

01:098:444 Seminar on East Asian Societies

Rutgers University

Fall 2020

Instructor:

Professor Weijie Song (宋伟杰)

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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Hours and Classroom:

Monday/Wednesday 1:10-2:30pm, Scott Hall 119

Detailed Information of Asynchronous Remote (AR) Instruction Regardless of Campus Operating Status:

- Deliver the lecture component of the course effectively online: I will deliver the lecture with Sakai's "Meetings" and "Recording" tools at 1:10-2:30pm.
- Conduct the discussion component of the course effectively online: Students who can meet at 1:10-2:30pm 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.
- Plans on giving students opportunities to meet with the instructor synchronously: For students who can meet at 1:10-2:30pm, we will exchange ideas synchronously at "Meetings" during the remote instruction.
- Assessments: I have adapted and designed the assessments (including short journal writings, audio/video recordings, virtual presentations, mid-term and final papers) for online administration with SAS best practice guidelines (see also detailed information about core curriculum goals and requirements), so that I will accurately and fairly evaluate student performance and progress online.
- Technology: I will use Sakai to teach this capstone 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.

Course Description

In this course we will examine the development of major social and cultural institutions in contemporary East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from the nineteenth century to the present. Topics to be discussed in class include East Asian nationalism, urban modernity, economic

miracle, and culinary culture. These topics will be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives such as literary approaches, visual studies, social history, women's and gender studies, and global studies. The course will provide a systematic introduction to the research process and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand major issues in the large context of East Asian culture and societies. The final product of the course, a 10-page research paper on a particular aspect of modern East Asia, 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.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- explain how major social and cultural institutions and related practices in East Asia have changed in modern times
- identify how arguments are constructed differently in different disciplines and assess the validity or limitations of such arguments
- formulate their own research question, devise a research plan, take advantage of current scholarships, and make critical approaches to major issues in East Asian societies
- communicate their research findings in writing and orally in a mode appropriate to their area of inquiry and their target audience

This course assumes that you have a basic familiarity with at least one of the three countries we will focus on in this course. However, no knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean is required.

Course Requirements

- * Class attendance and participation;
- * Homework assignments: regular email postings (starting from Week 2: four students each time, three 1-page single-space email comments total in the semester);
- * One 5-page double-spaced paper;
- * 3 short presentations and one 1 final presentation of the findings you have made in your paper (outline or proposal of your finale research paper);
- * One 8-page double-spaced final paper.

Grading

Class attendance and participation (asynchronously or synchronously)	15%
Homework assignments (five 1-page single-spaced postings: Forum)	15%
3 short class presentations	15%
5-page paper (Drop Box)	15%
10-minute final presentation of findings	15%
8-page final paper (Drop Box)	25%

The course meets the following Core Curriculum goals:

Goal y [ITR]

Employ current technologies to access and evaluate information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings

Use PowerPoint to make three short class presentations (5 minutes each) on three of the following topics: "Sickman, Superfluous Man, and East Asia," "Vision, Emotion, and Self Discovery in East Asia," "Fighting the Anxiety of Influence: Korea and China/Japan," "Articulating the Silence of the Majority," "Temporality, Personal History, and Urban Desire," and "Rethinking East Asia from Near and Afar"; as well as one final presentation (10 minutes) about your final paper project and general thoughts on the seminar followed by Q&A to communicate your findings and discoveries with peers and instructor.

Goal t [WCD]

Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry; evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly; and analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Use selected e-files of scholarships and research databases to collect useful information, to organize thoughts and ideas, and to formulate arguments by writing five short journals (300 words each) on five of the following topics: "Trauma and Memory of Early Modern East Asia," "World War II in Korea, Japan, and China," "The Post-War Condition in Japan," "The Korea War Viewed by the South and the North," "Alternative Education and Edification," "The Representation of Violence," "Loss, Crisis, and Epiphany in East Asia," "Roots and Routes of Love and Romance in Korea, Japan, and China and Beyond," and "Dislocation and Relocation in the East and the West."

Goal s [WCR]

Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience, and respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, &/or supervisors through successive drafts & revision.

5-page midterm paper and 8-page final paper on particular aspects of modern East Asian societies can allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question, gather and evaluate relevant information, communicate with peers and instructor, develop and sustain an argument, and articulate their findings in standard written English. Students are encouraged to use books, journal articles, book chapters, newspaper reports, films, visual arts, or reliable internet sources. The final paper should include a bibliography, and the citations should follow MLA Style, Chicago Style, or APA Style.

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.

Recommended Readings

Merle Goldman and Andrew Gordon, eds. *Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0674000988

Tentative Semester Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1.

9/2

Class activities:

- 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.

9/8 (Tuesday: Monday class) Fifty Years of Chinese Social-Cultural Change in One Warped Teahouse

Readings:

- Lao She, *Teahouse* (e-file)

9/9 Sickman, Superfluous Man, and East Asia

Readings:

- Bruce Lee, *Fist of Fury (The Chinese Connection)*
- David Bordwell, *Planet Hong Kong: Popular Cinema and the Art of Entertainment* (selected chapters, e-file)
- Yu Dafu, "Sinking" (e-file)
- Film clips: *The Legend of Yu Dafu*

Week 3.

9/14 Vision, Emotion, and Self Discovery in Japan

Readings:

- Chapter 3 "Visions of the Future in Meiji Japan" by DAVID L. HOWELL (pp. 85-118) (e-file)
- video clips: Natsume Soseki, *Kokoro* (The Heart); film adaptation

9/16 Beauty, Sadness, and the Image of Japan

Readings:

- Chapter 5 "State and Society in Interwar Japan" by SHELDON GARON (pp. 155-182) (e-file)

- video clips: Yasunari Kawabata, *The Dancing Girl of Izu*; film adaptations

Week 4.

9/21 Fighting the Anxiety of Influence: Korea and China/Japan

Readings:

- Chapter 4 “Korea’s Transition to Modernity: A Will to Greatness” by CARTER J. ECKERT (part 1: pp. 119-139) (e-file)
- Korean Film: Im Kwon-taek’s *Painted Fire*

9/23 Word War II in Korea, Japan, and China

Readings:

- Korean Film: Choi Dong-hoon’s *Assassination*
- Jinsoo An, “Through the Prism of Masquerade: The Colonial Past in *Assassination*” (e-file)

Week 5.

9/28 The Life and Death of New Woman

Reading:

- Film: *Centre Stage* (阮玲玉), Stanley Kwan, 1992, 118m.
- Bérénice Reynaud, “*Centre Stage: A Shadow in Reverse*,” in *Chinese Films in Focus II* (e-file)

9/30 Redefined and Besieged Masculinity and Femininity

Readings:

- Zhang Ailing (Eileen Chang), *Red Rose, White Rose* (e-file)
- Film adaptation, Stanley Kwan, *Red Rose, White Rose*
- Rey Chow, “Seminal Dispersal, Fecal Retention, and Related Narrative Matters: Eileen Chang’s Tale of Roses in the Problematic of Modern Writing,” *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 11, 2 (1999): 153-76(e-file)

Week 6.

10/5 Trauma and Alternative Memory of the Nanjing Massacre

Readings:

- Film: Lu Chuan, *City of Life and Death*
- Shelly Kraicer, “A Matter of Life and Death-Lu Chuan and Post-Zhuxuanlu Cinema” (e-file)

10/7 Chess Game, Individual Stories, and Transnational Friendship

Readings:

- Film: Ji-shun Duan & Jun'ya Satô, *Mikan no taikyoku/The Go Masters/The Unfinished Chess Game*

Week 7.

