East Asian Studies Program Fall 2020 Course Descriptions

Four-credit hours courses

Media in East Asia (4 credits): Monday (1620-1750) & Wednesday (1620-1750)
This course focuses on media and communication systems in East Asia (Japan, China, and Korea) from cultural, economic, political, sociological and technological perspectives. The course will examine topics such as: the mass media systems and industries in East Asia, the impact of online and mobile media, the role of traditional media institutions, the transnational nature and flow of news, entertainment, and communication, and the relations between media institutions, governments, and citizens.

Japan & International Society (4 credits): Tuesday (1300-1430) & Friday (1300-1430)
The course explores Japan’s relationships with and contribution to international society through foreign policy and diplomatic strategies, choices, and practices. A focus will be to examine the normalcy of Japan’s power (hard, soft, smart) projection in the 21st Century. Furthermore, the course will draw upon Japan’s history as well as current trends and practices to envision futures of Japan in international society. Additionally, issues such as peacekeeping/security (traditional/non-traditional), terrorism, environmental challenges, UN Security Council reform, ODA, international education (mobility), and human rights will receive special attention.

Business in East Asia (4 credits): Tuesday (1440-1610) & Thursday (1300-1430)
Japan, Korea and China have distinctive characteristics in relation to business and management systems. Through an examination of the development stages and current issues facing these three countries, students will have acquired specialized knowledge on diverse models of business and management systems in East Asia, as well as acquired skills to critically analyze regional business and management systems in a global economy.

Japanese Literature (4 credits): Tuesday (1620-1750) & Thursday (1440-1610)
In this course we will engage with Japanese literary texts ranging from the early 20th century to the present with a particular focus on the representations of gender and sexuality. We will learn about some of the socio-political and cultural contexts that gave rise to specific formations of gender and sexuality in modern and contemporary Japan and, based upon key concepts of feminism, gender studies and queer theory, will situate the literary works within this broader historical field. This course, thus, offers both a survey of modern and contemporary Japanese literature and issues of gender and sexuality in modern and contemporary Japan. Class readings for this course will include short stories and novels such as: Tamura Toshiko “Lifeblood” (1911), Natsume Sōseki “Kokoro” (1912), Yoshiya Nobuko “Yellow Rose” (1923), Edogawa Ranpō “The Dwarf” (1927), Mishima Yukio “Confessions of a Mask” (1949), Mori Mari “The Lover’s Forest” (1961), Yamada Amy “Bedtime Eyes” (1985), Matsu’ura Rieko “The Apprenticeship of Big Toe P.” (1993), Tawada Yōko “The Bridegroom was a dog” (1993), Murakami Haruki “Chance Traveller” (2005), and Murata Sayaka “Convenience Store Woman” (2016).

East Asian Societies (4 credits): Wednesday (1300-1430) & Friday (1620-1750)
This course explores Japanese society and culture from historical and theoretical perspectives. The scope of topics covered will be wide ranging, including Japanese philosophy, Bushido, religion, anime, manga, fashion, art, Meiji Restoration, class/gender stratification, family and school educations, economy, immigration, demographic and social problems. The course will stress primary engagement with these cultural forms incorporating a variety of activities and field experiences in and out of the classroom. It will also enlighten specific issues of cultural phenomenon, social and historical contexts to gain insights into the links between traditional and modern Japan. This intensive course is basically designed for international junior/senior students interested in Japanese culture, society, philosophy and history.
Two-credit hours courses

**Japanese Economy (2 credits): Monday (1300-1430)**
This course will chart the economic development of the Japanese archipelago from the Agricultural Revolution to the Lost Decades of the 20th and 21st centuries. It will commence with an overview of macroeconomic theories, and of the history and historiography of Japanese economics. Each class will thereafter focus on a single time period and its economic trends. Content includes the development of trade and infrastructure during the Heian period; the activities of the Red Seal pirate in the South China Sea; the emergence of extensive internal trade and the 'industrious revolution' in Tokugawa Japan; the Meiji economic revolution; the heavy industrial revolution in Japan; the post-war miracle; and Japan during the Bubble Era and afterwards. Students will require a high level of English ability and must be willing to engage with historical texts. Participation will be graded.

**Traditional Arts of Japan (2 credits): Monday (1440-1610)**
This class is an introduction to Japanese traditional arts and crafts and focuses more particularly on their interrelations with various elements of Japanese popular culture during the Edo period. Subjects such as ukiyo-e, woodblock printing, theater, haiku, literature, kites, and tattoos will be discussed. The class aims at students who want to discover Japanese art history and also students who want to enlarge their general culture of Japanese culture and society.

**Film Studies in East Asia (2 credits): Wednesday (1440-1610)**
This course critically explores gender and socio-cultural politics of East Asian (Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, Chinese, and Hong Kong) films. This course aims to 1. develop the skill of analysing films by using critical and feminist film theories and 2. understand and engage with socio-political issues found in East Asian films. In terms of the first aim, we will learn the basics of critical and feminist film theories, such as the politics of the gaze, the body, and agency in order to read the films critically. In view of the second aim, we will engage with the social, political and cultural issues found in East Asian films, in order to consider the issues’ portrayal and the kinds of power dynamics that are at work. Overall, it is hoped that the course will provide students with the understanding and practice of critical engagement with East Asian films.

**Modern Arts of Japan (2 credits): Friday (1440-1610)**
This lecture focuses on Japanese art from the early 20th century until today. Japanese artists and creations are studied in a global context in order to grasp the difference of “contemporary Japanese art” viewed from Japan or from abroad. Special attention is given to painting, photography, and performance. The class aims at students who want to discover Contemporary Japanese art and also students who want to deepen their understanding of Japanese contemporary culture and society.

+Reminder: 4-credit hours courses meet twice a week for 90-minutes per class. 2-credit hours courses meet once a week for 90-minutes per class.