PAAS 495 Fall 2019

The Limits of the Human in Asian Cultures (CRN 12465)

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Recent advances in science and technology (such as medicine, bio-engineering, artificial intelligence, robotics, discoveries in the life sciences of the intelligence of animals and their communicative abilities, etc.) are beginning to have a profound impact on our understanding of human life, its limits, and its place in the scheme of things. Asian views of the natural and supernatural world are having an impact today on technological advances in areas like virtual reality and robotics. We’ll examine how such worldviews are expressed in fiction and folklore, drama and digital media, and in society at large.

Proposed assignments:

- Two presentations on selections from shorter class readings (10%, 15%)
- Essay: proposal (5%); outline and annotated bibliography (10%); class presentation (15%); final essay (30%)
- Class attendance, participation, and progress (15%)

Proposed reading list:

Readings to be provided on CourseSpaces.