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Interdisciplinary Topics in East Asia:
Understanding Asian Community

Rutgers University
Fall 2020

Instructor:

Professor Weijie Song (宋伟杰)

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Virtual Office Hours: By appointment (interaction via Sakai's videoconferencing tool "Meetings"). I will hold my virtual office hours on appointment basis to accommodate students in various time zones and real-life situations.

Class Hours and Classroom:

Monday/Wednesday 4:30-5:50pm, CI-203

Detailed Information of Synchronous Remote (SR) Instruction:

- The lectures will be delivered by me and guest speakers with Sakai's "Meetings" and "Recording" tools. Students who can meet at 4:30-5:50pm will join the discussion by "Meetings"; students who cannot meet at the class hours will watch the "Recording" and submit their written comments and recorded presentations to Sakai's "Forums."
- Plans on how students can interact with the instructor and fellow students online in a meaningful way: With the help of Sakai tools (Meetings, Recording, and Forums), students can interact with the instructor and fellow students and share their comments on assigned course materials in synchronous or asynchronous methods.
- Assessments: I have adapted and designed the assessments (including short journal writings, audio/video recordings, virtual presentations, and final papers) for online administration with SAS best practice guidelines, so that I will accurately and fairly evaluate student performance and progress online.
- Technology: I will use Sakai to teach this split-level course, and invite students to use the tools of "Meetings" (Recording), "Resources," "Forums," and "Drop Box," among others, to participate in the seminar. If students cannot attend the class synchronously, or have problems accessing certain technology tools, then they can arrange their time to listen to the course recordings (Meetings) and submit their works to "Forums" by writing short journals, recording presentations, and submitting other works.

Syllabus

Course Description:

This course will explore how to understand Asian community with specific approaches to modern literature, film, history, culture and society in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and other areas. A few leading scholars and rising stars from America, Asia, and other regions of the world will deliver a wide range of lectures about Asian Community in terms of literary narrative, cinematic imagination, interdisciplinary and multimedia representation. The course instructor will lead related discussions and provide further introduction to the major topics with regard to the understanding of East Asia and Asian community at large.

The major intermingling and interdisciplinary topics include: Asian literary modernity; Japanese cinema and Asian stardom; colonial Korea and Cold War Asian frenemy; trauma and nostalgia in Asian community; words, sounds, and images in intra-Asian and transnational trajectories; gender, body, and visibility in Asia and Asian-Pacific; Korean pop culture and multimedia performance; comparatizing Asia with trans-regional reflection; Taiwan, Hong Kong and Asian community; after the post-Cold War; global Asias; Asia as method; and the politics of imagining Asia; among others.

This course will equip students with the necessary knowledge and critical skills to understand main themes in the large context of Asian community. Short journals (weekly for graduate students, and bi-weekly for undergraduate students), dynamic dialogue with outside speakers, regular oral presentations, and the product of a final paper (10-15 pages for graduate students, and 7-8 pages for undergraduate students) on a particular aspect of modern Asia and the transregional connections, will allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question, gather and evaluate relevant information, develop and sustain an argument, and communicate their findings orally and in written form in a mode appropriate to their chosen area of inquiry into the vision and concept of Asian community.

Course Requirements & Grading:

- * regular class attendance and virtual participation: 20%;
- * one-page single-spaced email comments/feedbacks and related oral/virtual presentations of the findings you have made about guest lectures and required readings (weekly for graduate students, and bi-weekly for undergraduate students): 30%;
- * one eight-minute formal presentation of your final paper: 20%;
- * one final paper –10-15 pages for graduate students, and 7-8 pages for undergraduate students: 30%.

Note:

- 1. It is essential that students have read all of the assigned materials carefully and prepared to engage actively in the virtual discussion.
- For selected week's readings, students will be designated to post a reading response by 9:00pm, one day before the class, with a summary of the key points and your reflections on the assigned texts and major topics.

