

Asia 1102/W01: Introduction to Asian Cultures

Fall 2015

T/TH 11:00am-12:15pm, SO 3030

Instructor: Dr. Ginny Q. Zhan

Office: Room 4012 SO

Office phone: 470 578 6679

E-mail: gzhan@kennesaw.edu

Office hours: by appointment – please send me an email or ask me in class

Required texts:

Culture and Society in the Asia-Pacific (1998). Colin Mackerras and Richard Maidment (Ed). The Open University. Available on Amazon, new and used.

100 Questions and Answers about East Asian Cultures (2014). Michigan State University School of Journalism. Available on Amazon, new and used.

Additional readings will be posted on D2L.

Optional texts:

Asian Cultural Traditions (1999). Carolyn Brown Heinz. Waveland Press Inc, Long Grove, IL.

Peoples and Cultures of Asia (2006). Raymond Scupin (Ed). Pearson/Prentice Hall.

General Education Program Description

The General Education Program offers a solid, comprehensive foundational academic experience for all Kennesaw State University students. In a series of interrelated courses in the liberal arts and sciences, it provides the opportunity for them to acquire the intellectual skills and knowledge characteristic of educated persons in a diverse, global community. Thus, it lays the basis for success in academic, professional, and personal arenas. Whereas the major program contributes depth to a college education in a designated specialization, the General Education Program provides breadth of understanding by introducing, connecting, and integrating a variety of disciplines.

General Education Program Goals

The General Education Program at KSU has four goals. During the course of the program, students should demonstrate the following:

1. knowledge and understanding in the General Education areas: Humanities, Fine Arts, Science, Mathematics, Technology, Social Science, and the Essential Skills (written and quantitative skills)

2. proficiency in communication
3. skills in inquiry, critical thinking, and problem solving through scholarly and/or creative activity across the general education disciplines
4. an understanding of ethics, diversity, and a global perspective.

Course Description:

Introduction to Asian Cultures is an interdisciplinary and general survey course designed to introduce students to both traditional and contemporary Asian cultures. Topic areas may include popular cultures, food cultures, ethnic identities, folk traditions and customs, arts, religions, languages, and gender roles. The course aims to help students familiarize, understand and appreciate Asian cultures.

Learning Objectives

Through this course, students will be able to

1. recognize salient features of traditional and contemporary Asian cultures;
2. describe, explain and interpret a variety of Asian cultural phenomena;
3. demonstrate knowledge of Asian cultural values; and
4. identify and analyze cultural differences between Asia and America.

Interdisciplinary Studies Department (ISD) Shared Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

1. that they recognize how culture affects personal and social experiences and values in a global context;
2. that they are ethically sensitive to the role of cultural, social, and political diversity in human thought and action by exploring and responding to others in open dialogue about diversity;
3. can critically evaluate multi-and interdisciplinary materials;
4. can critically evaluate opposing points of view; and
5. can identify the audience, intent, value, and context of informational sources.

Course information

Teaching/reading materials

The two required textbooks, additional reading materials posted on D2L, as well as videos and other online media outlets.

Class structure and method

This is a face-to-face class. We meet twice per week. However, I routinely use D2L Brightspace for:

1. Content – for me to post extra reading materials, links to videos and other media outlets, and other related materials

2. Discussion Board – for students to post self-introductions, discussion topics, and class-related questions
3. Dropbox - for students to submit assignments
4. News Feed – for me to post news items, announcements, and other related issues

A combination of lectures, videos, small group discussions and activities, and other learner-centered educational methods will be used in this class.

D2L Brightspace

Though this is a face-to-face class, I use D2L routinely to post things and to communicate with class. You need to set up your D2L setting so you'll be notified of any new item posted (Go to your homepage on D2L, click on Notifications and then choose the setting for instant notifications). It is your responsibility to keep up with any new information regarding the class. I will not accept excuses for missing assignment deadlines or other information such as "I didn't check my email/D2L" or "I didn't know you posted that on D2L."

Assessments

The following explains seven requirements that form the basis for assessments of students' academic performance in this class.

1. Attendance

Students are required to attend all classes. There is a class attendance and participation component (worth 60 points) in the final calculation of points. For each class attendance, 2 points will be added. If a student is not in attendance regardless of reasons, no point will be added. The rationale for this policy is very simple: **if you are absent, you are not participating in that particular class.** In cases of absences, you do not need to give me any documentation such as a doctor's note; you'll just not get the attendance points. However it is your responsibility to make sure that you find out what was discussed in class. If you miss a class, I recommend that you ask a classmate to let you know what was covered during your absence. Absence does not excuse anybody from responsibilities for any material that was presented or any assignment that was due that day, or any announcement or news item that was made in class.

2. Self-introduction

During the first week, you need to post a self-intro on the Discussion board on D2L Brightspace. Share with your classmates some information about yourself, such as your educational and career aspirations, hobbies and interests, and whatever you feel comfortable

sharing. You also need to respond to at least two classmates' posts. Deadline is indicated on the Discussion board.

3. Questions

Prior to weekly classes, you must read the assigned reading materials and/or complete other required work. Regularly you're asked to bring two questions to class based on those assignments for the week. The questions should reflect your thoughts on and reactions to the materials. In other words, try to avoid asking "What is x and y?" type of questions because the answers are probably already provided in the materials. Ask "Why" and "How" types of questions to reflect some depth and width of your critical thinking. These questions must be **typed**, and are due in the beginning of the class as specified in the course outline in the syllabus. They must also be submitted in Dropbox by the specified deadline.

