

## ASIA 200 Introduction to Asian Studies



This class deals with the various societies of Asia and the way scholars understand them. The goal is for you to both learn some things about Asia and to understand the different types of questions that we can ask about Asian societies and how they can be answered.

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### Major Readings

-Andrade, Tonio. *Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.

-Kapur, Akash. *India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2013.

-Nakazawa, Keiji, and Project Gen. *Barefoot Gen. Volume 1*,. San Francisco, Calif.: Last Gasp of San Francisco, 2004.

-Oppenheim, Robert. *Kyōngju Things: Assembling Place*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008.

-Toer, Pramoedya Ananta, and Max Lane. *This Earth of Mankind*. New York: Penguin, 1996.

## **Class Schedule**

For each segment of the class we will have one major reading and at least a few other readings. It is important that you have the readings done before we start discussing them. Reading is the most important thing you do as a college student, since in class all you get to hear from is your professor and your fellow students. The readings (and watchings) include lots of stuff from much better scholars than I am and also actual Asians. Long after you have forgotten most of your classmates and all your professors you will remember every real book you actually read. If you are here to learn, Do The Readings.

### **1/22 Introduction and class contracts**

-"[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.

### **1/27 India Becoming --Journalism/India**

Americans spend a good deal of time thinking about the Rise of Asia, as do Asians. This book is written by a journalist. Part of being a real Asianist is being able to make fun of reporters who move to an Asian country and come out 3 months later with book that explains everything you need to know about Asia. Asianists also know that you can learn a lot about Asia from the better sort of journalistic books.

-Kapur, Akash. *India Becoming: A Portrait of Life in Modern India*. New York: Riverhead Books, 2013.

-"[Journalism for Beginners](#)" and "[No News](#)" from Luyendijk, Joris. *People Like Us: Misrepresenting the Middle East*. Soft Skull Press, 2009.

-"[Hutong Karma](#)" and "[Boomtown Girl](#)" from Hessler, Peter. *Strange Stones: Dispatches from East and West*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2013.

-"[The Crab Cannery Ship](#)" from Kobayashi, Takiji, Željko Cipriš. *The Crab Cannery Ship and Other Novels of Struggle*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2013.

### **2/10 This Earth of Mankind Novel/Indonesia**

Like non-Asians, modern people in Asia get a lot of what they understand about their own societies from fiction and above all from novels. This is a novel about colonialism and identity in what is now Indonesia.

-Toer, Pramoedya Ananta, and Max Lane. *This Earth of Mankind*. New York: Penguin, 1996.

-"[The Veil and the Dual Legal System](#)" and "[Civil Rights](#)" from Thompson, Elizabeth. *Colonial Citizens: Republican Rights, Paternal Privilege, and Gender in French Syria and Lebanon*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2000.

### **2/24 Barefoot Gen Manga/Japan**

Taking Manga seriously is something that started in Japan, but has spread elsewhere.

We will talk about both how Manga work and the issues about wartime and postwar Japan raised in *Barefoot Gen*

-Nakazawa, Keiji, and Project Gen. *Barefoot Gen. Volume 1*,. San Francisco, Calif.: Last Gasp of San Francisco, 2004.

-"[Body Language](#)" and "[In the Gutter](#)" from McCloud, Scott, and Bob Lappan. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. [S.l.]: HarperCollins, 1994.

-Rumi Sakamoto, "Will you go to war? Or will you stop being Japanese?" Nationalism and History in Kobayashi Yoshinori's *Sensoron*," *The Asia Pacific Journal*, January 14, 2008

-Philip Seaton, "Historiography and Japanese War Nationalism: Testimony in *Sensōron*, *Sensōron* as Testimony," *The Asia-Pacific Journal* August 9, 2010 Both of these are available in *War in Japanese Popular Culture* edited by Matthew Penney Download [here](#).

### **3/7 *Dil Se/Paradise Now* Film**

Like Americans, lots of people in Asia get most of what they know about the past and their own society from the movies. We will be watching a couple of movies as a group and each of you will also do a presentation on a third movie that you watch on your own. I am currently leaning towards [Dil Se](#) and [Paradise Now](#), two movies that deal with terrorism, but we could change that if the class wants.

### **Spring Break**

#### **3/24 *Lost Colony History/Taiwan***

This is our history book, which is both an adventure story and something about Asia and outsiders and something about premodern Asia. We will also spend some time talking about what a scholarly project is.

-Andrade, Tonio. *Lost Colony: The Untold Story of China's First Great Victory over the West*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.

-Select a chapter from Andrade, Tonio [How Taiwan Became Chinese: Dutch, Spanish and Han Colonization in the Seventeenth Century](#).

-"[Han Society in Sichuan's Turbulent Frontier](#)" from -Von Glahn, Richard. *The country of streams and grottoes: expansion, settlement, and the civilizing of the Sichuan frontier in Song times*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987.

### **4/7 First set of movie presentations**

#### **4/14 *Kyongju Things Korea/Anthropology***

How do Asians (Koreans, in this case) remember their past? How do you balance

development and preservation? This is a fairly complex book and also the most interdisciplinary of the books we will read.

-Oppenheim, Robert. *Kyōngju Things: Assembling Place*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008.

-“[The Discovery of Mingei](#)” from Brandt, Kim. *Kingdom of Beauty: Mingei and the Politics of Folk Art in Imperial Japan*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.

-“[On the Practice of Weddings](#)” from Pemberton, John. *On the Subject of “Java.”* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1994.

## **4/28 Second set of movie presentations**

### **Final Paper (turned in during exam period)**

#### **Grades**

Quizzes 20%

Two short papers 20 % each

Movie presentation 20%

Final paper 20%

#### **Papers**

Each of you will write papers on two of our main readings. You may choose whichever ones you like. Papers will be due one week after we finish discussion of the book. I will hand out guidelines for the paper on the day of the discussion. At least one of these will be revised.

**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.

**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

69.999% 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 attending class other than not learning things. You are responsible for all work and assignments if you are absent.

-All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified unless otherwise arranged. All late work is marked down one mark a day (A+ becomes an A, etc.)

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

**S2014**