

ASIA 200 Introduction to Asian Studies



Khamasa of Nizami Mughal miniature, 16th century

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 involved in the study of Asia, and the ability to analyze the comparative development of Asian societies. The class is divided into 6 sections, each dealing with a different way of looking at Asia and a different part of Asia. As this is a Writing Intensive course, we will also work on improving your writing.

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

Books

Goodyear, Sara Suleri. *Meatless Days*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 1991.

Hoesterey, James. *Rebranding Islam: Piety, Prosperity, and a Self-Help Guru*. Stanford: Stanford

University Press, 2015.

McElwee, Pamela D., and K. Sivaramakrishnan. *Forests Are Gold: Trees, People, and Environmental Rule in Vietnam*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016.

Meyer, Michael. *In Manchuria: A Village Called Wasteland and the Transformation of Rural China*. Bloomsbury Press, 2016.

Raz, Aviad E. *Riding the Black Ship: Japan and Tokyo Disneyland*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.

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 8/29 Journalism/ China 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. Meyer's book probably fits best into the tradition of travel writing, although it is also a memoir and the story of a place.

-Meyer, Michael. *In Manchuria: A Village Called Wasteland and the Transformation of Rural China*. Bloomsbury Press, 2016.

We will also 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 9/26 Literature/Pakistan Like the Meyer book, this one fits into the tradition of literary non-fiction, and is also the story of a person and a place. Each of you will also read a short excerpt from another autobiography.

Goodyear, Sara Suleri. *Meatless Days*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 1991.

Ge Hong [Autobiography](#)- Ge Hong was a medieval Chinese alchemist

Fukuzawa Yukichi [Autobiography](#)-Student ways at Ogata School

Mohandas Gandhi [Autobiography](#) -At the High School through Playing the English Gentleman.

3 10/10 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 [Let the Bullets Fly](#). 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 10/17 History/Environmental Studies/Vietnam This book deals with the Vietnamese government's attempts to manage and control its forests and the people in them. Controlling frontiers and "the people who move around" has been a major issue for the national states of Asia, so we will look at some other examples of this. Like our later books, This is an academic monograph, and we will spend some time talking about what sorts of academic writing there are and how you can find these things and make use of them.

-McElwee, Pamela D., and K. Sivaramakrishnan. *Forests Are Gold: Trees, People, and Environmental Rule in Vietnam*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016.

-"[State Projects of Legitimacy and Simplification](#)" from Scott, James C. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998.

-Averill, Stephen C. "[The Shed People and the Opening of the Yangzi Highlands](#)." *Modern China* 9, no. 1 (1983): 84–126.

-"[The Long Journey of the First Survey Commission](#)" from Ateş, Sabri. *Ottoman-Iranian Borderlands: Making a Boundary, 1843-1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

-"[The Jehol Frontier](#)" from Foret, Philippe. *Mapping Chengde: The Qing Landscape Enterprise*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000.

-"[The Sakhalin Trade: Diplomatic and Ecological Balance](#)" from Walker, Brett L. *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

5 10/31 Sociology/Japan Nothing could be more American than Disney, and this book deals with how this bit of either American or global culture has been adopted into Japan. We will also watch a short documentary. [The Colonel Comes to Japan](#), and you will do a little research and locate a reading on modern business in Asia.

-Raz, Aviad E. *Riding the Black Ship: Japan and Tokyo Disneyland*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 1999.

6 11/14 Film Presentations

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

7 12/2 Religious Studies/Indonesia This is a book how Islam has been adopted into the modern society of Indonesia. You will each locate another reading on religion and how it fits into Asian societies, in addition to the Dunch reading. This is where we will talk about the library databases and how to use them.

-Hoesterey, James. *Rebranding Islam: Piety, Prosperity, and a Self-Help Guru*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2015.

-Dunch, Ryan. "Beyond Cultural Imperialism: Cultural Theory, Christian Missions, and Global Modernity." *History and Theory* 41, no. 3 (October 2002): 301–25.

This is available through the library databases. If you can't find it through I-Search, let me know and I will help you.

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

Grades

-Quizzes 20%

-Two unit papers 25 % each

-Movie presentation 15%

-Final Paper15%

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
13523 Class
9:05 am-9:55 am
HSS 215