

ASIA 200 Introduction to Asian Studies



The fragrance of rice floats a thousand miles. Everybody poses as a hero [1961 Chinese propaganda poster](http://www.chineseposters.net)

This course is an introduction to some parts of Asia and some of the ways scholars and others ask and answer questions about it. The goal is for you to leave the class with an understanding of the different academic disciplines that are invoked in the study of Asia, and the ability to analyze the comparative development of Asian societies. As this is a Writing Intensive course, we will also work on improving your writing.

Professor Alan Baumler Office 304M HSS. Phone 7-4066. E-mail baumler@iup.edu. Office Hours MWF 8:30-9:00, 10-11 and 12:15-1:15. and by appointment.

Web page <http://www.abaumler.net>

Books

- Amrith, Sunil S. *Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortunes of Migrants*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Chan, Koonchung. *The Fat Years*. Translated by Michael S. Duke. New York: Anchor, 2013.
- Errington, Frederick, Deborah Gewertz, and Tatsuro Fujikura. *The Noodle Narratives: The Global Rise of an Industrial Food into the Twenty-First Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.
- Jerryson, Michael K. *Buddhist Fury: Religion and Violence in Southern Thailand*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Shadid, Anthony. *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War*. Picador, 2006.

Class Schedule

This class is divided into sections, each of which deals with a different disciplinary tradition and a different part of Asia. For each section (other than the film section) there is a book and a few shorter readings. For each section you need to read the book, and at least one of the shorter readings. I may add other optional short readings, so if you have any suggestions please let me know.

1 1/20 Journalism/ Middle East Part of being an Asianist is being able to make fun of bad journalistic books. It is also important to realize how much you can get from the better journalist books. In this case will be reading Anthony Shadid's book on Iraq (don't be scared, it only looks long) and a couple of things on journalism and Asia

- Shadid, Anthony. *Night Draws Near: Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War*. Picador, 2006.

We will all read these

- "[Journalism for Beginners](#)" and "[No News](#)" from Luyendijk, Joris. *People Like Us: Misrepresenting the Middle East*. Soft Skull Press, 2006
- "[How to be an American Abroad](#)" from Klein, Christina. *Cold War Orientalism: Asia in the Middlebrow Imagination, 1945-1961*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

2 2/8 Anthropology/Japan This is a book on food and how people produce, eat, and understand it. As food is very important to Asians we will also read a lot of other stuff. Each of you will read the noodle book and also one (at least) of the other readings.

- Errington, Frederick, Deborah Gewertz, and Tatsuro Fujikura. *The Noodle Narratives: The Global Rise of an Industrial Food into the Twenty-First Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

Please read one of these. Of course you can read all of them if you wish.

- Ray, Utsa. "[Eating 'Modernity': Changing Dietary Practices in Colonial Bengal](#)." *Modern Asian Studies* 46, no. 3 (May 2012): 703–29.
- "[Buddhism and Tea during the Tang Dynasty](#)" from Benn, James A. *Tea in China: A Religious and Cultural History*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2015.
- "[Serve the People: Socialist transformations of Shanghai's food culture](#)" from Swislocki, Mark *Culinary Nostalgia: Regional Food Culture and the Urban Experience in Shanghai*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2008.

- "[McDonald's in Japan: Changing Manners and Etiquette](#)" and/or [McDonald's as Political Target: Globalization and Anti-Globalization in the Twenty-First Century](#)"- both from *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia, Second Edition*. 2 edition. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2006.
- "[The Authentic Tea Mountain Yiwu](#)" from Zhang, Jinghong. *Puer Tea: Ancient Caravans and Urban Chic*. Seattle ; London: University of Washington Press, 2013.

3 2/22 Films Like us Asians get a lot of what they understand about their own societies from films. We will be watching a couple of films from Asia, and you will be doing a presentation on a film of your own. I think our films will be [Paradise Now](#) and [A Taxing Woman's Return](#). If it turns out that most of you have watched those, or if they don't seem like things people would find interesting I may pick something else.

4 2/29 Literature/China Novels are one of the main ways for modern people to understand their societies, and Asia is no different from anywhere else in that regard. We will be reading a Science Fiction novel about a future China where everyone seems to have forgotten something.

-Chan, Koonchung. *The Fat Years*. Translated by Michael S. Duke. New York: Anchor, 2013.

Please read one of these. Of course you can read all of them if you wish. This would be a category where I assume some of you could make suggestions for things to add.

