

Asian Studies 612 (WIN 2019)  
Wednesday 2-4:40pm, 348 PLC  
CRN 27282

Professor Goodman (bgoodman@uoregon.edu)  
Office Hours (331 McK): M 4-5pm; Th 3:30-5pm

## Theory and Methodology in Asian Studies

Asian Studies 612 is a foundational theory/methodology course that is required for Asian Studies M.A. students and helpful to graduate students studying Asia in a variety of disciplines and contexts. Class readings introduce key theoretical frameworks, issues, historical grounding, and methodological approaches broadly relevant to the study of Asia across disciplines. The course emphasizes the development of theoretical literacy together with the close reading and analysis of scholarly texts. Writing assignments are designed to contribute to articulateness in class and build proficiency in written interpretation and argument. Paper-writing also facilitates familiarity with—and critical inquiry into—disciplinary and place-based knowledge in the context of an increasingly global and transnational “area.”

Weekly class assignments and discussions engage current interpretive issues and historical debates that inform the interdisciplinary study of Asia. All classes and assignments (including short papers, as specified below) are required, as is active and informed participation in class discussion. The books that are listed below have been ordered in the bookstore. Various articles are accessible on Canvas, as indicated in the course syllabus.

### **Books:**

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978)

Shelly Chan, *Diaspora's Homeland: Modern China in the Age of Global Migration* (2018)

Marc Frey and Nicola Spakowski, *Asianisms: Regionalist Interactions and Asian Integration* (2016)

Fabio Lanza, *The End of Concern: Maoist China, Activism, and Asian Studies* (2017)

Stephen Vlastos, ed., *Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions of Modern Japan* (1998)

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe* (2000)

Sabine Frühstück, *Playing War: Children and the Paradoxes of Modern Militarism in Japan* (2017)

Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practice: Literature, National Culture, and Translated Modernity* (1995)

Sunil Amrith, *Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortunes of Migrants* (2013)

Ching Kwan Lee, *The Specter of Global China: Politics, Labor, and Foreign Investment* (2017)

**Requirements:** Everyone should plan to attend all classes and complete all reading and written assignments on time. Informed and engaged participation in discussions is a minimal requirement for graduate level credit and is essential for intellectual community among members of the class. For any three of weeks 2-10 you should plan to write a 3-4 page critical reaction paper for the assigned readings. You must turn in at least two of these papers by week 7. These short papers should present, frame, and evaluate the readings in terms of the critical interpretive issues they raise (if there are multiple readings, you should group and tie them together

thematically, rather than comment on them serially). *These papers must be turned in at the start of the class for which the reading is assigned.* A final paper is due at the end of the term. This will be a longer critical book review of a recent notable or controversial book relevant to Asian Studies. For this paper please choose from the list of suggestions at the end of this syllabus. (If you would like to propose an alternate book yourself please consult with me in advance.).

Classes will begin with short general reflections on the reading by all members of the class. Designated individuals will take turns facilitating the discussions that follow.

### Schedule of Classes:

**Week 1            January 9                    Introduction: What is particular about Asian Studies?**

**Week 2            January 16                    Orientalism**

*Readings for January 23:*

- Edward Said, *Orientalism*, pp 1-110.
- Arif Dirlik, "Chinese History and the Question of Orientalism," *History and Theory* 35, 4 (Dec 1996): 96-118. [Canvas]
- Daniel Vukovich, *China and Orientalism: Western Knowledge Production and the PRC* (2012) [may be available online in e-book format through UO library], pp. 1-46; 126-150. [Canvas]

**Week 3            January 23                    Intellectual Mappings: What is Asia? What is East? What is West?**

*Reading for January 21:*

- Martin Lewis and Karen Wigen, *The Myth of Continents* (University of California Press, 1997), preface-72; 157-206. [Canvas]
- Rebecca Karl, "Creating Asia: China in the World at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 103, No. 4 (Oct., 1998), pp. 1096-1118 [Canvas]
  - Mark Frey and Nicola Spakowski, *Asianisms: Regionalist Interactions and Asian Integration* (2016) (156-227)

**Week 4            Jan 30                    Field Formations: Asian Studies, Area Studies, and Asian-American Studies**

*Readings:*

- H.D. Harootunian and Masao Miyoshi, "Introduction: The 'Afterlife' of Area Studies," in *Learning Places*, pp. 1-18. [Canvas]
- Sylvia Yanagisako, "Asian Exclusion Acts," in *Learning Places*, pp. 175-189. [Canvas]
- Fabio Lanza, *The End of Concern: Maoist China, Activism, and Asian Studies*

**Week 5            February 6                    Asian Traditions/ Asian Modernities/Postmodernities**

*Readings:*

- Stephen Vlastos, ed., *Mirror of Modernity* (University of California Press, 1998), pp. 1-47; 95-109; 262-296. (Includes •Introduction; •Andrew Gordon, "The Invention of Japanese-Style Labor Management;" •Ito Kimio, The Invention of Wa and the Transformation of the Image of

