ANTH, HIST, LANG 3550-BCS: Culture of East Asia
Syllabus, Spring 2016

Instructor: Eunsook Chung
Email: eunsook.chung@usu.edu
Textbook: None
Reference book: Ju Brown and John Brown, China, Japan, Korea Culture and Customs (BookSurge, 2006); Amazon.com

Class meets: Thursday, 5:15-7:45 PM at Distance Education 012
Office hours: By appointment (Geology Building 417)

I. Class at a Glance
Updated syllabus and other course material are available at http://canvas.usu.edu/
Culture appears everywhere in human societies, from observable activities to underlying philosophies. Conventionally East Asia is defined to be the area including China, Taiwan, Japan, North and South Korea. This course will focus on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean culture but other related cultures will also be discussed in many topics. The following are the details of this semester’s syllabus:

II. East Asian Culture Syllabus
During the lectures I will present an introduction to East Asian culture, including custom, calligraphy, paintings, martial arts, medicine, education, Confucianism and religions, etc. My introduction is designed to raise your curiosity to pursue a presentation on a special topic of your choice in East Asian culture. The oral presentation will be an 8 minute Power Point presentation consisting of 7-8 slides describing your study. The example as the contents’ guidance of your slides is available at the resource folder of the class website.

III. Presentation topics
Each student needs to present a study for East Asian culture. Student can select a topic from the list below. Your choice of the topic is due on February 4. Here are the presentation topics:

East Asia Culture Presentation Topics:
Writing systems
1. The separation of Japanese/Korean scripts from Chinese
2. The social and culture impact of simplified Chinese, introduced since 1956
3. Origin of Korean Characters (Hangeul)

Music and Theater
4. The difference of traditional Eastern Asia music from western music
5. The origins of music scales: are there universal rules?
6. Comparing the techniques used in Chinese opera and other local vocal music with that in the west.
7. Comparing Chinese music with Japanese/Korean music: instrumental, vocal, drama
8. Traditional Beijing Opera
9. Bunraku, Japanese Puppet Theater
10. Kabuki, Traditional Japanese Theater
11. Talchum, Korean Mask Dance
12. Pansori, Traditional Korean Opera
13. Samulnori, Traditional Korean Percussion Quartet

Creative arts
15. The difference of Chinese painting from western painting: style, content, tools....
16. Japanese painting
17. Korean painting
19. Tea Culture in East Asia
20. Traditional Costumes in East Asia

Martial arts
21. Is there real physical effect of “chi” in chi-kung (qigong)?
22. The development of various martial arts in East Asia

Food
24. The environmental impact of Asian cuisine
25. Is Asian cuisine a solution to obesity?
26. Evaluation of Asian cuisine based on health considerations

Religion
27. The influence of Buddhism and Daoism in Asian societies
28. Japanese Beliefs and Religion
29. Aspects of Korean Shamanism

Social issues
30. Did Confucianism block the idea of democracy in East Asia?
31. Does Confucianism lead to stronger family relations, lower divorce rate in East Asia?
32. Does East Asian countries have lower crime rate and if so, why?
33. Why do East Asian societies honor dying in honor than living in shame?
34. Does Asian culture result in different responses from political figures in scandals?
35. Do East Asian kids spend more time on academics, if so, why?
36. Do East Asian cultures suppress women?
37. How do East Asian cultures maintain their social values and morality?
38. Can Toyota success be implemented to other cultures?

Science and technology development
39. The origins and adjustments of the lunar calendars. Besides East Asian what other cultures have used them?
40. What are the Asian counting systems? Was similar mathematics developed in different cultures globally?
41. With the impact of western science and technologies, will Asian cultures gradually merge with western cultures?
42. The history and impact of Chinese printing technology

Contemporary Culture
43. Impacts of Korean Wave
44. Online Video Gaming Culture in Korea
45. Zaibatsu and Jaebol-Japanese and Korean Conglomerates
46. Bath Culture in Japan and Korea
47. Manga Industry in Japan
48. Otaku Culture in Japan-Japanese Term for Obsession
49. The Significance of Blood Type in Japan

IV. Oral presentation
The oral presentation will be an 8 minute Power Point presentation consisting of 7-8 slides describing your study and leave another 2 minutes for questions. The goal for the presenters is to share the class what you have learned in that special topic of your choice. Given the limited class time, the presentation has to be short and focused. Please summarize your study in 7-8 slides on why you are interested in this topic and what you found, pictures or figure of the subject, and the references based on. You can elaborate your points verbally within 8 minutes. The power point slides will be due one day before the presentation, so I can load them into a thumb drive before presentation. 2 point will be deducted for each late day submission. Oral presentation will be evaluated by organization, analysis, clarification, depth, and content.

V. Written examination
There will be three written examinations. The first examination will be held on February 18, the second examination will be held on March 31, and the third examination will be held on May 5. Each Exam counts for 20% of your final. Most of the material on the tests will be covered in the lectures. Therefore, attending every lecture, taking good notes, read the lecture notes, and asking questions will be the best way to prepare for the exams.

VI. Film Reaction Paper
You need to focus first on prewriting—note taking, rough outlines, and so forth. A reaction paper is 12 fonts, double space, and 2 full pages in length. When the paper is written, make sure to include an introductory, beginning, middle, and end. You should start with a brief summary of the movie. From there, discuss what you found the most important, interesting, and include your opinions of these events. You could conclude with your final thoughts and overall opinion of the movie. You need to remember that you are writing about your personal reaction to the film, so focus on that rather than
trying to recount every little detail of it. 2 point will be deducted for each late day submission.

VII. Grading

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<td>Exam 1 (February 18)</td>
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<td>Exam 2 (March 31)</td>
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<td>Exam 3 (May 5)</td>
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<td>Film reaction paper (March 3)</td>
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<td>Assignment &amp; Presentation</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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The grading scale is as follows:
93-100% = A; 90-92% = A-; 87-89% = B+; 83-86% = B; 80-82% = B-;
77-79% = C+; 73-76% = C; 70-72% = C-; 65-69% = D+; 60-64% = D; 0-59% = F

VIII. Tentative class schedule (BCS)

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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<th>01/01/16</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<td>Chapter 1 Land, People, and Language</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>Chapter 2 Customs</td>
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<td>Assignment 1 Due (9:00 PM)</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>02/11/16</td>
<td>Chapter 3 Most Important Values and Social Concepts</td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
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<td>Chapter 4 Religions</td>
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<td>Exams 1 at 7:00 PM</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
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<td>02/25/16</td>
<td>Film</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>03/03/16</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 4, Chapter 5 Martial Arts</td>
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<td>Film Reaction Paper Due (9:00 PM, online submit)</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
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<td>No Class, Spring Break</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>03/17/16</td>
<td>Continue Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Chapter 6 Traditional Painting</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
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<td>Students Presentation</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
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<td>Chapter 7 Traditional Chinese Medicine</td>
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<td>Chapter 8 Writing, Calligraphy</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
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<td>Chapter 9 Architecture</td>
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<td>Week 17</td>
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