

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: CHRISTIANITY IN ASIA

COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 3100

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

The history of Christianity in Asia is as old as the history of Christianity itself. But while much has been told about Christianity as it grew from an obscure Jewish sect to mighty Western Christendom, not enough attention has been given to the Christianity which spread eastwards to Asia in the first millennium of the Christian era. This course seeks to correct the imbalance by introducing students to the history of Christianity in Asia. It traces the development of Christianity in different parts of Asia, both in the ancient times and since the Age of Discovery. By the end of the semester, students should have a good grasp of the encounter of Christianity with the political, social, cultural, and religious realities of Asia, its dialogue, and confrontations with these realities and the forces which led to its growth and decline.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Identify and describe major historical events and essential cultural straits of Christianity in Asia.
2. Interpret regional characteristics of a local faith community within the larger universal Church.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of history through oral presentations and writing.
4. Produce an informed and articulated evaluation on a scholarly researched monograph of a chosen topic built on the “review of literature.”

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: None

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Klaus Koschorke, ed., *A History of Christianity in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, 1450-1990: A Documentary Sourcebook* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: W. B. Eerdmans, 2007).

Stephen Neill, *A History of Christian Missions* (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1991).

John W. O'Malley, *Four Cultures of the West* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2006).

Peter von Sivers, *Patterns of World History: Brief Third Edition, Volume Two from 1400* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017).

Various other articles and films will be assigned during the semester. To the extent possible, articles and films will be streamlined or linked on Brightspace through your MYLMU.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

- Attendance and active participation in the discussion (10%)
- Quizzes (20%)
- A “review of literature” paper (15%)
- Oral presentation on primary source (15%)
- A research paper built on the “review of literature” (40%)

COURSE TITLE: Contemporary Chinese Cinema

COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 3890

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

CORE ATTRIBUTE: Interdisciplinary Connections

INSTRUCTOR: Yanjie Wang

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course examines the formation and transformation of contemporary Chinese cinema through the production, circulation, and consumption of Chinese-language films in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States. These locations feature distinct historical experience, linguistic traditions, political concerns, social issues, and cultural practices that contribute to a diverse spectrum of what “Chineseness” means and entails. Situating Chinese filmmaking practices in their local, national, and global contexts, this course studies issues relating to cultural memories, political reforms, gender and sexuality, migration, urbanization, environmentalism, (post)colonialism, and globalization. Through readings and discussion, students will understand Chinese cinema not only as a unique genre of arts but also as a powerful social and political artifact. All films are subtitled in English.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

Describe the stylistic characteristics, sociopolitical and cultural concerns of major filmmakers in contemporary Chinese cinema

Interpret the cinematic languages by which Chinese filmmakers articulate their ideas and engage with sociopolitical issues

Produce in-depth written analysis, oral presentations, and creative projects about contemporary Chinese cinema

Demonstrate deeper insights into Chinese history, culture and society.

Value the perspectives gained from the class to become better informed and critically engaged global citizens.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

No Prerequisite

REQUIRED TEXTS

Michael Berry, *Speaking in Images*. Columbia University Press, 2004. Additional readings available on Brightspace

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Active participation, quizzes, response papers, in-class presentations, and final paper.

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: 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: East Asian Science Fiction

COURSE NUMBER: ASPA 3998

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TBA

INSTRUCTOR: Gladys Mac

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE TOPICS:

East Asian Sci-Fi multimedia has enjoyed great popularity in recent years. This class will examine the interconnectedness of Sci-Fi's Western origins and East Asian localization through fiction, cinema, and drama series.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS:TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

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.