimination beyond Euro-American contexts.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Understand epistemological orientation, research methods, and analytic frames in Anthropology, Sociology, History, and Media Studies
2. Applying interdisciplinary approaches and knowledge to independent research
3. Developing critical perspectives into "Korea" beyond South Korea
4. Understand the historical, social, and cultural contexts behind current issues in Korean societies
5. Understand the conditions and dynamics of globalization in Korean societies and other countries

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:** No required background

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Digital copies of the course reading materials will be made available for students through the William H. Hannon Library.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

The credit standard for this 4-unit standard 15-week course is met by an expectation of a total of 180 hours of student engagement with the course learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit), including:

- Scheduled course meetings
- Regular academic reading and writing
- In-class presentations
- Independent ethnographic research that may require off-campus activities

**COURSE TITLE:** Environmental Justice in Asia

**COURSE NUMBER:** ASPA 3998

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** MW 9:55AM-11:35AM

**INSTRUCTOR:** Katia Chaterji

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

*Environmental Justice in Asia* introduces students to the multilayered histories of environmental crises in diverse locations and communities across Asia, ranging from the impacts of the oil and gas industry, the rise in plantation monocrops and associated health risks, flooding that disproportionately affects Asia's urban poor, nationalized water control projects, access to clean air, and climate migration and displacement. These crises grant urgency behind the ethical framework of environmental justice in an interconnected, global Asia. An important element of our examination of environmental justice in Asia is the creative imagination of just futures. Towards this aim, we will engage with and study the creative works of Asian artists, performers, writers, and activists who reflect upon right and wrong, amplify underrepresented voices, and interrogate just action when faced with environmental crisis.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Understand the relationships between human society, the environment, and justice
- Engage different frameworks of justice to explain environmental issues in Asia
- Apply ethical theories of justice to construct arguments for just action in Asia
- Value alternate modes of expression when envisioning just action and future possibility

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

None

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Selections from the following (among others):

Biersack, Aletta, and James B. Greenberg. *Reimagining Political Ecology*. Duke University Press, 2006.

Chao, Sophie. *In the Shadow of the Palms: More-than-Human Becomings in West Papua*. Duke University Press, 2022.

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*. The University of Chicago Press, 2021.

Peet, Richard, and Michael Watts. *Liberation Ecologies: Environment, Development, Social Movements*. 2nd ed., Routledge, 2004.

## **COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

Subject to change:

- **Professionalism (15%):** Class attendance and meaningful participation in our class discussion. Student self-evaluation forms will be maintained throughout the semester to encourage accountability.
- **Discussion Board (15%):** Weekly engagement with the discussion board will be assessed on timely completion, thoughtful responses to the reading, and respectful/generative replies to their peers.
- **Reading Responses (20%):** Biweekly reading responses grant space for students to explore topics covered across the two-week period with reduced stress on “judgement” of their ideas. Students must show adept engagement with the readings in relation to each other, not in isolation. What is important is not “correct” or “incorrect” readings of the materials, but rather a demonstration of critical thinking and engagement with materials altogether as students work through the concepts covered.
- **Midterm and Final Essays (30%):** Exam essays will be assessed based on conceptual comprehension and integration of course readings in answering the provided prompts. Students must demonstrate critical thinking and argument, rather than description and summary.
- **Case Study Research Presentation (20%):** Groups of 3-4 students will identify and research an example of an environmental injustice in Asia. This assignment will be assessed based on the organization of each group’s oral presentation, the distribution of speaking amongst group members, and the coverage of information critical to understanding the case study and its implications for the environmental justice ethical

frame. Presentations must encompass historical context, moral implications for past and potential decisions, and innovative arguments based on ethical frameworks of justice.

**COURSE TITLE:** Women and Gender in East Asia

**COURSE NUMBER:** ASPA 4600

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBD

**CORE ATTRIBUTE:** Interdisciplinary Connections

**FLAG:** Writing

**INSTRUCTOR:** Yanjie Wang

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS**

This course focuses on the experiences and representations of East Asian women from the ancient to contemporary periods. It engages broader theoretical approaches to women and gender and their relationships to family, class, sexuality, revolution, modernity and nation in a variety of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean contexts. Students will be introduced to scholarly discussion and cultural production such as literature and films through reading, discussion and writing. The course aims to explore the underlying mechanisms that tend to perpetuate East Asian women's marginality and subordination and, at the same time, draw attention to women's negotiation with their gender roles and their struggles for justice, agency and empowerment.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Describe major transformations of the notion of womanhood in different East Asian contexts.

Identify major issues and situations facing women in a variety of cultural discourses in East Asia.

