

ANTH 3323 East Asia in Motion

V 1.0 -- SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course Meetings: MWF, 12-12:50pm

Dedman Life Sciences 153

Professor: Nicolas Sternsdorff-Cisterna

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Office hours: Mondays 1-3pm, or by appointment (subject to change)

Course description & goals

This course covers contemporary themes in the anthropology of East Asia, including topics such as family, intimacy, economic transformation, popular culture and the body. The sections are united by two overarching themes: The first is a consideration of change in East Asia. We will ask how cultures change, and the role globalization, economic development and political systems play in that process. The second is to set the anthropology of East Asia in conversation with larger themes that span the discipline of anthropology. Rather than seeing the region as a stand-alone unit, we will investigate its connections within and to other regions of the world. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with key concepts in the anthropology of the region, develop critical reading and research skills, critically evaluate the literature about East Asia, and gain an understanding of processes of cultural formation and transformation.

Required texts

Chu, Julie Y. 2010. *Cosmologies of Credit: Transnational Mobility and the Politics of Destination in China*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Robertson, Jennifer. 2017. *Robo Sapiens Japonicus: Robots, Gender, Family, and the Japanese Nation*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Kendall, Laurel. 2009. *Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF: South Korean Popular Religion in Motion*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

Demick, Barbara. 2009. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. Penguin.

The books have been ordered through the SMU Bookstore. If the SMU Bookstore is unable to make texts available in a timely manner, it is the student's responsibility to obtain the required texts (search for online merchants or other bookstores— they should be available new or second-hand). Additionally, the books have been placed on a 3-hour loan from the reserve desk at Fondren Library. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to the books. If you are having trouble accessing the books, speak to me.

SLOs

Pillar Individuals, Institutions & Cultures (Level 2) (UC 2012)

- 1) Students will be able to analyze different theoretical or interpretive perspectives in the study of individuals, institutions, and cultures that shape economic, political and social experiences.
- 2) Students will be able to evaluate critically the research outcomes, theory, and/or theoretical applications in the study of individuals, institutions, and cultures that shape economic, political and social experiences.

Global Engagement

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the material culture, underlying values, beliefs, or practices that are central to the culture(s) being visited or studied.

Human Diversity

Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, social, or political conditions of identity formation and function in human society, including the ways in which these conditions influence individual or group status, treatment, or accomplishments.

UC2016: Depth/History, Social, & Behavioral Sciences

B1a. Students will analyze and evaluate critically research outcomes and different theoretical or interpretive perspectives in the study of individuals, institutions, and cultures that shape economic, political and social experiences.

Course Format

The course will consist of a combination of lectures and discussion. On occasion, films will be shown.

Requirements

Critical essays: 45%

Map Quiz: 5%

Participation: 15%

Research Essay: 35%

Critical analysis essays (3x15%). Write a 3-4 page, double-spaced essay on the questions that will be distributed in advance of the deadline. These are not research essays, so while you may incorporate appropriate material that is not covered by this class, your primary focus should be a close analysis of the texts we have read. These essays are not meant to be a summary of the readings; they should advance an argument about the material and provide a critical reading of the issues at hand. If in doubt, consult with the professor.

Critical Essay 1: Due Sep 23, 12pm

Critical Essay 2: Due Oct 18, 12pm

Critical Essay 3: Due Nov 15, 12pm

Map Quiz (5%) —to be done in class on September 6

Research paper (35%). Pick a topic of your interest that touches on the themes of the course and write a research paper about it. The topic is open, but you must run your topic by me before embarking on substantive research. We will talk during class about the research paper, grading criteria, and strategies to narrow a topic to a manageable size. A one-page research proposal is due on October 3. The proposal is not graded, but late submissions will be penalized and points taken off the final paper. Approximately 10-12 pages in length excluding the bibliography, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman, one-inch margins.

Proposal: Due October 7, 12pm.

Final Paper: Due December 16, 5pm.

Participation (15%). Students are expected to attend and come prepared for class meetings to discuss the readings. This course depends on the active participation of students and instructor in making it a fruitful experience. Class participation grades will be based on the frequency, pertinence, creativity, and clarity of contributions in class. Comments must reflect critical thinking and engage the course material; comments that are general or personal in nature will not contribute significantly toward your participation grade. Active participation is volunteered participation through discussion of assigned material. Students who have great difficulty speaking out in class are encouraged to come up with other ways to meet this requirement (e.g., creating handouts, puzzles, posters relevant to the discussion) – these must be discussed with the professor and approved for credit.

Students will be asked to present once over the course of the semester about something that they find interesting about the region. This is a short presentation -- no more than five minutes -- and it can be on anything that is related to the goals of the course. It could be recent news, a cultural phenomenon, a certain object/item, etc. Be thoughtful in what you would like to share with the class, and what others would be interested in learning about.

Turning in assignments

The only acceptable form of submission is through Canvas. I will not grade anything that is not submitted via Canvas. The only exception is the map quiz, which will be done in class.

