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Interdisciplinary Topics in East Asia:
Understanding Asian Community

Rutgers University
Fall 2019

Instructor:

Professor Weijie Song (宋伟杰)

Telephone number: 848-932-7605 (office)

E-mail address: wjsong@alc.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:30pm; and by appointment (322 Scott Hall)

Class Hours and Classroom:

Monday/Wednesday: 4:30pm-5:50pm

Academic Building 2150 (West Wing)

Syllabus

Course Description:

This course will explore how to understand Asian community with specific approaches to modern literature, film, history, culture and society in China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and other areas. A few leading scholars and rising stars from America, Asia, and other regions of the world will deliver a wide range of lectures about Asian Community in terms of literary narrative, cinematic imagination, interdisciplinary and multimedia representation. The course instructor will lead related discussions and provide further introduction to the major topics with regard to the understanding of East Asia and Asian community at large.

The major intermingling and interdisciplinary topics include: Asian literary modernity; Japanese cinema and Asian stardom; colonial Korea and Cold War Asian frenemy; trauma and nostalgia in Asian community; words, sounds, and images in transnational trajectories; gender, body, and visibility in Asia; Korean pop culture and multimedia performance; comparatizing Asia with trans-regional reflection; Taiwan, Hong Kong and Asian community; after the post-Cold War; Asia as method; and the politics of imagining Asia.

This course will equip students with the necessary knowledge and critical skills to understand main themes in the large context of Asian community. Short journals (weekly for graduate students, and bi-weekly for undergraduate students), dynamic dialogue with outside speakers, regular oral presentations, and the product of a final paper (7-8 pages for undergraduate students, and 10-15 pages for graduate students) on a particular aspect of modern Asia and the transregional connections,

will allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question, gather and evaluate relevant information, develop and sustain an argument, and communicate their findings orally and in written form in a mode appropriate to their chosen area of inquiry into the vision and concept of Asian community.

Course Requirements & Grading:

- * regular class attendance and participation: 20%;
- * one-page single-spaced email comments and related four-minute oral presentations of the findings you have made about guest lectures and required readings (weekly for graduate students, and bi-weekly for undergraduate students): 30%;
- * one eight-minute formal presentation of your final paper: 20%;
- * one final paper – 7-8 pages for undergraduate students, and 10-15 pages for graduate students: 30%.

Note:

- 1. It is essential that students come to class having read all of the assigned materials carefully and prepared to engage actively in the discussion. Regular attendance is thus expected. If an absence is unavoidable, the student must consult with the instructor beforehand and make-up work will be assigned.
- For selected week's readings, students will be designated to post a reading response by 9:00pm, one day before the class, with a summary of the key points and your reflections on the assigned texts and major topics.
- Those assigned to oral presentations should elaborate on the points made in the Sakai posting; the final presentation should address the outline of your final paper project. To post a response, log into the Sakai site (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>), choose the page for this class, click on "Forum" and then click on "Topic" for the relevant week.
- In the final paper, students have the opportunity to respond to the lectures and assigned readings of a particular week or more in depth. It should demonstrate a good understanding of East Asia and Asian community in the theoretical and critical texts and show original and careful reflection of these themes. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about their topic in advance.

Required Readings:

- E-files, individual articles and book chapters, are available for download at the course website (Sakai, under "Resources").
- No separate session of film screening will be scheduled. All films are available as online resources. Students are required to finish watching the films before each session of the class. Great importance is placed on class discussion and on creating a dialogue of interpretations of the texts being studied.
- Research resources from Rutgers Library: For scholarships in English, try this webpage: <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>, search "articles" (with keywords and/or others) and log in with your NetID and password. Most articles are free to download, or you can request to get it @R.

Assessment Plan:

The assessment methods for this course are designed to evaluate student mastery of the course goals. The assignments require students to read, interpret and discuss texts related to topics and issues in Asian literature, film, and cultural studies. Upon completion of the course, students will have learned analytical and rhetoric skills through weekly discussions of the texts and issues, as well as through individual oral presentation to the class. Students will also be able to construct a thesis argument and build support with examples through the final papers about the vision and concept of Asian community.

Academic Integrity:

Under no circumstance will behaviors that violate academic integrity be tolerated. These behaviors include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying fellow students access to information or material, helping others to violate academic integrity, or purchasing essays online or otherwise. All violations will automatically receive no grade and be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Please note that, in the case of plagiarism, ignorance of conventions of attribution and citation is not considered a mitigating circumstance.

Students with disabilities:

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.