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### LS 161H.01: Introduction to Asian Humanities

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**LS 161**  
**Asian Humanities**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:40-11:00**  
**SS 356**

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**Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-4:30**

This course examines selected great works from three major Asian cultures: India, China, and Japan. While these texts, of course, cannot be regarded as fully representative of these cultures, they all could be considered “classics” which have exerted profound influence on these cultures and are both reflective of and productive of their cultures’ social mores, moral norms, philosophies, and ways of life at various key points in their histories. Thus, while reading, reflecting on, and writing about these works will not lead to full introductions to these cultures, through them we will learn much about what has been most valued in them.

**Required Readings (all are available for purchase at the campus bookstore):**

Bhikkhu Bodhi (translator), *In the Buddha’s Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon*

R.K. Narayan, *The Ramayana: A Shortened Prose Version of the Indian Epic*

Mohandas K. Gandhi, *Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*

Victor Mair (translator), *Wandering on the Way: Early Taoist Tales and Parables of Chuang Tzu*

Daniel K. Gardner (translator), *Learning to Be a Sage: Selections from the Conversations of Master Chu*

Tsao Hsueh-Chin (Chi-Chen Wang, translator), *Dream of the Red Chamber*

Sei Shonagon (Arthur Waley, translator), *The Pillow Book*

Matsuo Basho (Nobuyuki Yuasa, translator), *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches*

Natsume Soseki (Edwin McClellan, translator), *Kokoro*

**Grading**

1. Class Participation: Class Preparation and Participation: completion of and reflection upon the reading assignment for the day, as well as consistent attendance and oral participation in regular discussions. No more than two absences will be accepted without written authorization from the Health Service or an advisor, counselor, or administrator. (25% of the final grade)
2. Three 6-page Papers. A choice of topics will be assigned for each paper (each paper is 25% of the final grade; thus the papers are worth 75% of the final grade in total)

## Class Meetings and Assignments

### I. INDIA

- Tues. 8/26 Introduction to the Course
- Thurs. 8/28 Selections from the Buddha's sermons. *In the Buddha's Words*, pages 26, 29-30, 31-37; 75-76; 88-91, and 96-103
- Tues. 9/2 Selections from the Buddha's sermons. *In the Buddha's Words*, pages 116-118, 126-128, 130-132, 137-139; 155-156, 166-167, 171-172, 172-174; 191-192, 203-205, 213-214, 218-219; 239-240.
- Thurs. 9/4 Selections from the Buddha's sermons. *In the Buddha's Words*, pages 267, 269-272, 278-279, 281-290; 322-323, 335-337, 341-345, 364-365; 402-406, 410-412.
- Tues. 9/9 *Ramayana*: Introductions by Mishra and Narayan; pp. 3-73
- Thurs. 9/11 *Ramayana*: pp. 74-120.
- Tues. 9/16 *Ramayana*: pp. 75-157
- Thurs. 9/18 Gandhi, Introduction and Part I, Chapters I-XIX
- Tues. 9/23 Gandhi, Part I, Chapters XX-XXV and Part II, entire
- Thurs. 9/25 Gandhi, Part III, entire
- Tues. 9/30 Gandhi, Part IV, entire
- Thurs. 10/2 Gandhi Part V, Chapters I-XVIII
- Tues. 10/7 Gandhi, Part IV, Chapters XIX-End

### II. China

- Thurs 10/9 Selections from Chuang Tzu
- Tues. 10/14 Selections from Chuang Tzu
- Thurs. 10/16 Chu Hsi, Part Two, Chapters 1-3
- Tues. 10/21 Chu Hsi, Part Two Chapters 4-7

**\*\*Wed. 10/22: First Papers Due by 5 PM\*\***

Thurs. 10/23 *Dream of the Red Chamber*, Introduction and Part I, Chapters 1-6

Tues. 10/28 *Dream...*, Part I, Chapters 7-18

Thurs. 10/30 *Dream...*, Part I, Chapters 19-25

Thurs. 11/6 *Dream...*, Part I, Chapters 26-33 and Part II, Chapters 34-40

**III. Japan**

Thurs 11/13 Selections from *The Pillow Book*

Tues. 11/18 Selections from *The Pillow Book*

**\*\*Wed. 11/19: Second Papers Due by 5 PM\*\***

Thurs. 11/20 Basho's *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*

Tues. 11/25 *Kokoro*, Foreword and pp. 1-80

Tues. 12/2 *Kokoro*, pp. 81-201

Thurs. 12/4 *Kokoro*, pp.201-248

**\*\*Friday 12/12: Third Paper Due by 5 PM\*\***