PAAS 100
Introduction to Pacific and Asian Studies

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Office hours: Monday, Thursday 1:00-2:00 PM; or by appointment

Objectives

An introduction to Asia, including the geography, history, religions, philosophies, languages, literatures, and cinemas of this vast area. We’ll explore social change, gender relations, popular culture, soft power, colonialism, war, and high technology, and examine how ideas that are thousands of years old still influence contemporary lives.

By the end of this course, you’ll be familiar with the contours of Asia and the incredible range of diversity in ways of thinking and living there—you’ll also have gained academic skills in research, reading, and rhetorical (argumentative, analytical) writing which will help you in every other course you’ll take. This course will give you the foundations for further studies of Asia, and prepare you for your academic career. Think this sounds scary, dull, and too much like work? Mwahahahaaa!!!

Regular attendance in class and completion of all required readings (which will be assigned in class) before they are discussed are politely but strongly recommended. Don’t like to read or to pay attention? Don’t take this class!

In accordance with the policies of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, students who miss more than 10% of classes (in this case, three classes) will not be permitted to write the final exam. In accordance with University of Victoria Policy, the midterm exam, midterm essay, final exam, and final essay are essential course components, which all students must complete.

Many of the issues we will discuss have the potential to be controversial. I am committed to creating an equitable, inclusive, and safe educational space. Intolerant or abusive comments or behaviour are not acceptable, and will be dealt with appropriately.

Tentative Schedule
(Subject to Change as Necessary)

Thursday, September 6: Introduction—who are we and what will we do?
• Overview of the course, assignments, goals.

Monday, September 10: Geography and culture
• the relationships between the land and people of Asia

Thursday, September 13: Is there an Asia?
• How this term can be both helpful and confusing
• Commonality and distinction among the countries of Asia
Monday, September 17: The Languages of Asia  
• Influence, Resistance, Difference

Thursday, September 20: Religions of Asia, I  
• Basics of Confucianism, Taoism: social structure, the connection of the individual to the way of all things  
• Assignment One (Annotated Bibliography) Distributed, along with Term Paper suggestions

Monday, September 24: Religions of Asia, II  
• Basics of Buddhism, Shinto, Islam: reality as illusion, reality as community, reality as the will of God

Thursday, September 27: Influences of Religion in contemporary Asia  
• Government Structure in China, North Korea (Confucian Paternalism)  
• Gender Issues in Japan, SEA (patriarchy)  
• Midterm essay assignment distributed

Monday, October 1: A Brief History of Contemporary Asia  
• The spread of ideas, colonialism, war (civil, anti-colonial), spread of Communism—anti-communist war (civil and neo-colonial (China, Korea, Vietnam, creation of Taiwan)), and eventual economic integration  
• Annotated Bibliography Assignment Due

Thursday, October 4: Reactions to War—contemporary representations of the past  
• Chinese, Korean tensions against Japan  
• The Japanese Version, Japan as victim (clips from Hotaru no haka, Grave of the Fireflies)

Monday, October 8: Thanksgiving, no class

Thursday, October 11: Midterm Exam, in class (this is an essential course component).

Monday, October 15: Soft Power in Asia  
• Japanese influence in arts manga, anime, J-pop, Japanese film, fashion, food, cars, electronics, cameras

Thursday, October 18: Reactions to soft power  
• Korean, Chinese versions of ‘Japanese’ arts  
• Midterm essay assignment due (this is an essential course component).

Monday, October 22: Asian Literature, I  
• Historical forms: poetry, narrative, drama  
• Term Essay Outline assignment distributed

Thursday, October 25: Asian Literature, II  
• Contemporary reactions to European forms—transitions

Monday, October 29: Asian Urban Spaces, I  
• Planned and unplanned

Thursday, November 1: Special Event: Passport to PAAS  
• Study and Career Options through the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Monday, November 5: Asian Cinema, I  
• Nationalism and Ideology
• Term Essay Outlines Due

Thursday, November 8: Asian Cinema, II
  • Social Criticism and Change

Monday, November 12: Reading Break, no class

Thursday, November 15: Reading Break, no class

Monday, November 19: Asian Myths of Asian Homogeneity
  • China (the Han people; China’s occupation of Tibet; the Uighurs), Japan (mono-cultural, mono-lingual Japan)

Thursday, November 22: Asian Pluralism
  • Malaysia, China, Japan
  • Term Essays are Due (this is an essential course component).