10/12 The Post-War Condition in Japan

Readings:

- Chapter 9 “Society and Politics from Transwar through Postwar Japan” by ANDREW GORDON (pp. 272-296) (e-file)
- Japanese Film: Yasujiro Ozu, *Tokyo Story*

10/14 Fiction, Reality, and Model Citizens in Socialist North Korea

Readings:

- Film: Ki Mo Jung and Eung Suk Kim, *Order No. 27*

Week 8.

10/19 The Korean War Viewed from China and Korea

Readings:

- Film: Wu Zhaodi, *Heroic Sons and Daughters*
- Film: Jang Hoon, *The Front Line/ Battle of Highlands*
- Ban Wang, “Art, Politics, and Internationalism: Korean War Films in Chinese Cinema” (e-file)

10/21 Alternative Education and Edification

Readings:

- A Cheng, *The King of Children* (e-file)
- Film: Chen Kaige, *King of Children*
- Rey Chow, “Male Narcissism and National Culture: Subjectivity in Chen Kaige's *King of the Children*” (*Primitive passions: Visuality, sexuality, ethnography, and contemporary Chinese cinema*. Columbia University Press, 1995, e-file)

Week 9.

10/26 The Representation of Violence

*** 5-Page Essay Assignment is due today**

Readings:

- Film: Zhang Yimou, *To Live*
- Rey Chow, “We Endure, Therefore We Are: Survival, Governance, and Zhang Yimou's *To Live*” (e-file)

10/28 Mapping Urban Desire

- Wang Xiaoshuai, *Beijing Bicycle*, 2001
- Jian Xu, “Representing Rural Migrants in the City: Experimentalism in Wang Xiaoshuai's *So Close to Paradise* and *Beijing Bicycle*” (e-file)

Week 10.

11/2 Roots, Routes, and Flexible Citizenship

Readings:

- Film: Peter Chan, *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*
- Sheldon Lu, "Hong Kong Diaspora Film and Transnational Television Drama: From Homecoming to Exile to Flexible Citizenship" (e-file)

11/4 Atlas of Love in Korea, Japan, and China

Readings:

- Film: Jae-young Kwak, *My Sassy Girl*
- Chapter 4 Korea's Transition to Modernity: A Will to Greatness CARTER J. ECKERT (part 2: pp. 139-154) (e-file)
- Film: Ten Shimoyama, Chih-yen Yee, and Yibai Zhang, *About Love*

Week 11.

11/9 Articulating the Silence of the Majority

- Film: Jia Zhangke, *Still Life*
- Shelly Kraicer, "Chinese Wasteland: Jia Zhangke's *Still Life*" (e-file)

11/11 Temporality, Personal History, and Displacements

Readings:

- Film: Wong Kar-wai, *Chungking*
- Janice Tong, "Chungking Express: Time and its Displacements" (e-file)

Week 12.

11/16 Dislocation and Relocation in the East and the West

Readings:

- Tsai Ming-liang, *What Time Is It Over There?*
- Shujen Wang and Chris Fujiwara, "'My Films Reflect My Living Situation': An Interview with Tsai Ming-liang on Film Spaces, Audiences, and Distribution" (e-file)

11/18 Loss, Crisis, and Epiphany in East Asia

Readings:

- Film: Edward Yang, *Yiyi: A One and a Two*
- David Leiwei Li, "Concentricity, Teleology, and Global Modernity in Edward Yang's *Yi Yi*." (e-file)

Week 13.

11/23 Rethinking East Asia and Beyond

Readings:

- James L. Watson, "Introduction: Transnationalism, Localization, and Fast Foods in East Asia," in *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia* (Stanford UP, 1997) (pp. 1-38) (e-file)

- Wang Hui, "A New Way to See World History: An Asia That Isn't the East," *Le Monde diplomatique*, February 2005 (e-file)

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

Week 14.

11/30

Final presentations:

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

12/2

Final presentations:

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

Week 15.

12/7

Final presentations:

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

12/9

- 10-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)