ASIAN 235
Introduction to the Study of Asian Cultures

COURSE TIMES AND LOCATION
Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:10-11:30
Location: East Hall 1068
Discussion: Fridays, 9:10-10:00, 10:10-11:00, 12:10-1:00
Location: see course schedule

INSTRUCTOR CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS
- Professor: Emily Wilcox (eewilcox@umich.edu)
  Office hours: Thursdays 12:30-2:30 in South Thayer Building 5159 (5th Floor)
- GSI: Angie Baecker (abaecker@umich.edu)
  Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 in South Thayer Building 5076 (5th Floor)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers an introduction to Asian studies, the interdisciplinary field dedicated to understanding Asia through its complex and dynamic cultures, past and present. By learning about the history, religion, literature, politics, and popular culture of Asia, students will begin to see beyond commonplace perspectives and generalizations, gaining the skills to think in critical and informed ways about Asia and its place in the world. Students will learn to foreground Asian voices and perspectives in the study of Asian cultures, and they will reflect on the ways in which issues such as colonization, nation-building, and gender shape contemporary Asia and its many representations. Through this course, students will be introduced to current research in the field of Asian studies, and they will carry out a small independent research project. Students from all departments and backgrounds are welcome to take this course. No prior knowledge of Asian language or culture is required.
COURSE OBJECTIVES

• Learn about foundational themes in the historical and contemporary cultures of East, South, and Southeast Asia, as well as key concepts and debates in the field of Asian studies.
• Gain critical skills for approaching Asia’s place in world history and in contemporary global culture that enable one to have an informed perspective about Asia.
• Learn to critique conventional media representations and cultural stereotypes about Asia.
• Develop the basic research and analytical skills necessary to responsibly approach the study of Asian cultures within any academic discipline or professional field.
• Complete a small original research project in Asian studies.

COURSE MATERIALS
This course takes advantage of materials available for free to students through the UM Library. All required course readings and viewings are available either through the UM library or on the Internet and will be provided electronically to students via Canvas. Students are responsible for the costs of printing or streaming these materials for their personal use. No additional purchased readings are required for this course.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
This course is designed for cumulative learning in which students receive regular feedback on their progress and have many opportunities to improve. For this reason, students are evaluated on a series of small assignments spread out through the semester, rather than a few large exams at the end of the term. Students may find this approach demanding on a weekly basis, but it should alleviate the pressure of midterm and final exam preparation and offer a more authentic reflection of sustained student engagement during the course. Students will also have opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester. Requirements for this class and the percentage breakdown for the final course grade is as follows, with detailed explanations for each item explained below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Participation (includes one presentation)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading Journals (twelve total equally weighted)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (three total, equally weighted; one in-class, two take-home)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper Pre-assignments (five total)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Lecture Attendance: Students are expected to attend all lectures for this course. Attendance will be taken and will account for 10% of the overall course grade. Weekly attendance grades will be recorded on the Canvas grade book. It is the students’ responsibility to check in with the GSI at each lecture to ensure they have been counted.

Discussion Participation: Students are expected to attend all discussion meetings and to participate in all discussion activities. Full participation includes all of the following: arriving on time, bringing the weekly reading to class in printed form, bringing a notebook, asking questions and making contributions to discussion, listening attentively when a classmate or the GSI is speaking, and contributing to a positive class atmosphere in which everyone has an opportunity to contribute. If students have concerns about their participation grades, they
should speak directly with the GSI during office hours. Students must attend discussion during their assigned time.

**Student Presentation:** Student presentations will take place during discussion in Weeks 2 through 8 of the semester. Each student is required to give one presentation during the semester, which will count toward 1/3 of student’s the overall discussion participation grade. Students should work in pairs and will sign up during discussion in Week 1. The purpose of student presentations is to give students a chance to gain a deeper understanding of material presented in the weekly readings and viewings and to share this knowledge with their classmates in a way that helps students better understand the reading and stimulate discussion. Specific requirements and grading criteria can be found in the document Student Presentation Guidelines posted on Canvas.