- Those assigned to oral presentations should elaborate on the points made in the Sakai posting; the final presentation should address the outline of your final paper project. To post a response, log into the Sakai site (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>), choose the page for this class, click on “Forum” and then click on “Topic” for the relevant week.
- In the final paper, students have the opportunity to respond to the lectures and assigned readings of a particular week or more in depth. It should demonstrate a good understanding of East Asia and Asian community in the theoretical and critical texts and show original and careful reflection of these themes. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about their topic in advance.

Required Readings:

- E-files, individual articles and book chapters, are available for download at the course website (Sakai, under “Resources”).
- No separate session of film screening will be scheduled. All films are available as online resources. Students are required to finish watching the films before each session of the class. Great importance is placed on class discussion and on creating a dialogue of interpretations of the texts being studied.
- Research resources from Rutgers Library: For scholarships in English, try this webpage: <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>, search "articles" (with keywords and/or others) and log in with your NetID and password. Most articles are free to download, or you can request to get it @R.

Assessment Plan:

The assessment methods for this course are designed to evaluate student mastery of the course goals. The assignments require students to read, interpret and discuss texts related to topics and issues in Asian literature, film, and cultural studies. Upon completion of the course, students will have learned analytical and rhetoric skills through weekly discussions of the texts and issues, as well as through individual oral presentation to the class. Students will also be able to construct a thesis argument and build support with examples through the final papers about the vision and concept of Asian community.

Academic Integrity:

Under no circumstance will behaviors that violate academic integrity be tolerated. These behaviors include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying fellow students access to information or material, helping others to violate academic integrity, or purchasing essays online or otherwise. All violations will automatically receive no grade and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Please note that, in the case of plagiarism, ignorance of conventions of attribution and citation is not considered a mitigating circumstance.

Students with disabilities:

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request

accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.

Tentative Semester Schedule (subjective to change)

Week 1. Course organization

9/2

- Course introduction and organization
- A Short Timeline of East Asian literature, film, and history
- Self-Introduction: (a) East Asian courses taken before; (b) your backgrounds of East Asian languages and cultures; (c) your fields of majors and minors; (4) your interests and passions

Week 2. Course Introduction: Major Topics in East Asia and Asian Community

9/8 (Tuesday: Monday class)

- Weijie Song, Major Topics in East Asia and Asian Community
- Online lectures by outside speakers regarding Asian culture and Community;
- email postings and short presentations about the major topics on (East) Asian community;
- further critical readings

9/9

- David Der-wei Wang, "Post Loyalism," in Shu-mei Shih, Chien-hsin Tsai, and Brian Bernards, eds., *Sinophone Studies: A Critical Reader* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013), 93-116.
- Ping-hui Liao, "Sinophone Literature," in Yingjin Zhang, ed. *A Companion to Modern Chinese Literature* (Wiley Blackwell, 2016), 134-47.
- Carlos Rojas, "Language, Ethnicity, and the Politics of Literary Taxonomy: Ng Kim Chew and *Mahua* (Malaysian Chinese) Literature." *PMLA* 131.5 (2016): 1316-1327.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 3. After the Post-Cold War

9/14

- Guest lecture: After the Post-Cold War
- Short email postings due at 9:00pm ("Forum" of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

09/16

- DAI Jinhua, "History, Memory, and the Politics of Representation," *After the Post-Cold War* (Duke University Press, 2018), 141-159.
- John Treat, "Japan Is Interesting: Modern Japanese Literary Studies Today," *Japan Forum* (Routledge, 2018), 421-440.
- Theodore Hughes, "Introduction" to *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea: Freedom's Frontier* (Columbia University Press, 2012), 1-18.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 4. The Eurasian Connection

9/21

- Guest lecture: Europe, Asia, and Cross-Cultural Dialogue
- Short email postings due at 9:00pm ("Forum" of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

9/23

- Xiana Sotelo, "Differences and Similarities in the Discourse of Equality in Cross Cultural Academic Dialogues Europe-China" (*CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture*, 2018) 1-13.
- I-Chun Wang and Asun López-Varela, "Allegories of Imperialism: Barbarians and World Cultures." *Cultura: International Journal of Philosophy of Culture and Axiology* 12.1 (2015): 7-16.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 5. War Memory in Asian Community