Late/missed assignments and extensions

Assignments are due in Canvas by the times listed in the syllabus. Assignments submitted late will be graded down by three percent for each day (24-hour period) that they are late. Thus, assignments submitted 15 minutes after the deadline will be graded down by three percent.

Make-up quizzes and extensions on deadlines are offered only to students with written documentation (i.e., by healthcare provider, parent, funeral director, Resident Advisor) of a debilitating illness, extenuating circumstances, or death in the family.

Missed assignments or tests receive a grade of zero, *not* an F.

Back-Up Copies: It is the student's responsibility to maintain (1) a backup copy and (2) a printout of the Properties page which shows the production date and size of any document. In the event of lost documents, the student can produce these to avoid late penalties.

Absences

Absences are only excused for a debilitating illness or death in the family, religious holidays, and sanctioned university functions. Notify me *before* you are absent to the extent possible. Written documentation (i.e., by healthcare provider, parent, funeral director, resident advisor) must be presented to the professor upon your return in order to make up any missed work.

Attendance and participation are important. Absences, excused or unexcused, do not excuse students from submitting assignments on time. Students should review notes, handouts, and assignment instructions from a classmate for days missed as you will be held responsible for this material. I do not give out copies of lectures notes. Absences for holiday air travel, oversleeping, etc. will not be excused.

Dedman College Attendance Policy: If you have more than three unexcused absences in a MWF section or two in a TTH section, your grade will suffer a penalty of up to a full letter grade. And if you have more than six unexcused MWF absences or four in a TTH class, you should expect to fail the course.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating, inappropriate consultation of peers or their work, any other form of academic misconduct, and failing to report evidence of others' misconduct are all Honor Code violations. Penalties are outlined in the Honor Code and may include anything from a zero for the assignment to dismissal from school. Students are expected to prepare work independently, cite any work (quotes or ideas) that is not their own, submit original work (i.e., not already submitted for any other class), and to neither give nor receive assistance in examinations. If you are uncertain about whether an activity or piece of work compromises your academic integrity, you should speak to the professor before turning it in.

Computers and Cell Phones

Computers may be used in class for note-taking only and consulting the readings. Conducting any other business on your computer or phone is rude, distracting, and reason for expulsion from the room. Furthermore, research has shown that browsing the internet or viewing unrelated material on your computer use is not only distracting to you but also to those around you and therefore you are compromising everyone's learning environment. I reserve the right to ban laptop/tablet/phone use for the entire class if this policy is not being followed.

Canvas

Course documents, announcements, and other materials will be posted on the Canvas page for this course. Please consult that page regularly and inform me of any problems you encounter.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/SASP/DASS> to begin the process. Once approved and registered, students will submit a DASS Accommodation Letter to faculty through the electronic portal *DASS Link* and then communicate directly with each instructor to make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence (<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/Chaplain/ReligiousHolidays>).

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2018-2019 University Undergraduate Catalogue](#))

Student Academic Success Programs: Students needing assistance with writing assignments for SMU courses may schedule an appointment with the Writing Center through Canvas. Students wishing support with subject-specific tutoring or success strategies should contact SASP, Loyd All Sports Center, Suite 202; 214-768-3648; <https://www.smu.edu/sasp>.

Campus carry law

In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as the “campus carry” law, following consultation with entire University community SMU determined to remain a weapons-free campus. Specifically, SMU prohibits possession of weapons (either openly or in a concealed manner) on campus. For more information, please see: http://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/Police/Weapons_Policy

Names and pronouns

If you prefer to be called by a name or gender pronoun that does not match what is listed on the course registry, please let me know so I can address you correctly.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Monday Aug 26

The optional readings are review articles that can serve as a reference and resource for you throughout the semester. They are a good place where to find sources for your research paper and will give you an idea about the kinds of topics that scholars are discussing.

OPTIONAL

Kelly, William. 1991. Directions in the Anthropology of Contemporary Japan. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29: 395-431. *New Directions in the Anthropology of Japan*

Pieke, Frank. 2014. Anthropology, China, and the Chinese Century. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 43: 123-138

Wednesday Aug 28

Watson, James L. *Emigration and the Chinese lineage: The Mans in Hong Kong and London*. University of California press. Intro, chapters 3-4.

Friday Aug 30

Faier, Lieba. 2007. Filipina migrants in rural Japan and their professions of love. *American Ethnologist* 34(1)148-162

Optional

Kim, Minjeong. 2014. South Korean Rural Husbands, Compensatory Masculinity, and International Marriage. *Journal of Korean Studies* 19(2)291-325

Week 2

Sep 2 — Labor day, no classes

Sep 4

Film: *First Person Plural*, directed by Deann Borshay Liem, 2000.

Sep 6

Kim, Eleana. 2007. Our Adoptee, Our Alien: Transnational Adoptees as Specters of Foreignness and Family in South Korea. *Anthropological Quarterly* 80(2)497-531

Week 3

Sep 9

Cosmologies of credit
Intro and part I

Sep 11

No reading

Sep 13

Cosmologies of credit
Part II

Week 4**Sep 16**

Cosmologies of credit
Part III and conclusion

Sep 18

Kwon, June. 2015. The work of waiting: Love and money in Korean Chinese transnational migration. *Cultural Anthropology* 30 (3): 477-500

Sep 20

von Baeyer, Sarah LeBaron. 2015. Neither Necessity nor Nostalgia: Japanese-Brazilian Transmigrants and the Multigenerational Meanings of Return. *In Transnational Migration and Asia: The Question of Return*, edited by Michiel Baas. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.