**Weekly Reading Journals:** Weekly reading journals are designed to evaluate students’ completion of the assigned readings/viewings and to stimulate students’ active and critical engagement with the course materials. **Journals are due by 9:00am on Friday and must be submitted electronically on Canvas.** During Weeks 1-9, Reading Journals will respond to the assigned readings and viewings for that week. During Weeks 10-13, Reading Journals will respond to the Guest Lectures and their corresponding short primary source readings. Journals are due all weeks when a discussion is held and are marked in the Schedule with a “→” icon. A Reading Guide with specific question prompts will be provided by Monday each week before the assignment is due.

**Reading Journal Grading Criteria:** Reading Journals should be 400-600 words in length (approximately one page, single-spaced) and should accomplish the following:

1. Respond to the questions posed in the weekly prompt;
2. Demonstrate completion of the weekly readings/viewings, usually by citing specific examples taken from these materials in your response;
3. Provide critical reflection on the weekly readings/viewings based on your own personal thoughts and ideas.

How you organize your response is open, but be sure that you reference all of the readings/viewings somewhere in your response (references can be by title or author; no formal citations are needed). How you demonstrate critical reflection is open. Here are some questions you might consider: How do the readings/viewings connect to issues discussed in lecture? What did you find most interesting about the readings/viewings and why? Do you agree with the ideas presented? What issues did the authors overlook? How do these issues or ideas relate to your own life or to things you are learning about in other classes? Did this reading change your perspective on something?

Journals are worth 5 points total and will be graded using the following rubric:

- 5 Excellent– shows completion of the assignment in its entirety;
- 4 Good—nearly complete but missing some element;
- 3 Fair—submitted late or missing a major element;
- 0 No submission

Reading Journals are graded on completion (not on providing “correct” answers), so students should not feel concerned if they did not fully understand the reading the first time. Students are encouraged to use discussion as a chance to ask questions about the readings and get further clarification. (Quizzes are the time when students’ correct understandings of the course materials are assessed.) Assignments must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Reading Journals may be submitted late but will automatically receive a grade of 3/5,
Quizzes: In place of midterm and final exams, students will take three short quizzes. The first quiz will be in class, and the rest will be take-home. Content for quizzes will be drawn from lectures, required readings/viewings, and section discussions. Students should view the Quiz Study Guides posted on Canvas for more information.

Final Project Assignments: During the final unit of the course, students will complete five short assignments designed to help them develop skills and stay on schedule for their final papers. These assignments will be submitted on Canvas and will be due at noon on Sunday following the section for that week. Detailed requirements for these assignments will be provided at the start of Unit Three.

Final Project: Students will complete one 8-10 page final paper for this course, which will be the culmination of research and writing carried out during Unit Three. The focus of this paper will be a cultural analysis of a single Asian primary source text. The term “text” here is very open, and students are encouraged to be creative and explore any medium of their interest. For example, students could choose to analyze a novel, an art work, a memoir or essays, a musical composition, a historical newspaper, a map, a play or dance performance, a film, a political event, a religious scripture or ritual, etc. If they contain language, sources may be analyzed either in their original language or in translation. Students will offer their own analysis of the primary source material, building on their own original research and interpretation and using skills and ideas developed in the course. Papers will be submitted on Canvas and will be due at the time of the officially scheduled final exam for the course. Detailed guidelines will be distributed in the middle of the semester, and students are encouraged to approach the instructors early to brainstorm possible topics.

POLICIES
Absences: Students who miss lecture or discussion should contact other students and check on Canvas to find out what was missed. It is the students’ responsibility to catch up on missed material. Excused absences will be provided only in the event of required school activities or health emergencies. In both cases, students should provide written documentation to the GSI and get a confirmation of the excused absence via email.