4. Group work in class

There are several scheduled sessions of group work in class as indicated in the course outline. We will break into 4-5 people groups and work on a specific discussion or task. The finished product should reflect group members' collective efforts and all members will receive the same grade. There is no make-up for these class activities, so if you are absent that day, you will not receive any points for the group work.

5. Discussion board

During our online "Movie Weeks," you are required to watch an assigned movie each week by yourself and then post your reflection on the Discussion board for online class discussion. The specific instructions and deadlines will be posted on the Discussion board. Please follow these instructions. I will also post a reminder on News Feed prior to the online movie weeks.

6. Team presentation

This is a team project. Each group should consist of no more than five individuals. Each group needs to discuss to determine a topic that is agreed upon by all members. The subject is regarding certain aspect(s) of Asian cultures. The group will need to do some research on the topic and turn their findings into a power point presentation, which they will give in class (10 minutes) during the last week. A more detailed instruction sheet and grading rubrics for this assignment will be posted in Dropbox.

7. Final exam (take home)

Final exam is take-home. It consists of short answer and essay type of questions based on our course materials. More information will be forthcoming.

Late work policy

All required graded work is due on the specified times and dates indicated. Late submission will receive a 20% point deduction if submitted within 12 hours. After 12 hours, no work will be accepted. Final exam must be submitted by the deadline. Late exam will NOT be accepted.

Grading

There are a total of 300 points. The distribution is illustrated as follows:

Self-intro	5 points
Attendance	60 points
Questions (8x10)	80 points
Group work in class (6x5)	30 points
Discussion board (2x15)	30 points
Team presentation	50 points
Final exam	45 points
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Total	300 points

Your final grade will be based upon the percentage of the total number of points you earn:

A = at least 90% of 300 = 270 points

B = at least 80% of 300 = 240 points

C = at least 70% of 300 = 210 points

D = at least 60% of 300 = 180 points

F = less than 60% of 300 = 179 points or less

Kennesaw State University's Code of Conduct Policy

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. The Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating; unauthorized access to University materials; misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work; malicious removal,

retention, or destruction of library materials; malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services; and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Plagiarism and Cheating

No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give, or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic-based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

(<https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>)

Student-Friendly “How Not to Plagiarize” Web sites

http://library.apsu.edu/guides/1_3_20.htm

<http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html>

Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (APA, 2002)

<http://www.apa.org/ethics/>

disAbled Support Services

Any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements. They should contact the instructor as soon as possible in the beginning of the semester to arrange any necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from KSU disAbled Student Support Services (located in the Student Center room 267). No requirements exist that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process.

How to contact me

If you have a personal question or concern, please email me via D2L course email or my KSU email. I will try my best to get back to you within 1-2 business days. However, if your questions or comments are related to the course content, please post them in the course related online discussion board so other students can see as they may have similar questions. I will visit the site and answer questions as frequently as possible. If you need to see me, please email me to set up an appointment for office hours.

Course Outline

Dates

Topics and Readings

Week 1

8/18 and 8/20

Introduction and Overview
Read Chap. 1 in M & M
#41 #63 #64 in 100 Questions
Post self-intro

Week 2

8/25 and 8/27

Brief history
Read Chap. 2 in M & M and article posted in Week 2
Bring two questions on 8/27

Week 3

9/1 and 9/3

Religions
Read Chap. 6 in M & M
Guest lectures by Professor Tom Pynn
Bring two questions on 9/3

Week 4

9/8 and 9/10

Traditional cultural values
#18 #20 in 100 Questions
Individualism/collectivism
Research on Filial piety (24 paragons)
Bring two questions on 9/10
Group work in class

Week 5

9/15 and 9/17

Ethnicities and Languages
Read Chap. 5 in M & M
Case study: Hawaii
Guest speakers: Dr. Heeman Kim on 9/15
Guest speaker: Hyun Chu Kim on 9/17
Research on forms of major Asian languages
Bring two questions on 9/17

Week 6

9/22 and 9/24

Common cultural practices and customs
#85 in 100 Questions

Research on Calligraphy and Martial arts

Bring two questions on 9/24

Group work in class

Week 7

9/29 and 10/1

Common cultural practices and customs (con't)

#23 #29 #30 in 100 Questions

Guest speaker: Dr. Ying Zhu on 9/29

Research on Tea and Cuisines

Bring two questions on 10/1

Week 8

10/6 and 10/8

Family relationships

#45 in 100 Questions

Watch “Farewell My Concubine” or “Life” in class

Group work in class

Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty: 10/7

Week 9

10/13 and 10/15

Family relationships (con't)

Adoption: case study Korea

Only-child: case study China

#46 in 100 Questions

Read materials posted in Week 9

Bring two questions on 10/15

Week 10

10/20 and 10/22

Online Movie Week1 – no face to face meeting

Watch Movie

Post on Discussion board

Week 11

10/27 and 10/29

Online Movie Week1 – no face to face meeting

Watch Movie

Post on Discussion board

Week 12

11/3 and 11/5

Education

Read Chap. 7 in M& M

#65 through #72 in 100 Questions

Bring two questions on 11/5

	Group work in class
Week 13	
11/10 and 11/12	Asian Diasporas Read Chap. 4 in M & M Watch Mississippi Masala in class Group work in class
Week 14	
11/17 and 11/19	Asian Americans #75 #76 in 100 Questions Read articles posted in Week 14 Watch Fresh from the Boat in class Group work in class
Week 15	
11/24 and 11/26	<i>Fall break: Happy Thanksgiving!</i>
Week 16	
12/1 and 12/3	Student group presentations

Final exam (take home): Due by 10:00pm 12/10.

NOTE

This syllabus is subject to changes. I will let you know if our schedule changes.

August, 2015