

Asia at the Crossroads: Lessons from History

Texas Christian University

Spring 2024

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Seminar Dates: Feb 7, Feb 13 (Zoom), Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 6, (March 13 - spring break no class), Mar 20, March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 17.

Time: 6:00-8:00PM (Wednesdays)

Location: Texas Christian University, Room: Rees Jones Hall 112

Parking: Free parking is available in the visitor parking lots at any time, and most other parking lots are open after 5PM (Lot 15 is closest and generally has ample parking). See: <http://www.maps.tcu.edu>

NCTA link: <https://www.nctasia.org/course/asia-at-the-crossroads/>

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/yG5rCudmhxQBhfN36>

- Class Description:** An interdisciplinary seminar-style exploration of East Asian civilizations. This spring's seminar is focused on Asia at the crossroads, both historically and in terms of thinking about its incorporation into our K-12 curriculum. The topics we examine include religion and Eastern philosophies, early civilization and the China model, war and military history, the Mongols, the legacies of empire in Burma/Myanmar, the visual arts, and more contemporary topics on pop culture and sports. The course is appropriate for those teaching in a wide range of liberal arts and social studies subjects, including: comparative government, geography, literature, world history and world cultures.
- Seminar Goals:**
- 1) To present and to discuss enriched course content material on East Asian civilizations and their culture, history and governments.
 - 2) To discuss and to develop ways in which the content can be incorporated into lesson plans to fit Comparative Government, World Geography, World History, World Cultures and other secondary or primary school courses.
- Requirements:**
- 1) Keep up with the weekly readings (the best that you can!)
 - 2) Attend and participate in the seminar sessions
 - 3) Complete two detailed lesson plans during the course of the semester to demonstrate how you can incorporate class material into your courses
- Strategies for Success:** Read materials before coming to class in order to participate actively in discussion. We are learning from one another. When reading the assigned materials, take notes that include observations, questions, interpretations, comparisons and speculations. Bring questions, speculations, comparisons, and interpretations to the evening sessions. As questions come up during the course of a presentation, feel free to interrupt the presenter to ask questions whenever necessary.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

For this seminar series you are encouraged to look around and focus on whatever aspects of the assigned readings you find most interesting and which will generate the most questions. During each session we will be exploring particular topics in-depth in an effort to better understand the ways in which East Asian countries have gone about constructing (and arguing about and changing) their views of the natural world, self, society, and government and the ways in which East Asian civilizations have interacted over time.

There will be no attempt to present overall coverage of entire historical eras. Instead, each session will focus on a few issues within a specified period. Thus, a general knowledge of the “big picture” will help you to place what is discussed in the evening sessions into broader historical context. My hope is that you will browse and explore the recommended reading as your interests and your schedule allow, and that you will mine these books for materials that you can use in specific lesson plans. Readings that will be sent by pdf are noted with an asterisk(*) wherever they appear in the syllabus. Books for the course will be provided to you as part of your enrollment in this program and they are yours to keep. Books are handed out in stages to ensure attendees continue to participate in the course.

Feb 7 – Introduction to the Study of Asia (Carrie Liu Currier – TCU)

I give a general introduction to the study of Asia, outline the seminar topics, and discuss how you might incorporate Asia into your curriculum.

Feb 13 (TUESDAY on Zoom) – Buddhism in Southeast Asia (Mike Rattanasengchanh – Midwestern State University)

Ruth, Richard. 2010. *In Buddha's Company: Thai Soldiers in the Vietnam War*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.

Feb 21 – Early East Asia and the Chinese Model (Peter Worthing – TCU)

Holcombe, Charles. 2001. *The Genesis of East Asia, 221 BC-AD 907*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press.

Feb 28 – Visions of the East (Carrie Liu Currier – TCU)

**** Held in Sid Richardson Lecture Hall #4 (not our regular room)****

Film screening of *Joint Security Area*. You are welcome to invite students and colleagues to join - we will watch the film together and have a discussion on North and South Korea.

Mar 6 – The Mongols in World History (Johan Elverskog – Southern Methodist University)

Atwood, Christopher. 2023. *The Secret History of the Mongols*. NY: Penguin Classics.

Mar 13 – No Class (Spring Break)

Mar 20 – Media for the Masses: Teaching with Propaganda Posters (Carrie Liu Currier TCU)

No book this week ,but you don't want to miss this visual presentation

Mar 27 – The Legacies of Empire in Burma/Myanmar (David Baillargeon – UTA)

Mying-U, Thant. 2021. *The Hidden History of Burma: Race, Capitalism, and the Crisis of Democracy in the 21st Century*. NY: Norton Publishing.

April 3 – The Dysfunctional Alliance: China and the US in WWII (Harold Tanner – UNT)

Mitter, Rana, 2013. *Forgotten Ally: China's World War II, 1937-1945*. NY: Mariner Books.

April 10 – Entertainment as Education: Sports and Pop Culture (Carrie Liu Currier – TCU)

Kang, Woosung and Edward Leary. 2020. *Korean Culture Dictionary*. New Ampersand Publishing.

April 17– The Consequential Korean War (James Sandy – University of Texas at Arlington)

Kwon, Heonik. 2020. *After the Korean War: an Intimate History*. Cambridge University Press.

Additional Events/Opportunities

- March 22 & 23 Korean War Conference – 12 scholars of the Korean war will present
- Summer/Fall Book Study:
 - JUNE - *Stranger in the Shogun's City* by Amy Stanley
 - AUG - *From the Land of Green Ghosts* by Pascal Khoo Thwe
 - OCT - *The Blue Sky* by Galsan Tschinag