Prince Shotoku in Modern Japan; •Louise Young, “Colonizing Manchuria;” •Carol Gluck, “The Invention of Edo;” •Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Afterward”)  
•Arif Dirlik, “Confucius in the Borderlands: Global Capitalism and the Reinvention of Confucianism,” *boundary 2*, 22.3 (November 1995), pp. 229-273. [Canvas]

**Week 6      February 13    Translation and Histories of Transnational Circulations**

*Readings:*

- Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practice*, pp. xv-99.
- Lydia Liu, ed., *Tokens of Exchange*: read first five pages of introduction, then pp. 127-185 and 331-374. Includes:
  - Liu, “Legislating the Universal: The Circulation of International Law in the Nineteenth Century” [Canvas]
  - Alexis Dudden, “Japan’s Engagement with International Terms” [Canvas]
  - Q. S. Tong, “The Bathos of a Universalism: I.A. Richards and His Basic English;”

**Week 7      Feb 20    Cultural Constructions of Militarism**

*Reading:*

- Sabine Frühstück, *Playing War: Children and the Paradoxes of Modern Militarism in Japan* (2017).

**Week 8      February 27    Repositioning European and Asian Trajectories**

*Readings:*

- Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*. preface; 1-99; 237-255.  
(•begin reading Shelly Chan)
- Mark Frey & Nicola Spakowski, *Asianisms*, pp. 209-236.

**Week 9      March 6    Migration/Diaspora**

*Readings:*

- Shelly Chan, *Diaspora’s Homeland: Modern China in the Age of Global Migration* (2018)
- Arif Dirlik, “Bringing History Back In: Of Diasporas, Hybridities, Places and Histories,” in Elisabeth Mudimbe-Boyi, ed., *Beyond Dichotomies: Histories, Identities, Cultures, and the Challenge of Globalization* (SUNY Press, 2002), pp. 93-127. [Canvas]

Reference: •Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders* (Columbia, 2008).

**Week 10      March 13      Repositioning the Global**

*Reading:*

- Ching Kwan Lee, *The Specter of Global China* (2017)

DEADLINE FOR FINAL PAPERS: MARCH 14, noon, under my office door (375 Mck)

### *Suggested books for final papers*

The following books are suggested because they have stimulated scholarly debate on issues relevant to Asian studies, because they are both interesting and substantial in terms of their research/interpretive approach, and because they intersect in important ways with themes raised in our class. Your assignment is to write a thoughtful book review that conveys the ways in which the particular book enters into a scholarly discussion of particular issues concerning the conceptualization of Asia or an issue relevant to the study of regions within Asia. This involves introducing the book in context and presenting the topic, argument and general methodology/approach. You should conclude with a considered discussion of the strengths, weaknesses, and contributions of the book. \*\*If the book's perspective is global, your paper should explicitly address the question of the place of Asia/Asians within it. Aim for a 5-7pp paper that succinctly introduces, contextualizes and assesses the book you choose. You may also choose another book of your choice in consultation with me.

- Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (2000)
- Sunil Amrith, *Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortunes of Migrants* (Harvard University Press 2015)
- Fahad Bishara, *A Sea of Debt: Law and Economic Life in the Western Indian Ocean, 1780-1950* (Cambridge, 2017)
- Vukovich, Daniel, *China and Orientalism: Western Knowledge Production and the PRC* (2012)
- David Howell, *Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-Century Japan* (2005)
- Pun Ngai, *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace* (2005)
- Jacob Eyferth, *Eating Rice from Bamboo Shoots* (2009)
- Mark Elvin, *The Retreat of the Elephants* (2004)
- Laura Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China* (2001)
- Stefan Tanaka, *Japan's Orient: Rendering Pasts into History* (1993)
- Theodore Huters. *Bringing the World Home: Appropriating the West in Late Qing and Early Republican China* (2005)
- Eve Weinbaum et. al. *The Modern Girl Around the World: Consumption, Modernity, and Globalization* (2009)
- Adam McKeown, *Melancholy Order: Asian Migration and the Globalization of Borders* (2008)
- Kirk Denton, *Exhibiting the Past: Historical Memory and the Politics of Museums in Postsocialist China* (2014)
- Prasenjit Duara, *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern* (2003)
- Prasenjit Duara, *Rescuing History from the Nation* (1995)
- Joshua Fogel: *The Nanjing Massacre in History and Historiography* (2000)
- Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing* (2007)
- Louise Young *Japan's Total Empire* (1998)
- James Millward, *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang* (2007)
- Kuan-hsing Chen, *Asia As Method: Toward Deimperialization* (2010)
- Philip Kuhn, *Chinese Among Others: Emigration in Modern Times* (2008)
- Karen Thornber, *Empire of Texts in Motion: Chinese, Korean, and Taiwanese Transculturations of Japanese Literature* (2009).