Extra Credit: Students may receive up to 3 percentage points on their overall course grade by attending events on campus related to Asian culture. This could be a performance, a lecture at one of the International Institute Area Centers, a student group activity, or a workshop. If a student has identified a potential extra credit event, s/he should post the related email or URL for the event on the “Extra Credit Events” discussion board on the course Canvas site and email the professor (eewilcox@umich.edu) to receive confirmation. To receive extra credit, students must submit a report on the event via Canvas WITHIN ONE WEEK using the “Extra Credit” assignment page. A report should include the following: 1) your name; 2) description of the event attended (including date, location, and title of event); 3) a one-paragraph reflection on your experience of the event. Students will receive .5% toward the overall course grade for each event attended, with a maximum of 6 events total.

Office Hours: Office hours are held on a drop-in basis, and all students are strongly encouraged to attend. This is a precious opportunity to get to know your instructors and to get one-on-one attention and advice. Take advantage of it! You can use office hours to get
feedback on a recent assignment, to brainstorm ideas for your final project, or to talk about the class and your interests in general. You do not need an appointment to attend. Times and locations can be found at the top of this syllabus.

Email: Students are responsible for regularly checking and reading all course-related emails and Canvas announcements. Faculty will make every effort to respond to student emails within 24 hours, excluding weekends. Questions posed in email should be limited to those that can be answered within 2-3 sentences. Complex content-related questions or requests for feedback on individual assignments should be addressed during office hours or in discussion. Questions relevant to the class as a whole (clarifications on assignment requirements, quiz deadlines, etc.) should be addressed in lecture.

Extensions/Late submissions: There will be no extensions for assignments in this class. However, late assignments will be accepted with penalties. Reading Journals submitted after the deadline will lose 2 out of a total of 5 points. Quizzes and final paper assignments will lose 5% for each 24 hour period past the official due date.

Disabilities and Special Accommodations: This course is intended to be accessible to students with all abilities and special circumstances. Students needing special accommodations for documented disabilities or other reasons should present requests via email within the first two full weeks of classes in order to ensure plans can be made to comply with these needs.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Plagiarism will result in an automatic failing of this course and possible disciplinary action by the University. It is your responsibility to understand the rules of plagiarism and to cite your sources appropriately in assignments for this course. For your own benefit, please read the following explanation of plagiarism as defined by the UM:
http://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity/understanding-plagiarism

Electronics Policy: In order to encourage distraction-free learning and classroom participation, no laptops, tablets, or phones will be allowed during lecture or discussion for this course (except in the case of student presentations). Students should bring the required readings in printed form for reference during weekly discussions. Students are also encouraged to bring their Reading Journals or other reading notes to class for reference during discussions.

Classroom environment: All students are of equal importance and value in this classroom. If you ever feel that your ability to participate and learn in this class is limited by the behavior of the professor, the GSI, or of other students, please let the professor or GSI know immediately so that change can be made. We welcome student input at all times and on all aspects of the class. Humanistic inquiry acknowledges and values diversity in ideas and personal experiences. Let us join in celebrating these differences (and similarities), and let us work together to make this classroom safe space for the expression of all views and all backgrounds.
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University of Michigan

SCHEDULE
This schedule provides an overview of weekly lecture themes, assigned readings and viewings, and assignment due dates. For details regarding these items, please visit the specific content areas and files posted on the course Canvas website.

Key:
• = Required reading or viewing, reading documents available on Canvas
→ = Assignment to be submitted online BEFORE section, see weekly prompt
** = Quiz to be completed in class or online, see instructions in study guide
❖ = Research paper assignment due by noon on Sunday AFTER section

Unit One: Key Themes for Understanding Asia

Week 1: Asia and Asian Studies Today

Tues, Sept 8 – Introduction to the Course: What is Asian Studies?

