

PAAS 309 HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE ARTS IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

Term: Fall 2021

Instructor: Michael Bodden



Course Description: In this course students will read academic articles, novels, graphic novels, short stories, investigative reports. They will also look at critical cartoons, and watch movies and clips of performances in order to gain a sense of how the various arts can raise issues of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific region. The course will pay particular attention to ideas about how the rise of the novel form and the idea of human rights have been historically intertwined; current debates about the place of testimonial narratives in the current practice of human rights advocacy and resolution; the role of local/national cultures in shaping expressions and kinds of human rights; Women and Human Rights; Human Rights and the environment, and other issues. Our coverage will include works from Japan, China, Indonesia, Singapore, and Korea.

Proposed assignments (subject to change):

Attendance and Participation, 10%; Regular Comments (5);,25%; Panel Discussion Participation, 25%; Examiner Participation, 15%; Final Paper, 25%.

Proposed reading list:

Eka Kurniawan, *Beauty is A Wound*
Kenji Nakazawa, *Barefoot Gen, Vol. 1*
Keum Suk Gendry-Kim *Grass*
Sonny Liew, *The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye*