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Fall 9-1-2000

### AS 101H.01: Introduction to Asian Studies

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*University of Montana - Missoula*

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INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN STUDIES

Time: MWF 11:10–12:00

Instructor: Anthony Tribe

Room: SS 344

Office hours: M 12:10-1:00, T 2:10-3:00

Office: LA 152 (Phone: 243-6844)

This course is designed for students with little or no previous study of, or experience with, Asia and is intended to be an introduction to Asia for those who might be thinking of pursuing Asian Studies in more depth. At the same time it is suitable as a 'stand-alone' course, either for those interested in broadening their education through gaining some understanding of non-western societies and traditions, or for those with an Asian Studies Emphasis who wish to expand their knowledge of Asia beyond their area of specialization. It could also be of interest to Asian students who are curious about other Asian cultures and about the way the West looks at and studies Asia.

Content & Structure

- AS 101 focuses on a range of cultural areas, including South, South-East, Central and East Asia.
- It is intended as an introduction rather than a survey, and is composed of a broad cultural-geographical introduction followed by (four) modules that provide a series of 'samplers' that examine specific themes, issues and traditions. The approach is multi-disciplinary and, as well as being set in historical context, each module focuses on a core 'text', for example a novel or a film.
- The chronological emphasis is on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
- AS 101 is part of a two-course sequence, AS 101/102, designed to provide an opportunity for a broad introduction to Asian Studies. AS 101 is offered in the autumn, AS 102 in the spring semester. The two courses share the same structure but have different modules; the emphases in the cultural-geographical introduction also differ. It is possible to take either course singly as a 'stand-alone'.

Themes

A number of themes are given particular emphasis throughout the course:

- The Individual and Society.
- Cultural traditions that shaped and continue to shape Asian identity.
- The Impact of the West. (Some understanding of this theme is necessary for any grasp of contemporary Asia.)

### Readings, Lectures, Films

- Course materials include novels and films by Asian writers and film makers, as well as a number of documentary videos.
- Rhoads Murphey's textbook, *A History of Asia*, provides historical and cultural contexts, and integrates the course.
- Module 2, "South-East Asia: Cultural Traditions & the Colonial Experience" will be taught by Professor John Spores.
- One feature film is scheduled for evening viewing on Tues Oct 10th. **Attendance is required.**

### Course Requirements

Attendance, reading, participation in discussion, quizzes as required, plus

Two Mid-Term Exams	100 each
Two Three-Page reaction papers	100 each
Final Exam (non-inclusive)	<u>100</u>
	500

**Attendance:** absence from more than three class meetings will automatically lower your final grade by one letter.

### Required Books (available from the UC bookstore)

- Rhoads Murphey, *A History of Asia*. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
- Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind*, Penguin Books, 1996
- Fumiko Enchi, *The Waiting Years*. New York: Kodansha International, 1980.
- Faculty Pack, AS 101, Autumn 2000.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed  
by the date indicated

\* Asterisk indicates item in the FacPac

Date	Topic	Readings
1. Sept 6	Introduction to Course	
<b>Asia, a Cultural-Geographical Introduction</b>		
2. Sept 8	i. Asia Overview ii. South Asia 1: Map Orientation / South Asia Today	* Stanley Wolpert, "The Ecological Setting," in <i>A New History of India</i> , 3–13
3. Sept 11	South Asia 2: Cultural Traditions	Murphey, <i>A History of Asia</i> , 1–8, 42–3
4. Sept 13	China 1: Map Orientation / China Today	* W. Scott Morton, "The Land & People of China," in <i>China, its History and Culture</i> , 5–10
5. Sept 15	China 2: Cultural Traditions	Murphey, 29–33, 93–4
6. Sept 18	Japan 1: Map Orientation / Japan Today	* John Hunter Boyle, "Land and People," in <i>Modern Japan, the American Nexus</i> , 1–14
7. Sept 20	Japan 2: Cultural Traditions	Murphey, 38–9 ('Shinto') * Alan Roland, <i>In Search of Self in India and Japan</i> , 3–13
8. Sept 22	Special Focus: Buddhism 1. Origins and Spread	* Damian Keown, "Buddhism and Elephants," in <i>Buddhism. A Very Short Introduction</i> , 1–15

9. Sept 25 Special Focus: Buddhism  
2. Buddhism in Sri Lanka \* Robert Thurman, "The Basics of Buddhism," in *Wisdom and Compassion, the Sacred Art of Tibet*, 22–6
10. Sept 27 In-Class Exam

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**Module 1. South Asia:**  
**Society, Religion and Women in Contemporary India**  
(Core 'Text': film "Bandit Queen" dir. Shekhar Kapur)

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11. Sept 29 Indian Society 1: Class & Caste \* Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty (trans.), "Dismemberment: The Primeval Man is Sacrificed," in *Hindu Myths*, 27–8.  
\* A. L. Basham, "Society: Class, Family and Individual" in *The Wonder that was India*, 137-51
12. Oct 2 Indian Society 2: Purity & Pollution \* Richard Lannoy, "The Social Structure: the Caste System," in *The Speaking Tree, a Study of Indian Culture and Society*, 136–56
13. Oct 4 Hinduism: an Introduction Murphey, 21–5
14. Oct 6 The Goddess in Indian Religion \* R. K. Narayan, "Devi," in *Gods Demons and Others*, 49–63
15. Oct 9 Women in India: Traditional Roles \* A. L. Basham, "Women" in *The Wonder that was India*, 177–88
- Oct 10 Film, "Bandit Queen"  
7:00–9:30pm SS344