9/28

- Guest lecture: Trauma and Nostalgia in Asian Community
- Short email postings due at 9:00pm ("Forum" of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

9/30

- Michael Berry, "Introduction," *A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film* (Columbia University Press, 2008), 1-20.
- Bruce Cumings, "Why Memory Lingers in East Asia," *Current History* 106.701 (2007): 257-262.
- Margaret Hillenbrand, "Nostalgia, Place, and Making Peace with Modernity in East Asia," *Postcolonial Studies* 13.4 (2010): 383-401.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 6. Gender, Body, and Visuality in Asia

10/5

- Vivian P. Y. Lee, "Introduction: Mapping East Asia's Cinemascape," in *East Asian Cinemas: Regional Flows and Global Transformations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 1-12.
- Song Hwee Lim, "Transnational trajectories in contemporary East Asian cinemas," in *East Asian Cinemas: Regional Flows and Global Transformations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 15-32.
- Kwai-Cheung Lo, "There Is No Such Thing as Asia: Racial Particularities in the 'Asian' Films of Hong Kong and Japan," *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 17.1 (2005): 133-158.

10/7

- Pyun, Kyunghee, and Aida Yuen Wong, eds. *Fashion, Identity, and Power in Modern Asia* (Springer, 2018), "Introduction," 1-19.
- Kam Louie, "Chinese, Japanese and Global Masculine Identities," in Louie and Morris Low, eds. *Asian Masculinities: The Meaning and Practice of Manhood in China and Japan* (Routledge, 2003), 1-15.
- Film clips: Jon M. Chu, *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/08/movies/crazy-rich-asians-cast.html>)
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 7. Hong Kong and Beyond

10/12

- Guest lecture: Hong Kong and Beyond
- Short email postings due at 9:00pm ("Forum" of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

10/14

- Kwok Kou Leonard Chan, "Sense of Place and Urban Images: Reading Hong Kong in Hong Kong Poetry," in Carlos Rojas and Andrea Bachner, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Chinese Literatures* (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- David Desser, "Diaspora and National Identity: Exporting 'China' through the Hong Kong Cinema." *Post Script* 20, 2/3 (Winter/Spring 2001): 124-36.
- Kinnia Yau Shuk-ting, "Hong Kong and Japanese Cinemas Before and During Wartime," in Yau, *Japanese and Hong Kong film industries: Understanding the origins of East Asian film networks* (Routledge, 2009), 1-18.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 8. Sounds, Words, and Images from Modern Japan and Asia

10/19

- Guest lecture: "Contrary Motions: The Problem of Language in Early Japanese Sound Film"

- Short email postings on the assigned readings due at 9:00pm (“Forum” of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

10/21

- Kerim Yasar, “Introduction: All That Is Solid Melts into Sound,” in his *Electrified Voices: How the Telephone, Phonograph, and Radio Shaped Modern Japan, 1868–1945* (Columbia University Press, 2018), 1-21.
- Karen Laura Thornber, *Empire of Texts in Motion: Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese Transculturations of Japanese Literature* (Harvard University Press, 2009), 1-27.
- Doobo Shim, “Hybridity and the Rise of Korean Popular Culture in Asia,” *Media, Culture & Society* 28.1 (2006): 25-44.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 9. Literary Taiwan and Asia

10/26

- Guest lecture: Literary Taiwan and Asia
- Short email postings on the assigned readings due at 9:00pm (“Forum” of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

10/28

- Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang, “Building a Modern Institution of Literature: The Case of Taiwan,” in Yingjin Zhang, ed. *A Companion to Modern Chinese Literature*, Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2016, 116-33.
- Shu-mei Shih and Ping-hui Liao, “Introduction: Why Taiwan? Why Comparitize?,” in Shih and Liao, eds., *Comparatizing Taiwan* (Routledge, 2014), 1-10.
- Yomi Braester, “Retelling Taiwan: Identity and Dislocation in Post-Chiang Mystery,” in Braester, *Witness Against History: Literature, Film, and Public Discourse in Twentieth-Century China* (Stanford University Press, 2003), 158-76.
- Class discussions and short presentations based on your email postings

