

# ANTH, HIST, LANG 3550-001: Culture of East Asia

## Syllabus, Fall 2016

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**Textbook:** None

**Reference book:** Ju Brown and John Brown, *China, Japan, Korea Culture and Customs* (BookSurge, 2006)

**Class meets:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:30 AM-12:20 PM at Family Life 307

**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, Confucius 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 September 16**. 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**

14. The evolution and styles of Chinese painting.
15. The difference of Chinese painting from western painting: style, content, tools....
16. Japanese painting
17. Korean painting
18. Comparing Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Mythology
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
23. Comparing Japanese Sumo and Korean Ssireum

#### **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. Do 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 October 3, the second examination will be held on October 31, and the third examination will be held on December 12.** 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.

## VII. Grading

<b>Exam 1 (October 3)</b>	20%
<b>Exam 2 (October 31)</b>	20%
<b>Exam 3 (December 12)</b>	20%
<b>Film reaction paper (October 14)</b>	10%
<b>Assignments &amp; Presentation</b>	15%
<b>Attendance</b>	15%

**\* 2 point will be deducted for each late day submission.**

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

Week 1	1	08/29/16	Introduction
	2	08/31/16	Chapter 1 Land, People, & Language (China I)
	3	09/2/16	Continue Chapter 1 (China II)
Week 2		09/05/16	Labor day; No Class
	4	09/07/16	Continue Chapter 1 (China III)
	5	09/09/16	Continue Chapter 1 (Japan I)
Week 3	6	09/12/16	Continue Chapter 1 (Japan II)
	7	09/14/16	Continue Chapter 1 (Korea I)
	8	09/16/16	Continue Chapter 1 (Korea II) <b>Assignment 1 Due (9:00 PM)</b>
Week 4	9	09/19/16	Chapter 2 Customs
	10	09/21/16	Continue Chapter 2
	11	09/23/16	Continue Chapter 2
Week 5	12	09/26/16	Chapter 3 Most Important Values and Social Concepts
	13	09/28/16	Continue Chapter 3
	14	09/30/16	Continue Chapter 3
Week 6	15	10/03/16	<b>Exam 1</b>
	16	10/05/16	Film
	17	10/07/16	Film <b>Assignment 2 Due (9:00PM)</b>
Week 7	18	10/10/16	Film
	19	10/12/16	Chapter 4 Religions
	20	10/14/16	Continue Chapter 4 <b>Film Reaction Paper Due (9:00 pm, online submit)</b>
Week 8	21	10/17/16	Continue Chapter 4

	22	10/19/16	Chapter 5 Martial Arts
	23	10/20/16	Continue Chapter 5 (* Friday class moves to Thursday because of Fall break schedule)
Week 9	24	10/24/16	Chapter 6 Traditional Painting
	25	10/26/16	Continue Chapter 6
	26	10/28/16	Students Presentation
Week 10	27	10/31/16	<b>Exam 2</b>
	28	11/02/16	Chapter 7 Traditional Chinese Medicine
	29	11/04/16	Continue Chapter 7
Week 11	30	11/07/16	Students Presentation
	31	11/09/16	Chapter 8 Chinese Script, Calligraphy
	32	11/11/16	Continue Chapter 8
Week 12	33	11/14/16	Students Presentation
	34	11/16/16	Chapter 9 Architecture
	35	11/18/16	Chapter 10 Confucius
Week 13	36	11/21/16	Continue Chapter 10
		11/23/16	Thanksgiving Break, No Class
		11/25/16	Thanksgiving Break, No Class
Week 14	37	11/28/16	Students Presentation
	38	11/30/16	Chapter 11 Education
	39	12/02/16	Continue Chapter 11
Week 15	40	12/05/16	Students Presentation
	41	12/07/16	Students Presentation
	42	12/09/16	Students Presentation
Week 16	43	12/12/16	<b>Exam 3</b>