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|-----|--------|--|--|
| 16. | Oct 11 | Discussion of film “Bandit Queen”;<br>Women in India: Contemporary<br>Problems | * Mary Anne Weaver, “India’s<br>Bandit Queen,” in <i>The Atlantic<br/>Monthly</i> , 89–94, 96–8, 100,<br>102–4 |
| 17. | Oct 13 | Women in India: Contemporary<br>Responses                                      | * Madhu Kishwar, “The<br>Feminist Missionary,” in <i>Far<br/>Eastern Economic Review</i>                       |
| 18. | Oct 16 | <b>In-Class Exam</b>   |  |

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**Module 2. South-East Asia: Cultural Traditions & the Colonial Experience**  
(Core ‘Text’: Pramoedya Ananta Toer, *This Earth of Mankind*)

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\*\* Note: this module will be taught by Prof. J. Spores

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|-----|--------|---|---|
| 19. | Oct 18 | Map-Orientation & Cultural-<br>Historical Overview          | Murphey, 122–31<br>Start <i>This Earth of Mankind</i> |
| 20. | Oct 20 | Cultural-Historical Overview (cont.)                        | Murphey, 220–25, 228–33                               |
| 21. | Oct 23 | Influence of Indian Religious<br>Traditions 1               | Murphey, 285–311 (especially<br>298–301)              |
| 22. | Oct 25 | Influence of Indian Religious<br>Traditions 2               | Murphey, 338–44, 360–4                                |
| 23. | Oct 27 | The Colonial Experience in South-<br>East Asia              | Murphey, 401–17                                       |
| 24. | Oct 30 | Special Focus: Indonesia<br>1. Early Cultural Influences    | Continue <i>This Earth of Mankind</i>                 |
| 25. | Nov 1  | Special Focus: Indonesia<br>2. Islam, Animism and the Dutch | Continue <i>This Earth of Mankind</i>                 |
| 26. | Nov 3  | Discussion of Toer’s <i>This Earth of<br/>Mankind</i>       | Finish <i>This Earth of Mankind</i>                   |

Nov 3: Reaction Paper Due on *This  
Earth of Mankind*

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### Module 3. East Asia: Meiji Japan—Continuity & Change

(Core 'Text': Enchi Fumiko, *The Waiting Years*)

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|-----|--------|---|--|
| 27  | Nov 6  | Historical Overview   | Murphey, 151–7   |
| 28. | Nov 8  | Introduction to <i>The Waiting Years</i>                      | Start <i>The Waiting Years</i>   |
|     | Nov 10 | <b>Holiday</b> (Veterans Day)                                 |  |
| 29. | Nov 13 | The Impact of Buddhism on Japanese Culture                    | Murphey, 157–60<br>* Richard Robinson, <i>The Buddhist Religion</i> , 99–107 |
| 30. | Nov 15 | Women and Literature in Classical Japan                       | Murphey, 160–7   |
| 31  | Nov 17 | The Tokugawa Shogunate  | Murphey, 249–59  |
| 32. | Nov 20 | Meiji Restoration   | Murphey, 305–9   |
|     |        | <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> (Nov 22–24)                       |  |
| 33. | Nov 27 | Western Ideas in Meiji Japan                                  | Murphey, 309–11  |
| 34. | Nov 29 | Discussion of <i>The Waiting Years</i>                        | Finish <i>The Waiting Years</i>  |
|     |        | <u>Nov 29: Reaction Paper Due on <i>The Waiting Years</i></u> |  |

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### Module 4. Central & East Asia:

#### The Dragon & the Snow-Lion—China, Tibet & the Dalai Lamas

(Core 'Text': documentary video, "Red Flag Over Tibet")

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|-----|-------|--|---|
| 35. | Dec 1 | Tibet ('The Snow-Lion'): a Hermit Kingdom?             | * Victor Chan, "Tibet: the Forbidden Land," in <i>South Asia (Insight Guide)</i> , 189–97 |
| 36  | Dec 4 | China ('The Dragon') and its Historical Claim to Tibet | * Melvyn Goldstein, Preface, <i>The Snow Lion and the Dragon</i> , ix-xii                 |

37. Dec 6 Tibet and Mao Zedong:  
"Red Flag Over Tibet"  
(Documentary Video: Orville Schell,  
1994) \* Goldstein, "Chinese  
Communist Rule: The Mao  
Era," in *The Snow Lion and the  
Dragon*, 37–60
38. Dec 8 Tibet, China and the West  
(Finish "Red Flag Over Tibet") \* Donald Lopez, "Introduction,"  
to *Prisoners of Shangri-La*, 1–  
11
39. Dec 11 The 14th Dalai Lama  
"Dalai Lama: Soul of Tibet"  
(Documentary Video, 1997) \* Glenn H. Mullin, "Faces of  
the Dalai Lama: Reflections of  
the Man and the Tradition," in  
*The Quest, Autumn 1993*, 24–9,  
80–3
40. Dec 13 The Religious Dimension: Tibetan  
Buddhism \* Paul Williams, "Tibet &  
Tantra" in *Mahāyāna  
Buddhism*, 185–93  
\* Robert Thurman, "A Buddhist  
Nation," in *Wisdom and  
Compassion, the Sacred Art of  
Tibet*, 30–32
41. Dec 15 The Status of Tibet: the Present and  
the Future \* Peter Hessler, "Tibet Through  
Chinese Eyes," *Atlantic  
Monthly, February 1999*, 56–66

**Final Exam: Monday Dec. 18th, 8:10–9:00 am**