Apply critical tools and insights to interpret and analyze literature, film, and other forms of culture on East Asian women.

Integrate different disciplinary approaches—literary studies, film studies, history, gender and ethnic studies— in research projects to demonstrate a holistic understanding East Asian women and societies.

Value perspectives learned from this course to approach to gender issues and social justice in today's world.

### **PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND**

There is no prerequisite for this course.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Readings are available on Brightspace

### **COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS**

Attendance; active participation; weekly posts; in-class oral presentations; short essays; midterm; final paper

**COURSE TITLE: Jesuits in Asia**

**COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 3998 02, CRN 70050**

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS: 9:55-11:35/Mondays, Wednesdays**

**INSTRUCTOR: Lan Ngo**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

This course is a journey into the significant role Jesuits played in the history of Asia. It explores their spirituality stemming from the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, their missionary activities, intellectual contributions, and cultural exchanges, especially in the arts. The course will allow participants to make the Spiritual Exercises for two weeks. From this concrete personal experience as a point of reference, students will study and analyze how the Jesuit missionaries translated their religious experiences into actions as they arrived in India, the Philippines, Japan, China, and Vietnam.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Value the existential importance of ultimate questions.
- Understand the search for God as a culturally and historically embedded process.
- Be able to analyze the meaning of theological ideas and religious institutions in light of one or more
- Be able to compare different perspectives on religious, ecclesial, and spiritual traditions.

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:**

Strongly Recommended: Christianity in Asia, theology, Asian history, and world history

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Mungello, D. E. *The Great Encounter of China and the West, 1500-1800*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2009
- O'Malley, John. *The First Jesuits*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Shusaku, Endo. *Silence*. New York: Picador, 2016.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

- \*Weekly posting on the discussion board on Brightspace.
- \*Two weeks of journaling and a reflection paper on the experience of making the Spiritual Exercises.
- \*A book review
- \*Two short primary sources analysis
- \*A comprehensive exam at the end of the semester.

**COURSE TITLE:** Asian Mythology

**COURSE NUMBER:** ASPA 4870

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBA

**INSTRUCTOR:** Mya Chau

**CORE AREA:** Interdisciplinary Connect

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:**

This course is intended to familiarize students with the myths and folklore of Asia. Selected mythical narratives from India, Southeast Asia, China, and Japan will be examined. The goal of this course is to provide you with a solid introduction of Asian myths, spiritual traditions, and belief systems in Asia with a comparative overview of key myths in Asia for further study and comparison. The lecture and reading materials will be examined through psychological, philosophical, and cultural approaches. The course utilizes a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of Asian mythology, including religion, visual culture, and architecture.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Identify reoccurring themes in the myths and legends of Asia
- Appreciate and recognize the ways that stories and myths have been orally transmitted and performed across the regions of Asia
- Utilize a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of Asian mythology
- Analyze features, symbols, and belief systems of the chosen story in class, on exams, and through oral communication
- Understand the historical tension and interplay between society and myth

**PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:** None.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** Selected PDF articles on Brightspace.

**COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:**

**PAPER:** 25%

**MYTH PRESENTATION:** (8-10 minutes): 10%

**SHORT REFLECTIONS (x4):** (double-spaced, 1-2 pages): 15%

**MIDTERM/FINAL:** 50%

**COURSE TITLE:** Senior Integrating Seminar

**COURSE NUMBER:** ASPA 5000

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBA

**INSTRUCTOR:** Yanjie Wang

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS**

This course is the capstone requirement for students in Asian and Pacific Studies. It offers a unique opportunity for students to draw together the various strands in the different academic courses they have taken and to focus much more closely on a specific Asian topic in a thesis project. To fulfill the purpose of the course and the Asian and Pacific Studies program's commitment to interdisciplinarity, the thesis must have *integrated* and *interdisciplinary* elements. That is, students are required to integrate the knowledge and skills gained in the Asian and Pacific studies courses (and beyond) and to employ at least two disciplinary approaches to examine texts and issues under research.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the thesis project, students should be able to:

Identify and describe a particular topic/issue in the field of Asian and Pacific Studies;

Recognize and interpret the theoretical, practical, historical and cultural significance of the particular topic/issue in the Asian and Pacific region;

Apply and integrate at least two disciplinary approaches to examine the topic/issue under research

Produce in-depth, critical analysis of the topic/issue under research in written and oral forms.

Develop cultural understanding, international perspective, and self-awareness.

### **PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND**

Students must be of senior standing

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

All readings available on Brightspace

### **COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS**

Attend and active participation, in-class presentation, proposal, thesis, academic profile.