Week 10. Cold War Asian Frenemy

11/2

- Guest lecture: Cold War Asian Frenemy
- Short email postings on the assigned readings due at 9:00pm (“Forum” of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

11/4

- Josephine Park, “Introduction: Making Friendlies,” *Cold War Friendships: Korea, Vietnam, and Asian American Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2016), 1-24.
- Xiaojue Wang, “Borders and Borderlands Narratives in Cold War China,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Chinese Literatures*, eds. Carlos Rojas and Andrea Bachner (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), 334-355.

- Christopher Lupke, "Cold War Fiction from Taiwan and the Modernists," and "Nativism and Localism in Taiwanese Literature," in Kirk Denton, ed. *The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature* (Columbia University Press, 2016), 250-257, 258-266.

Week 11. Korean Pop Culture and Multimedia Performance

11/9

- Guest lecture: "Korean Pop Culture and Multimedia"
- Short email postings due at 9:00pm ("Forum" of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

11/11

- Suk-young Kim, "Historicizing K-pop," in Kim, *K-pop Live: Fans, Idols, and Multimedia Performance* (Stanford University Press, 2018).
- Kyung Hyun Kim, "Indexing Korean Popular Culture," in Kim and Youngmin Choe, eds., *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* (Duke University Press, 2014), 1-14.
- Youna Kim, "Introduction: Korean Media in a Digital Cosmopolitan World," *The Korean Wave* (Routledge, 2013), 17-44.
- Doobo Shim, "Hybridity and the Rise of Korean Popular Culture in Asia," *Media, Culture & Society* 28.1 (2006): 25-44.
- Class discussions and short presentations about "Korean Pop Culture and Multimedia Performance" based on your email postings

Week 12. Japanese Cinema and World Culture

11/16

- Guest lecture: The Lion King vs. Jungle Emperor Leo: Anime, 3D, and Japan
- Short email postings due at 9:00pm ("Forum" of course Sakai), Tuesday (one day after the guest lecture)

11/18

- Daisuke Miyao, "What is the Aesthetics of Shadow," in Miyao, *The Aesthetics of Shadow: Lighting and Japanese Cinema* (Duke University Press, 2013), 1-14.
- Darrell William Davis, "Moving Picture of Japaneseness," in Davis, *Picturing Japaneseness: Monumental Style, National Identity, Japanese Film*, Columbia University Press, 1996, 1-11.
- John Treat, "Introduction: Modern, Japanese, Literary, History," in Treat, *The Rise and Fall of Modern Japanese Literature* (University of Chicago Press, 2018), 1-26.
- Class discussions and short presentations

Week 13. Global Asian Imagination

11/23

- Tina Chen, “Always Verging on the (Im)possible: the Structural Incoherence of Global Asias”, *Social Text Online*
https://socialtextjournal.org/periscope_article/always-verging-on-the-impossible-the-structural-incoherence-of-global-asias/
- WANG Hui, “The Politics of Imagining Asia: A Genealogical Analysis,” in Wang, *The Politics of Imagining Asia* (Harvard University Press, 2011), 10-62.

11/25 (Wednesday: Friday class schedule) Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 14. Guest Lecture from the Foundation

11/30

- Guest lecture from the Foundation

12/2

- Kuan-Hsing Chen, “Asia as Method: Overcoming the Present Conditions of Knowledge Production,” in *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010, 211-256.
- Sun Ge, "How Does Asia Mean?," *The Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Reader* (Routledge, 2015): 9-65.

Week 15. Final Presentation

12/7

Final Presentations

- 8-minute oral presentation of the findings you have made in your research paper followed by Q & A.

12/9

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- 8-minute oral presentation of the findings you have made in your research paper followed by Q & A.

Final Paper Due, 5:00pm, December 18, Friday (e-file, word attachment, to “Drop Box” of Sakai)