Week 5**Sep 23 — PAPER DUE**

Watson, James (ed). 2006. *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia*. Stanford University Press. Read chapter on Hong Kong.

Sep 25

de St. Maurice, Greg. 2017. "Kyoto Cuisine Gone Global." *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies* 17 (3): 36-48. <https://doi.org/10.1525/gfc.2017.17.3.36>.

Sep 27 — NO CLASS

Begin reading Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF.

Week 6**Sep 30 — NO CLASS****Oct 2**

Kendall, Laurel. Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF. Read Intro, Ch 1-2

Oct 4

Kendall, Laurel. Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF. Read Ch 3-4.

Week 7

Oct 7, Paper proposal due

Film: An Initiation "kut" for a Korean shaman. Directed by Diana Lee and Laurel Kendall, 1991.

Oct 9

Kendall, Laurel. Shamans, Nostalgias, and the IMF. Read Ch 5-7

Oct 10, 5pm

Special lecture, David Slater

Oct 11

Bach, Jonathan. 2010. They come in peasants and leave citizens: Urban villages and the making of Shenzhen, China. *American Ethnologist* 25(3): 421-458

Week 8

Oct 14 — Fall Break, no class

Oct 16

Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. Private Life under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village, 1949-1999. Stanford University Press. Chapter 2-3.

Oct 18 — Paper due

Film: The Great Happiness Space, directed by Jake Clennell (2006)

Week 9**Oct 21**

Takeyama, Akiko. 2010. Intimacy for sale: Masculinity, Entrepreneurship, and Commodity Self in Japan's neoliberal situation. *Japanese Studies* 30(2):231-246

Oct 23

Holliday, Ruth, and Joanna Elfving-Hwang. 2012. "Gender, Globalization and Aesthetics Surgery in South Korea." *Body & Society* 18 (2): 58-81.

Oct 25

Farquhar, Judith, and Qicheng Zhang. 2005. "Biopolitical Beijing: Pleasure, Sovereignty, and Self-Cultivation in China's Capital." *Cultural Anthropology* 20 (3): 303-327.

Week 10**Oct 28**

Robertson, Jennifer. *Robo Sapiens Japonicus*
Read chapters 1-2

Oct 30

No reading

Nov 1

Robertson, Jennifer. *Robo Sapiens Japanicus*

Read chapters 3-5

Week 11**Nov 4**

Robertson, Jennifer. *Robo Sapiens Japanicus*

Read chapters 6-7

Nov 6

Rea, Stephen C. 2018. "Calibrating Play: Sociotemporality in South Korean Digital Gaming Culture." *American Anthropologist* 120 (3): 500-511. <https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13020>.

Nov 8

Besnier, Niko. 2012. The athlete's body and the global condition: Tongan rugby players in Japan. *American Ethnologist* 39(3):491-510. doi: 10.1111/j.1548-1425.2012.01377.x.

Week 12**Nov 11**

Allison, Anne. 2000. Public Veilings and Public Surveillance: Obscenity Laws and Obscene Fantasies in Japan. *In Permitted and Prohibited Desires: Mothers, Comics and Censorship in Japan*.

Nov 13

Tsutsui, William. 2018. The prehistory of Soft Power: Godzilla, Cheese, and the American Consumption of Japan. *In Introducing Japanese popular culture*, edited by Alisa Freedman and Toby Slade. London: Routledge.

Nov 15 — paper due

Film: 9 muses of star empire

Week 13**Nov 18**

Lee, Sangjoon. 2015. A decade of Hallyu scholarship: Toward a new direction in Hallyu 2.0. *In Perspectives On Contemporary Korea : Hallyu 2.0 : The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media*, edited by Sangjoon Lee and Abé Markus Nornes. University of Michigan Press. Pages 1-16

Nov 20

Yano, Christine. 2013. *Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek across the Pacific*. Durham: Duke University Press. Read Introduction.

Nov 22 — NO CLASS

SIGN UP FOR RESEARCH PAPER CONSULTATIONS

Week 14

Nov 25—

Kuang, Lanlan. 2017. "China's Emerging Food Media: Promoting Culinary Heritage in the Global Age." *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies* 17 (3): 68-81. <https://doi.org/10.1525/gfc.2017.17.3.68>.

Nov 27

No Classes, University Holiday.

Begin reading *Nothing to Envy*

Nov 29 — Thanksgiving holiday, no classes

Week 15

Dec 2

Dermic, Barbara. 2009. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. Random House. Chapters 1-10

Dec 4

Film: A state of mind, directed by Daniel Gordon, 2004.

Dec 6

Dermic, Barbara. 2009. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. Random House. Chapters 11-20

Week 16

Dec 9

TBD

Paper due Dec 16, 5pm