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Asian Studies 1150: Introduction to East Asian Studies

spring 2010

Multidisciplinary introduction to the study of China, Korea, Japan, and adjacent regions from antiquity to the present, mainly through historical and literary texts. Course is taught in English and is open to all registered Northeastern University students.

**Electronic devices.** Except by permission of the instructors, during class students are not permitted to use computers, recording devices, mobile phones, cameras, personal digital assistants, music players, or other electronic devices because they are distracting to other students. Students whose first language is not English may use electronic or printed English-language dictionaries.

**Readings.** This is a reading, writing, and discussion course. The Wednesday class, at which attendance will be taken, is normally devoted to group discussion of the texts and issues contained in the assigned readings. All readings are reserved in Snell Library, including the course packet and certain personal photocopies. As a convenience, the bookstore has stocked these frequently or extensively used works:

Ebrey, Patricia et al. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, 2nd ed.  
Gernet, Jacques. *Daily Life in China*  
Shen, Fu. *Six Records of a Floating Life*  
Lu, David J., ed. *Japan: A Documentary History*, vol. 1  
Tanizaki, J. *Some Prefer Nettles*  
McCormack, Gavan. *Client State*  
Hwang, Sun-Won. *Descendants of Cain*  
Ding, Ling and Lu, Hsun. *The Power of Weakness*  
Shirk, Susan L. *China Fragile Superpower*

Tip: The campus bookstore begins returning unsold books to publishers by midsemester. If you plan to purchase books assigned late in the semester, please do so before the bookstore returns them.

In addition: a course packet containing *required readings* is available from Reprographics, room 11 Ell Building (down the side corridor and turn right around the corner behind the campus bookstore)

**Papers and Exams.** To receive credit for this course, *all written work* listed below must be completed *on time*. Except for emergencies, lateness is subject to penalty. Papers are due at 9:15 a.m. sharp.

Papers must include source annotations and a list of sources (see below, "Annotation of Sources").

- \*number each page of your paper
- \*use 12-point type, double-spaced
- \*print and staple your paper, bring it to class by 9:15 a.m. on the due date (do not send by email)
- \*cite specific examples from primary texts, including direct quotations, to support your views

1. Due Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 9:15 a.m. in class:

Write 250-350 words, typed, double-spaced, 12-point type, based entirely on the course readings through January 20. Make certain to annotate all quotations and opinions taken from the course readings. Address this topic:

In ancient China, both Confucianism and Daoism followed a Way. In each system, what was the Way? Who followed it, how did they do so, and toward what goal? Make concrete reference to the selections from *The Analects* and the *Chuang Tzu* read for January 20.

2. Due Monday, February 8, 2010, at 9:15 a.m. in class:

A midterm test covering the work of the course on China to 1810 C.E. will be held in the classroom. The test will use the essay format. It will be closed-book; no notes, books, computers, cell phones, or other electronic devices are permitted, except for English-language dictionaries for students whose first language is not English.

3. Due Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 9:15 a.m. in class:

Write 950-1000 words in response to this topic:

Which character in Tanizaki's *Some Prefer Nettles* (1928), the husband Kaname or the wife Misako, is more considerate of the other's feelings throughout the novel? Why?

4. Due Thursday, April 1, 2010, at 9:15 a.m. in class:

Write 950-1,000 words on this topic:

To what degree, if at all, do the inflexibility and adherence to fixed ideas shown by the protagonists in **each** of the following works inhibit them from taking steps to solve their problems? How successful, if at all, is each protagonist in making changes in how he or she leads his or her life? Cite concrete examples from each text to justify your argument.

- a. Chuan-sheng, in LU Hsun's "Regret for the Past" (1925), in *The Power of Weakness*
- b. Zhenzhen, in DING Ling's "When I was in Xia Village" (1941), in *The Power of Weakness*
- c. Pak Hun, in HWANG Sun-Won's *Descendants of Cain* (1954)

5. A final examination will be held during the regular examination period at the end of the semester.

For calculating the final course mark, the first paper counts 5 percent, the midterm test 15 percent, the second and third papers 20 percent each, the final exam 30 percent, and class attendance and participation 10 percent.

**Annotation of Sources.** Why must we annotate sources? 1) so readers can tell how we've used the sources we've relied on; 2) to avoid suspicions of *plagiarism*. Plagiarism means literary or artistic theft. Honesty in academic work requires that all of us (teachers and students) identify the sources of all material taken from the works of others. In your papers, you should cite the sources of all direct quotations, statistical data, facts not commonly known, and opinion not your own. For university policy on academic honesty, see p. 14 of the *Undergraduate Catalog* and refer to [www.osccr.neu.edu/policy.html](http://www.osccr.neu.edu/policy.html).