Monday, November 26: Asia’s Future
  • technology, pollution, population, finance, influence

Thursday, November 29: Final Exam (this is an essential course component).

Monday, December 3: Last Day of Class
  • exams and term papers returned

Required Texts

There is no textbook for this course. Many of the readings are available online. Refer to the separate Reading List. Additionally, selected PAAS 100 readings will be on reserve in MacPherson Library.

Grading

Attendance is mandatory.
Students who miss more than 10% of classes may not be permitted to write the final exam.

Midterm Exam: 15%
Final Exam: 15%
Bibliography 10%
Midterm Essay: 20%
Term Essay Outline 10%
Term Essay: 30%

Mark Ranges

A+: 90% —>
A: 85-89%
A-: 80-84%
B+: 77-79%
B: 73-76%
B-: 70-72%
C+: 65-69%
C: 60-64%
D: 50-59%

F: Below 49%

Students who do not complete all course assignments may receive an N. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all course requirements are complete before their due dates. Late assignments will not be accepted.
The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 33-34 of the current University Calendar (2012/13). All students are advised to read this section.

Practices that are not acceptable include:

• Persuading or paying someone else to write the student’s assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as the student’s own;
• Downloading essays or articles from the Internet, or copying passages from books or journals, and presenting them as the student’s own work;
• Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as the student’s own work;
• Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or tests;
• Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor.

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

In every course, the instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, so as to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge or understanding of the course material.

**Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating**

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean. **In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense and the weight of the assignment, the Chair may assign a grade of F (0 GPA) for the course. Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to be cheating. Records of any violation will be held by the Director of Academic Advising on behalf of the Dean of Humanities. Such records will be destroyed four years after a student graduates. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript by the Dean; this notation is removed upon graduation.**

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.
Required Internet Resources:

Buddhism: *The Creed of Buddha*, Chapter 4: The Teaching of Buddha

Confucianism: *The Confucian Analects*,
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/cfu/conf1.htm>
Others at: <http://www.sacred-texts.com/cfu/index.htm>

Islam: *The Qur'an*
Read Sections 001, 002, 003 in the Yusuf Ali (English) versions

Shinto: *The Kojiki*
From Volume One: Sections 1-5, Sections 15-17

Taoism: *Taoist Texts, Part 1* and *Taoist Texts, Part 2*
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/index.htm>

Required Book Chapters (on reserve in McPherson Library):


Required Journal Articles:

Buddhism:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30209878>
Confucianism:

Kang, Jin Woong “Political Uses of Confucianism in North Korea,” *Journal of Korean Studies*, Volume 16, Number 1, Spring 2011, pp. 63-87
<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jks/summary/v016/16.1.kang01.html>

Islam:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1049859>

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/contemporary_southeast_asia_a_journal_of_international_and_strategic_affairs/v030/30.2.abdul-hamid.html>

Shinto:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30232984>

Taoism:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1397984>


<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2058739>

Soft Power:


<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1148580>

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3183487>

International Relations, Historical Rivalries

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/as.2007.47.5.683>


Sasada, Hironori. “Youth and Nationalism in Japan,” SAIS Review, Volume 26, Number 2, Summer-Fall 2006, pp. 109-122 (From Project Muse)


**Required Short Fiction (on reserve in McPherson Library):**

**China:**

Lu, Xun: “Diary of a Madman”

Shi, Qiao: “Providing a Meal”

**Japan:**

Abe, Kōbō: “The Magic Chalk”

Murakami, Haruki: “The Elephant Vanishes”

**Southeast Asia:**

Eneste, Pamusuk: “The Critic”

Mangunwijaya, Y.B.: “Pop Dreaming”

Navis, A.A.: “The Governor’s Cats”

**Recommended Books, Articles, Short Stories, Novels, etc:**

Chai, Joseph C.H.: *An Economic History of Modern China* (available as an electronic download through the UVic Library Gateway)


Schirokauer, Conrad: *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*