Two Indian authors,

-"[Sultana's Dream](#)" from *Sultana's dream; and Padmarag: two feminist utopias* by Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain; translated with an introduction by Barnita Bagchi. New Delhi (India) : Penguin, 2005.

-"[Stick](#)", "[Hole](#)" and "[Watch](#)" -from Mitra, Premendra, and Amlan Das Gupta. *Mosquito and Other Stories: Ghana-Da's Tall Tales*. New Delhi; New York: Penguin, 2004.

Or, if you can't get enough China you can try

-"[Folding Beijing](#)" Hao Jingfang- This is a Chinese science fiction story set in the near future.

5 3/21 Religious Studies/Thailand Our last two books are academic monographs. This one is from the interdisciplinary field of Religious Studies, although you might call the book anthropology, sociology or political science as well.

-Jerryson, Michael K. *Buddhist Fury: Religion and Violence in Southern Thailand*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Please read one of these. Of course you can read all of them if you wish.

-"Islam" from McCargo, Duncan. *Tearing Apart the Land : Islam and Legitimacy in Southern Thailand*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008. on ebrary via the library database page.

-"[New Headquarters New Ikki](#)" from Tsang, Carol Richmond. *War and Faith: Ikko Ikki in Late Muromachi Japan*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007.

-Friedland, Roger, and Richard Hecht. "[The Bodies of Nations: A Comparative Study of Religious Violence in Jerusalem and Ayodhya](#)." *History of Religions* 38, no. 2 (1998): 101–49.

6 4/4 Film Presentations

Each of you will be doing a [presentation](#) on film. Here are the guidelines for [selecting](#) a film.

7 4/18 History /India-Southeast Asia This is our History book, and unlike a lot of history books and a lot of the other things we have read it is trying to get beyond using the nation as its main unit of analysis. One of the things that is interesting about History is that it often looks at times when the world was organized very differently than it is now.

-Amrith, Sunil S. *Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortunes of Migrants*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015.

Please read one of these. Of course you can read all of them if you wish.

-Adam Mckeown "[The Social Life of Chinese Labor](#)" from Tagliacozzo, Eric, and Wen-chin Chang, eds. *Chinese Circulations: Capital, Commodities, and Networks in Southeast Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011.

-"[Oral Histories](#)" from Tamanoi, Mariko. *Memory Maps: The State and Manchuria in Postwar Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2008.

Final Exam period Wednesday, May 4 8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Grades

- Quizzes 25%
- Two unit papers 20 % each
- Movie presentation 20%
- Final paper 15%

For this class you will need to read and write about a number of things. A big part of your grade will be the papers you write on 2 of our five units. You can choose any two you like, but to encourage you not to procrastinate, I would like you to pick out the 2 sections of the class for which you will be writing a longer paper at the beginning of the semester.

-Papers-Each of you will write papers on two of our main readings. You may choose whichever ones you like. Papers will be due after we finish discussion of the book. I will hand out guidelines for the papers as we get to them.

-Final paper-Each of you will write a final paper comparing two of our units and what they show about different disciplinary traditions and how they analyze Asia. This will be due on the final exam day.

-Movie Presentation Each of you will do a brief oral presentation (illustrated with clips) about an Asian movie that you select and what we can learn from it.

-Quizzes Anything else you do for this class is part of your quiz grade. This includes in-class writing assignments and quizzes, and the various small writing assignments you may be asked to do. There will usually be at least one small writing assignment for each unit of the class.

Grading Scale

- 90%+ =A
- 80-89.999% =B
- 70-79.999% =C
- 60-69.999% =D

60% or less =F

Attendance policy-- You are expected to come to class every day, but the point is not just to come to class, but to come having done your reading and being ready to talk about it. That said there is no penalty for not coming to class besides the fact that you will not learn anything. If you are not in class it is your responsibility to get the notes and find out what we did and be ready for any upcoming assignments.

-All work is due in class on the date announced. Late work may be turned in without penalty with a medical or other excuse. Unexcused late work will be marked down one grade a day (A- becomes a B+, etc.)

Academic dishonesty-- All students are required to abide by the University's policies on Academic Integrity, as found in the catalog.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania and its faculty are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office for Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions to the faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as part of a University-approved research project.

Faculty members are obligated to report sexual violence or any other abuse of a student who was, or is, a child (a person under 18 years of age) when the abuse allegedly occurred to the Department of Human Services (1-800-932-0313) and University Police (724-357-2141).

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at: <http://www.iup.edu/social-equity/policies/title-ix/>

ASIA 200-W01

CRN 22189

9:05 am-9:55 am

HSS 209