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### LSH 161H.01: Asian Humanities

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# LSH 161H--Asian Humanities

## Class and teacher information:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:50
- Liberal Arts 234
- Bradley Clough
- Office: LA 158
- Office Phone (406)-243-2837
- Bradley Clough's Email: [bradley.clough@mso.umt.edu](mailto:bradley.clough@mso.umt.edu)
- Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 4:00-6:00 and by appointment

## Course Description:

This course examines selected great works from four major Asian cultural spheres: the Middle East and Persia (Iran), South Asia ("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/Texts:

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

- T.B. Irving (translator), *Selections from the Noble Reading: An Anthology of Passages from the Qur'an*
- Abolqasem Ferdowsi (Dick Davis, translator), *The Legend of Seyavash*
- Naguib Mahfouz, *The Time and the Place and Other Stories*
- Gil Fronsdal (translator), *The Dhammapada*
- Barbara Stoler Miller (translator), *The Bhagavad-Gita: Krishna's Counsel in Time of War*
- Stephen Alter and Wimal Dissanayake (editors), *The Penguin Book of Modern Indian Short Stories*
- Philip J. Ivanhoe and Bryan w. Van Norden, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*
- Tsao Hsueh-Chin (Chi-Chen Wang, translator), *Dream of the Red Chamber*
- Matsuo Basho (Sam Hamill, translator), *Narrow Road to the Interior and Other Writings*
- Banana Yoshimoto, *Kitchen*

## Grading:

### *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. As part of preparation, please compose three topics or questions for discussion for each reading assignment. No more than two absences will be accepted without written authorization from the Health Service or an advisor, counselor, or administrator. (20% of the final grade).

Four 5 page Papers. A choice of topics will be assigned for each paper, but there is also the opportunity to develop your own topic, with the instructor's approval (each paper is 20% of the final grade; thus the papers are worth 80% of the final grade in total).

### **Disability Modifications**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

## Class Meetings and Assignments:

### *THE MIDDLE EAST and PERSIA (greater Iran)*

Date	Topic	Reading
Tues. 1/24	Introduction to the Course	
Thurs. 1/26	<i>Selections from the Noble Reading</i> (The Qur'an)	Selections
Tues. 1/31	<i>Selections from the Noble Reading</i> (The Qur'an)	Selections
Tues. 2/2	<i>The Legend of Seyavash</i>	pp. 1-50
Thurs. 2/7	<i>The Legend of Seyavash</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pp. 51-130</li> <li>"Translator's Afterword"</li> </ul>
Thurs. 2/9	Mahfouz's <i>The Time and the Place</i>	Selections
Tues. 2/14	Mahfouz's <i>The Time and the Place</i>	Selections

### *INDIA*

Date	Topic	Reading
Thurs. 2/16	<i>Dhammapada</i>	Selections
Tues. 2/21	<i>Dhammapada</i>	Selections
Thurs. 2/23	<i>Dhammapada</i>	Selections
Tues. 2/28	<i>Bhagavad-Gita</i>	First-Fifth Teachings
<b>**Wed. 3/1**</b>	<b>**First Papers Due by 4:00 PM in the Professor's Mailbox, LA 101**</b>	
Thurs. 3/2	<i>Bhagavad-Gita</i>	Six-Eleventh Teachings
Tues. 3/7	<i>Bhagavad-Gita</i>	Twelfth-Eighteenth Teachings
Thurs. 3/9	<i>Modern Indian Short Stories</i>	Selections
Tues. 3/14	<i>Modern Indian Short Stories</i>	Selections

### *CHINA*

Date	Topic	Reading
Thurs. 3/16	<i>The Analects of Kongzi/Confucius (Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy)</i>	Selections
Tues. 3/21 and Thurs. 3/23	<b>No Class – Spring Break</b>	
Tues. 3/28	<i>The Book of Mengzi/Mencius (Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy)</i>	Selections
<b>**Wed. 3/29**</b>	<b>**Second Papers Due by 4:00 PM in the Professor's Mailbox, LA 101**</b>	
Thurs. 3/30	Book of Zhuangzi/Chuang Tzu	Selections
Tues. 4/4	Book of Zhuangzi/Chuang Tzu	Selections
Thurs. 4/6	<i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i>	Part I, Chapters 1-6
Tues. 4/11	<i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i>	Part I, Chapters 7-18
Thurs. 4/13	<i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i>	Part I, Chapters 19-25
Tues. 4/18	<i>Dream of the Red Chamber</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part I, Chapters 26-33</li> <li>Part II, Chapters 34-40</li> </ul>

### *JAPAN*

Date	Topic	Reading
Thurs. 4/20	Basho	<i>The Narrow Road to the Interior</i>
Tues. 4/25	Basho	Select Haiku Poems
Thurs. 4/27	Yoshimoto, <i>Kitchen</i>	pp. 3-74
	<b>**Fri. 4/28 Third Papers Due by 4:00 PM in the Professor's Mailbox, LA 101**</b>	

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Tues. 5/2	Yoshimoto, <i>Kitchen</i>	pp. 75-105
Thurs. 5/4	Final Thoughts	
	<b>**Friday 5/12: Fourth Paper Due by 4:00 PM in the Professor's Mailbox, LA 101**</b>	