Thurs, Sept 10 – Global Asia: Korean Wave, Bollywood, Anime, and More

Readings/Viewings:
• VIEW Raihan - I'tiraf Music Video with English subtitles (4 min)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsa3m3q0UCU
• VIEW “Journey Into Islamic South East Asia” (12 min)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_R_QLX-ZKY
• VIEW “Indonesia: Country Profile” (4 min)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWk9gCKEkgw

→ Weekly Reading Journal #1 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

Week 2: Languages and Religions of Asia

Tues, Sept 15 – Words as Culture: Introduction to Asian Languages

Thurs, Sept 17 – Karma, Zen, and the Dao: Religion in Asia

Readings/Viewings:
• VIEW Language samples video (see Quiz 1 Study Guide) (5 min)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c7P_ZLnh3b4
• READ “Tongues, Texts, and Scripts” by Carolyn Brown Heinz in Asian Cultural Traditions, pp. 41-75 (Waveland Press, 1999)
• READ “Religions of India in Practice” by Richard Davis in Donald Lopez, ed. Asian Religions in Practice: An Introduction, pp. 8-55 (Princeton University Press, 1999)

→ Weekly Reading Journal #2 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.
Week 3: Art and Poetics in Asian Culture

** Quiz 1 IN CLASS on Sept 22nd

Tues, Sept 22 – Designing Asia: Visual Culture and Architecture

Thurs, Sept 24 – Between Stage and Page: Asian Performance and Literary Worlds

Readings/Viewings:

- VIEW 30 minutes of your choice from the Asian Art Museum archive: https://www.youtube.com/user/AsianArtMuseum/videos?sort=p&view=0&flow=grid

→ Weekly Reading Journal #3 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

Week 4: Colonialism and Imperialism

Tues, Sept 29 – India, Inc.: European Colonialism in Asia

Thurs, Oct 1 – Asian Imperialism: Japanese Empire and the Pacific War

Readings/Viewings:

- VIEW “Colonial Rule in Southeast Asia” (12 min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01Ze0DshtIo
- VIEW “Remnants of the Japanese colonial period in Taiwan's education system” (9 min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waR5MwKF9Gg

→ Weekly Reading Journal #4 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

Week 5: The Making of Modern Asia

Tues, Oct 6 – Expelling the West: Anti-imperialism and Decolonization

Thurs, Oct 8 – Inventing the Nation: Social Movements and Imagined Communities

Readings/Viewings:
Weekly Reading Journal #5 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

**Quiz 2 (TAKE HOME). See Canvas for due date and submission information.**

Unit Two: Critical Approaches in Asian Studies

Week 6: Orientalism and Asia as “Other” to Europe and the U.S.

Tues, Oct 13 – Orientalism and Other Ailments: Ten Pitfalls for Thinking About Asia

Thurs, Oct 15 – “Yellow Peril”: Asia in the American Imagination

Readings/Viewings:

- READ “Club O’Noodles Laughter From the Children of War” by Yutian Wong in *Choreographing Asian America*, pp. 60-84 (Wesleyan University Press, 2010)
- VIEW “Red Chinese Battle Plan” circa 1966 Cold War Anti-Communist Propaganda Film (25 min) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbVIF_K3MC0&list=PLb79l658DLrGAz0F7jcP VXnKmV_YLezdi&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbVIF_K3MC0&list=PLb79l658DLrGAz0F7jcP VXnKmV_YLezdi&index=3)
- VIEW “Asian Americans Respond To Racist Comments” (3 min) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPioJP39dW4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPioJP39dW4)

Weekly Reading Journal #6 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

Week 7: Gender and Sexuality in Asian Studies

Tues, Oct 20 – NO CLASS (FALL BREAK)

Thurs, Oct 22 – Can the Subaltern Speak? Power and Gender in Asian Studies
Readings/Viewings:

- “Indian Documentaries–I am: Homosexuality in India (Being gay in India)” (9 min) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QRPPn_qA2E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QRPPn_qA2E)

→ Weekly Reading Journal #7 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

**Week 8: Asia Beyond Nations**

Tues, Oct 27 – Cultures Across Borders: Displacement, Migration, and Minorities in Asia

Thurs, Oct 29 – Global Chinatown: Asian Cultures Outside Asia

Readings/Viewings:

- “Maid in Hong Kong” (14 min) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcOxMp0akhU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bcOxMp0akhU)

→ Weekly Reading Journal #8 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

**Quiz 2 (TAKE HOME). See Canvas for due date and submission information.**

**Part Three: Research Projects**

**Week 9: Getting Started On Your Own Project**

Tues, Nov 3 – You, the Scholar: Choosing Sources and Doing Research in Asian Studies

Thurs, Nov 5 – Library Workshop

Readings/Viewings:

- Samples of High Quality Student Essays in Asian Studies

→ Weekly Reading Journal #9 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

- Final Paper Assignment 1 “Primary vs. Secondary Sources” due Sunday at noon.