How to Annotate: a convenient method is to list author, year, and page numbers in parentheses immediately after the information you're citing: for example (Ebrey 2009:55-56). At the end of the paper, give an alphabetical list of the sources you've cited: author, date, title, translator or editor if any, title of edited volume if any, city, publisher, and pages within edited volume:

Ebrey, Patricia B. et al. 2009. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Tanizaki, Jun'ichirō. 1995 [1928]. *Some Prefer Nettles*, trans. Edward G. Seidensticker. New York: Vintage International.

Yi, Kwangsu. 1917. "From *The Heartless*," trans. Kichung Kim. In Peter H. Lee, comp. and ed., *Modern Korean Literature: An Anthology*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1990. Pp. 2-15.

As an illustration, your paper might give the opinion that “cheddar cheese is harmful” (Fukuzawa 1871:123). At the end of your paper, where you list all your sources, you’d put:

Fukuzawa, Yukichi. 1871. “The Evils of Cheddar Cheese.” The Journal of Asian Studies 43:2 (1871) 120-132.

Alternatively, instead of author-year-page numbers in parentheses, you may use conventional superscript numbers keyed to footnotes at the bottom of each page or grouped as endnotes at the back. For example, “cheddar cheese is harmful.”<sup>1</sup> At the end of the paper, list all your sources alphabetically by author’s last name with full bibliographic information.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST  
(\*--selection on reserve in library and in course packet)

Week of

- January 11 M: Introduction  
W: Patricia B. Ebrey et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, pp. 2-54.
- January 18 **first paper due Thursday, January 21, 2010**, at 9:15 a.m. in class  
M: Holiday  
W: Ebrey, pp. 55-73;  
\*Confucius, *Analects*, trans. Arthur Waley, pp. 83-93, 102-106;  
\*Chuang Tzu [Zhuangzi], *Basic Writings*, trans. Burton Watson, pp. 36-49, 59-63;  
\*Wm. Theo. De Bary, ed., *Buddhist Tradition*, pp. 126-138.
- January 25 W: Ebrey, pp. 74-91, 128-146;  
Jacques Gernet, *Daily Life in China*, pp. 13-108, 144-176.
- February 1 W: Ebrey, pp. 194-204, 221-239, 262-278;  
Shen, Fu, *Six Records of a Floating Life* (1809), trans. Leonard Pratt and Chiang Su-hui, pp. 23-144.
- February 8 **midterm test Monday, February 8, 2010**, at 9:15 a.m. in class  
Th: Ebrey, pp. 98-113, 240-256, 114-127, 147-159;  
David J. Lu, ed., *Japan: A Documentary History*, vol. 1, pp. 21-26, 36-39, 46-50.
- February 15 M: Holiday  
W: Ebrey, pp. 180-193, 206-220;  
Lu, pp. 57-60, 69-79, 81-86, 101-106, 117-145.
- February 15 M: Holiday  
W: Ebrey, pp. 180-193, 206-220;  
Lu, pp. 57-60, 69-79, 81-86, 101-106, 117-145.
- February 22 W: Ebrey, pp. 279-294, 324-336;  
Lu, pp. 153-156, 171-175, 186-197, 203-210, 215-223, 239-241, 249-254, 261-263.
- March 8 **second paper due Thursday, March 11, 2010**, at 9:15 a.m. in class  
W: Ebrey, pp. 337-352, 371-386, 417-425, 442-445;  
Tanizaki, Jun’ichirō, *Some Prefer Nettles* (1928), trans. Edward G. Seidensticker.

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<sup>1</sup> Fukuzawa, Yukichi. "The Evils of Cheddar Cheese," The Journal of Asian Studies 43:2 (1871) 123.

- March 15 W: Ebrey, pp. 445-456, 510-524;  
Gavan McCormack, *Client State*, pp. 1-20, 29-120, 155-204.
- March 22 M: video in class: "Korea: War, Prosperity, Democracy" DS917.K65 1995 c. 2  
W: Ebrey, pp. 353-368, 387-401, 491-510;  
Hwang, Sun-Won, *Descendants of Cain* (1954), trans. Suh Ji-Moon and Julie Pickering.
- March 29 **Third paper due Thursday, April 1, 2010**, at 9:15 a.m. in class  
W: Ebrey, pp. 304-323, 402-416, 426-440;  
DING Ling and LU Hsun, *The Power of Weakness*, pp. 27-92, 101-56.
- April 5 W: Ebrey, pp. 457-490;  
Susan L. Shirk, *China Fragile Superpower*, pp. viii-xi, 1-139.
- April 12 M: video in class: "All Under Heaven" (1985) DS779.23 A45 1985  
W: Ebrey, pp. 525-528;  
Shirk, pp. 140-269.
- April 19 M: Holiday  
W: last class

A final exam will be held during the regular examination period at the end of the semester.