HRS 071: Arts and Ideas of Asia: Medieval to Modern

Spring 2007
Instructor: Sujatha Moni
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Office Hrs.: Tues&Thurs: 10.30 to 12.00 p.m. at Alpine 157

Course Description
Introduction to the cultural history of late medieval and modern Asia incorporating examples of art, literature, philosophy, and religion, providing a survey of China, India, and several other distinct cultures of the areas surrounding them--especially Japan. Topics covered include cultural, historical, and political factors contributing to our understanding of Asian societies, their encounters with Western Imperialism, the rise of nationalism, women’s roles within society, the cultural place of food, and Asian Immigrant identities.

Required Readings
1. G. L. Anderson, Masterpieces of the Orient
3. Girish Karnad, The Dreams of Tipu Sultan
4. Tom Stoppard, Indian Ink
5. Tagore, The Home and the World
6. Aihwa Ong, Bewitching Women, Pious Men
7. Essays and Articles available on Electronic Reserve, Locus and at the Reserve Desk of the CSUS Library. In order to access these required materials on-line at the library website, you must have a valid saclink account.
All the Required books are available at Hornet Bookstore.

Course Requirements
1. 15% in-class Oral report on any required reading or film of your choice.
2. 25% in-class Mid-term.
3. 25% take-home written Assignment-I, due around the middle of the semester.
4. 25% take-home Assignment II, due on the last day of class.
5. 10% Attendance. If you have more than four “excused” absences, you will risk failing the course.
6. Both the take-home assignments should be minimum 3 full pages and maximum 4-pages long, typed and double-spaced, in 12-point font with 1” margins all-around.
7. All the above course requirements must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

Oral Reports
All Oral Reports will be at the beginning of each reading. They should be minimum 5 minutes and maximum 10 minutes long. The aim of this exercise is to help students develop strategies of engagement with the text. Students should be able to effectively extract information from the text, and communicate the arguments presented in a clear, logical and understandable format. Presentations should move beyond summarizing the readings. They
should identify and explain the main themes/arguments presented; the theoretical implications of the issues discussed; and the comparisons that could be made with other readings from the class. Presentations will be graded on the basis of completeness, accuracy, clarity, and complexity of issues and arguments presented. While you are allowed to use notes, desist from reading the entire presentation.

The following is the Grading Rubric for Oral Reports:

A A presentation in this category will successfully address specific issues raised by the text, discuss their significance and how they contribute to the on-going debates/discussions in this class. It will provide a **complex critical analysis** of these issues, draw relevant comparisons with other class readings, and provide relevant additional information (such as background information, definitions, pictures or other visuals, etc). The presentation should raise the level of intellectual discussions on the text. It will be coherent and well-organized, and will enable better comprehension of the text.

B A presentation in this category will discuss specific issues within the text, their interpretation and some significance. It will be well organized and coherent. It will attempt some comparisons with other class readings. The presentation should enable better comprehension of the text.

C A presentation in this category will identify some of the issues raised by the text and try to interpret them. It will attempt to be coherent and organized. It may not rise beyond the level of summary or interpretation.

D A presentation in this category includes major misinterpretations of the text, fails to make relevant connections, and does not reflect preparation or organization.

**Plagiarism is a serious offense and results in an ‘F’ as final grade for the course.** Students found guilty of plagiarism can be suspended or expelled from the university. For statement of university policy on Academic Dishonesty see [http://www.csus.edu/schedule/additi.htm#ACAD](http://www.csus.edu/schedule/additi.htm#ACAD)

Students with documented disability and verification from SSWD, should contact me as soon as possible for academic accommodations.
Schedule
(subject to minor alterations with adequate prior notice)

Literature, History, Culture

Jan 29  Introduction to Asian Cultures and Societies
Mon

Jan 31  **China**: from *Masterpieces of the Orient*, pages 477 to 508

Feb 5  Continue *Masterpieces* 508 to 556
Mon  Film: *Rise of the Dragon*

Feb 7  **Japan**: “Japanese in the West Coast” from *Asian American Studies: A Film: Japan: The Land of the Rising Sun*

Feb 12  *Masterpieces* pages 659 to 690
Mon  Also refer to “The Female Entertainment Tradition in Medieval Japan” from *Performing Feminisms* (Library Electronic Reserve)

Feb 14  **India**: Karnad, *Dreams of Tipu Sultan*

Feb 19  Continue *Dreams of Tipu Sultan*
Mon  Read from [http://www.nationalgalleries.org/tipu/index.htm](http://www.nationalgalleries.org/tipu/index.htm):
1. Tiger; 2. Tipu Biography; and 5. India

Feb 21  Said, “Introduction” from *Orientalism*, (Electronic Reserve)

Feb 26  **Mid-term: In-class Exam**
Mon

Western Influences and State formation

Feb 28  Stoppard, *Indian Ink*
Vijay Prashad, “Of the Mysterious East” from *Karma of Brown Folk* (Electronic Reserve)

March 5  Continue *Indian Ink*
Mon  Homi Bhabha, “Of Mimicry and Man” from *Location of Culture* (Electronic Reserve)

March 7  Read *Sources of Chinese Tradition* – p.198 to 218; p. 233 to 249 (Electronic Reserve)

March 12  Continue *Sources of Chinese Tradition* from p. 314 to 319; p. 352 to 356 p. 392 to 414 (Electronic Reserve)
March 14  “The Red Lantern” from Masterpieces, pages 557 to 592
March 19  Tagore, Home and the World – Read upto p. 84
March 21  Continue Home and the World – Read upto p. 142
March 26 to April 1  Spring Break
   April 2  Continue Home and the World – Read to the end
          Mon  Read Chatterjee, “Women and the Nation” from The Nation and its Fragments (Electronic Reserve)
   April 4  Japanese Short Stories: “Rashomon” and “In a Grove” from Masterpieces
          Assignment I due
   April 9  Film: Kurasawa, Rashomon
          Mon
   April 11 Continue Film, followed by discussion of film and stories
   April 16  Modern South East Asia: Read Ong, Bewitching Women, Pious Men – Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2 (p.1 to 51)
          Mon
   April 18  Continue Ong – Chapters 5 & 6 (p.159 to 215)
   April 23  Continue Ong – Chapters 8 & 9 (p.244 to 298)
          Mon

Eating Culture
   April 25  Barbas, “‘I'll Take Chop Suey’: Restaurants as Agents of Culinary and Cultural Change” from Journal of Popular Culture (from Locus on Library website )
   April 30  Uma Narayan, “Eating Cultures” from Dislocating Cultures (Electronic Reserve)
   May 2    Mahasweta Devi, “Draupadi” from Spivak, In Other Worlds (Electronic Reserve)

Immigration and Interculturalism
   May 7    Lisa Lowe, “Heterogeneity, Hybridity, Multiplicity” from Asian-American Studies (Electronic Reserve)
May 9  Film: *Rush Hour*

May 14  Continue Film
Mon  Banerjee, “The Rush Hour of Black/Asian Coalitions?” from *Afro-Asian Encounters* (Electronic Reserve)

May 16  Last Day of Class: **Assignment II Due**