**Week 10: Voices from the Experts – Current Research in Asian Studies**
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Tues, Nov 10 -- Guest Lecture 1: “Japanese Colonial Ideology and the Industrial Exhibition of 1915” by Se-Mi Oh, Assistant Professor of Modern Korean History, University of Michigan

Thurs, Nov 12 – Guest Lecture 2: “Who Is the Dalai Lama?” by Donald Lopez, Arthur E. Link Distinguished University Professor of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies, University of Michigan

Readings/Viewings:
- VIEW “Historical images from the Industrial Exhibition of 1915” (image file, will be posted on Canvas by October 27th)
- READ “long life” poem by the current Dalai Lama, translated by Donald Lopez

⇒ Weekly Reading Journal #10 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

- Final Paper Assignment 2 “Project Proposal” (1 pp) due Sunday at noon.

**Week 11: Voices from the Experts – Current Research in Asian Studies**

Tues, Nov 17 – Guest Lecture 3: "Taming a Wild Monkey: Reading Literature as Liturgy" by Benjamin Brose, Assistant Professor of Chinese Buddhism, University of Michigan

Thurs, Nov 19 – Guest Lecture 4: "Myth or History? The Life of a God" by Varuni Bhatia, Assistant Professor of Hindu Studies, University of Michigan

Readings/Viewings:
- READ Selections from *Xiyouji (Journey to the West)* Volume 1, ch. 14, pp. 306-320, translated by Anthony Wu
- READ Selections from Shisher Kumar Ghose “Lord Gauranga or Salvation for all” Calcutta, 1907. (Primary Source)
- Recommended reading for Guest Lecture 4: “Images of Nabadwip: Place, Evidence, and Inspiration” by Varuni Bhatia (Secondary Source)

⇒ Weekly Reading Journal #11 due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

- Final Paper Assignment 3 “Primary Source Analysis” (2 pp) due Sunday at noon.

**Week 12: Voices from the Experts – Current Research in Asian Studies**

Tues, Nov 24 – Guest Lecture 5: "Re-Imagining Japan's Cold-War World" by Christopher Hill, Assistant Professor of Modern Japanese Literature, University of Michigan

Thurs, Nov 26 NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

Readings/Viewings:
- READ excerpt from Ôe Kenzaburô's novel *A Personal Matter*
NO SECTIONS OR READING JOURNALS THIS WEEK (content for this week goes in Reading Journal #12)

**Week 13: Voices from the Experts – Current Research in Asian Studies**

Tues, Dec 1 – Guest Lecture 6: “Filipino Ghosts and the Global Occult in the Early Twentieth Century” by Deirdre De La Cruz, Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian Studies and History, University of Michigan

Thurs, Dec 3 – Course Wrap-up, Tips for Final Projects

Readings/Viewings:

- VIEW Image collection “Album de Fotografias Espiritas”

⇒ Weekly Reading Journal #12 (on Guest Lectures 5 and 6) due Friday at 9:00am on Canvas.

  - Final Paper Assignment 4 “Secondary Source Analysis” (2 pp) due Sunday at noon.

**Week 14: Work on Final Papers**

Tues, Dec 8 – NO LECTURE (work on your final papers)

Tues, Dec 10 – NO LECTURE (work on your final papers)

⇒ In place of Reading Journal, please submit your “Seed Draft” on Canvas, due at 9:00am.

  - Final Paper Assignment 5 “Seed Draft” (2 pp) due Friday in section – BRING A HARD COPY TO SECTION FOR PEER REVIEW

Final Papers are due on Canvas at 6:00pm on Thursday, December 17th.