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AS 101H.01: Introduction to Asian Studies

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INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN STUDIES

Time: MWF 11:10–12:00

Room: SS 344

Instructor: Anthony Tribe

Office hours: MTh 4:00–5:00

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 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.
- One feature film is scheduled for evening viewing on Tues Oct 8th. **Attendance is required.**

Course Requirements

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

Two Mid-Term Exams	100 each
One Three-Page reaction paper	100 each
Final Exam (non-inclusive)	<u>100</u>
	400

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, 4th ed., 2003.
- Fumiko Enchi, *The Waiting Years*. New York: Kodansha International, 1980.

CO UR SE S CH ED UL E

Readings should be completed
by the date indicated

* Asterisk indicates item on reserve
in the Library

Date	Topic	Readings
Wed Sept 4	Introduction to Course	
<hr/> Asia, a Cultural-Geographical Introduction <hr/>		
Fri Sept 6	Asia Overview	Murphey, <i>A History of Asia</i> , 1-9
Mon Sept 9	South Asia 1: Map Orientation / South Asia Today	* S. Wolpert, "The Ecological Setting," from <i>A New History of India</i> . Murphey, <i>A History of Asia</i> , 437-9 ("Bangladesh and Pakistan"), 470-71 ("India Today")
Wed Sept 11	South Asia 2: Cultural Traditions	Murphey, 43-4 * Robert Thurman, "The Basics of Buddhism" from <i>Wisdom and Compassion, the Sacred Art of Tibet</i>
Fri Sept 13	China 1: Map Orientation / China Today	* W. Scott Morton, "The Land & People of China" from <i>China, its History and Culture</i>
Mon Sept 16	China 2: Cultural Traditions	Murphey, 30-35 ("Confucianism," "Daoism"), 94-5 ("Confucius")
Wed Sept 18	Southeast Asia: Map Orientation / Southeast Asia Today	Murphey, 346-52, 474

Fri Sept 20	Central Asia: Map Orientation / Central Asia Today	Murphey, 439–40 (“Afghanistan”) * Martin McCauley, from <i>Afghanistan and Central Asia</i>
Mon Sept 23	Japan: Map Orientation / Japan Today	Murphey, 39–40 (“Shinto”) * J. H. Boyle, “Land and People,” from <i>Modern Japan, the American Nexus</i>
Wed Sept 25	In-Class Exam	

Module 1. South Asia:
Society, Religion and Women in Contemporary India
(Core ‘Text’: film “Fire” dir. Deepa Mehta)

Fri Sept 27	Introduction to the Module	* Madhu Kishwar, “The Feminist Missionary,” from <i>Far Eastern Economic Review</i> * Short Story: “Giribala,” by Mahasweta Devi
Mon Sept 30	Indian Society: Caste	* Gurcharan Das, “Caste,” from <i>India Unbound</i> .
Wed Oct 2	Indian Society: Dalits	To be assigned
Fri Oct 4	Indian Religion: Hinduism, an Introduction	Murphey, 22–6
Mon Oct 7	Indian Religion: Goddesses and Heroines	* Kim Knott, “Divine Heroes: The Epic Tradition”
Tues Oct 8	Film, “Fire,” dir. Deepa Mehta 7:00–9:30pm SS344	

Wed Oct 9	Women in India: Contemporary Problems. - Discussion of film "Fire"	* Ginu Kamani, "Burning Bright, a Conversation with Deepa Mehta about 'Fire'" * C. M. Nain, "A Dissent on 'Fire'"
Fri Oct 11	Women in India: Traditional Roles	* A. L. Basham, "Women" in <i>The Wonder that was India</i> , 177-88
Mon Oct 14	Women in India: Contemporary Responses	* Kim Knott, "The Women's Movement." * Short Story: "The Unlucky Woman," by Manik Bandyopadhyay
Wed Oct 16	To be Arranged	To be assigned
Fri Oct 18	In-Class Exam	

Module 3. East Asia: Meiji Japan—Continuity & Change
(Core 'Text': Enchi Fumiko, *The Waiting Years*)

Mon Oct 21	Introduction to the Module	Murphey, 154-8 Start <i>The Waiting Years</i>
Wed Oct 23	Meiji Restoration Introduction to <i>The Waiting Years</i>	Murphey, 312-16 ("Japan among the Powers")
Fri Oct 25	Western Ideas in Meiji Japan	Murphey, 316-19 ("Imperialism and Americans in Asia")
Mon Oct 28	Women and Literature in Classical Japan	Murphey, 163-71 (starting from "Heian Culture") * Edward Seidensticker and Haruo Shirane, "The Tale of Genji"
Wed Oct 30	The Impact of China on Japanese Culture	Murphey, 158-63 ("The Link with China")

Fri Nov 1	The Tokugawa Shogunate: the role of the Samurai	Murphey, 255–266
Mon Nov 4	The Tokugawa Shogunate: poetry and play	* Haruo Shirane, “The Poetry of Basho”
Wed Nov 6	Religion in Meiji Japan	* H. Byron Earhart, from <i>Japanese Religion, Unity & Diversity</i> .
Fri Nov 8	Discussion of <i>The Waiting Years</i> <u>Nov 8 Reaction Paper Due on <i>The Waiting Years</i></u>	Finish <i>The Waiting Years</i>
Mon Nov 11	Holiday (Veterans’ Day)	

Module 4. Central & East Asia:
The Dragon & the Snow–Lion—China, Tibet & the Dalai Lamas
(Core ‘Text’: Documentary Video, “Red Flag Over Tibet”)

Wed Nov 13	Introduction to Module - Tibet & the World	* Melvyn Goldstein, from <i>The Snow Lion and the Dragon</i> * Victor Chan, “Tibet: the Forbidden Land,” 189
Fri Nov 15	China’s Historical Claim to Tibet	* Victor Chan, “Tibet: the Forbidden Land,” 190–197
Mon Nov 18	The 20th Century: Chinese Communist Rule - The Mao Era - Start “Red Flag Over Tibet” (Doc. Video: Orville Schell, 1994)	To be assigned
Wed Nov 20	The 20th Century: Tibet after Mao - Finish “Red Flag Over Tibet”	To be assigned
Fri Nov 22	Tibetan Buddhism: an Introduction	To be assigned

Mon Nov 25	Tibetan Buddhism: the Tradition of Incarnate Lamas	* Jonathon Mirsky, "A Lamas' Who's Who," from <i>The New York Review of Books</i> * Robert Thurman, <i>Wisdom and Compassion, the Sacred Art of Tibet</i> , 30-32 ("A Buddhist Nation")
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Thanksgiving Holiday (Nov 27-29)

Mon Dec 2	Tenzin Gyatso. the 14th Dalai Lama "Dalai Lama: Soul of Tibet" (Documentary Video, 1997)	* Glenn H. Mullin, "Faces of the Dalai Lama: Reflections on the Man and the Tradition"
Wed Dec 4	Tibet: Present Perspectives & Future Possibilities	* Peter Hessler, "Tibet Through Chinese Eyes"
Fri Dec 6	Tibet in Western Imagination	* Donald Lopez, from <i>Prisoners of Shangri-La</i>

Module 4. Asian Film

Mon Dec 9	Asian Film 1	To be assigned
Wed Dec 11	Asian Film 2	To be assigned
Fri Dec 13	Asian Film 3	To be assigned

Final Exam: Tuesday Dec. 17th, 8:10-9:00am