

National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) & Northern Kentucky University (NKU)

Spring 2007 – “Teaching About Asia” – For Grades 6-12 Teachers

Time/Place: Wednesdays 5:00-8:00 pm January 24 – April 4
NKU Highland Heights Campus
Landrum Academic Center, Room 405

Directions to NKU: <http://www.nku.edu/directions.php>
Stop at the Information Booth on Nunn Drive as you enter the NKU campus, and you will be directed where to park. Parking *should* be complimentary, but you might be asked to pay a few dollars on the first day.

Instructor: Dr. Carol Medicott, NKU Department of History and Geography
medicottc1@nku.edu, 859-572-5316, Landrum 448

Eleven three-hour meetings will mix lecture, discussion, film, and small-group exchanges. Guest speakers will include university professors and local specialists.

Course Goals:

- 1) **To examine the cultures and societies of China, Korea, and Japan from a multi-disciplinary perspective.** In addition to history, we will emphasize the geography, cultural patterns, folk traditions, political traditions, and recent social/political/cultural developments. This will instill in each of us a greater sense of confidence, appreciation, and familiarity as we confront material about Asia and seek ways to present it to our students.
- 2) **To develop a better understanding of the common images of Asia, as well as common misconceptions and stereotypes.** The first step to overcoming stereotypes is to gain a better understanding at how they have evolved. The present “Western” understanding of Asia is the product of hundreds of years of awkward and problematic encounters, fraught with stereotype and laden with political and cultural baggage. We will ask how these longstanding ways of interpreting Asia continue to inform us today.
- 3) **To recognize how past traditions continue to underlie contemporary patterns and events in East Asia.** The countries that we will study are, for the most part, active participants in the global economy and in some of the dominant Western cultural patterns that have become “globalized.” So does that mean that their traditions are now irrelevant? We will examine how contemporary China, Korea, and Japan continue to be informed by their respective classical traditions.
- 4) **To find reliable, engaging, and stimulating materials and prepare ourselves to teach them.** We will locate and evaluate teaching resources, ranging from scholarly book resources to Internet resources to resources in the local community. We will confront and discuss the challenges of incorporating fiction, film, poetry, popular culture, and museum displays into our teaching lessons. We will identify resources in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas that can be of ongoing value.
- 5) **To share our respective knowledge and insights about East Asia within this group and within the regional and national NCTA network.** We hope that your experience with NCTA will bring you into a lasting relationship with other Asia specialists and with the broader NCTA family.

Background: The Asia Center, University of Kentucky, organizes this seminar on behalf of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), a national initiative supported by the Freeman Foundation of Stowe, Vermont. For more information see www.uky.edu/centers/asia. You may contact the Asia Center at Asia Center- University of Kentucky, 304 Bradley Hall, Lexington, KY 40506-0058, tel: 859-257-7858 fax: 859-323-1026

Instructor: Carol Medicott is Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of History and Geography at NKU. In addition to teaching courses on Asia at NKU, Dr. Medicott has taught courses on Asia at University of Southern California and Dartmouth College. Dr. Medicott spent 13 years as an Asia specialist for a US Government agency before completing a Ph.D in Geography at UCLA and beginning an academic career. She has worked in South Korea and India, in addition to visiting other parts of Asia. Dr. Medicott has long specialized in Korea, and several of her publications deal with North Korea.

National NCTA Requirements: For you to receive your stipend, further money for school curriculum materials, eligibility for future travel tours, and other benefits, you will:

- Attend at least 30 hours of class.
- Complete recommended reading assignments, before class if possible.
- Participate in discussion and group activities each week.
- Submit a Teaching Implementation Plan (TIP) made up of three individual lesson plans, one each for Korea, China, and Japan.
- Attend the post-seminar follow-up event, within one year following our seminar. You will be notified of the time/place of this event.
- Submit to the Asia Center-University of Kentucky office an evaluation of how your TIP was used in class.

Attendance Policy: To make it easier to meet the 30-hour requirement, we have scheduled eleven three-hour sessions. If you miss class for an acceptable reason, you may make up the hours, but not more than twice. Appropriate substitutions include submitting a short response paper on the recommended readings for the missed class or a similar assignment that you and I will negotiate directly.

Structure: Each session will generally begin with a presentation from the Instructor on the major themes, issues, and topics for the week. This may include visual material, such as maps or a Power-Point outline. Many weeks will include a guest presentation for part of the evening. We will often divide into smaller groups for discussion of specific issues and have groups present their views to the class. We will also share developments in the local and national news that are Asia-related. We will take a short break at some point during the three-hour session. Please keep your cell phone off during class, and use the break to make or receive any necessary personal calls.

Teaching Materials: In addition to the list of books that you will each be furnished, we will provide you with a CD of teaching resources on Japan. We will introduce other materials from week to week. We will make time for participants to share their own ideas about resources and suggestions and ideas for developing their TIPs. We will occasionally take group trips to the NKU library to explore additional resources.

Art Museum Trip: On March 7, Week #7, we will meet at the Cincinnati Art Museum and view its Asia galleries. The Art Museum, located in Eden Park, is free of charge, and it is open until 9 pm on Wednesday evenings. We will plan to meet at approximately 4:30 and eat supper in the Museum café before touring the galleries. For maps and directions see www.cincinnatiartmuseum.org.

Our Seminar Room: Room 405 is the Seminar Room for the Department of History and Geography. It will be open for you to use when you arrive on campus, from approximately 3 pm onwards. We have stocked a bookshelf in Room 405 with interesting books and materials on Asia, which we encourage you to peruse. Some of these are from Dr. Medlicott's personal collection, others are on loan from the NKU Library. Please do not remove any of these materials from the room! Additionally, there is a VCR and television in the room. From time to time, we may provide a film which you may wish to spend time viewing, if you arrive on campus early. You may have food and beverages in the room, but please clean up after yourselves and be careful of spills!

Books:

China's Geography: Globalization and the Dynamics of Political, Economic, and Social Change. Gregory Veeck, et al. Rowman & Littlefield, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-7425-5402-3. Price: 59.95

Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood. Richard Kim. University of California Press, 1998. ISBN: 0520214242. Price: 16.95

The World of Asia. Akira Iriye, et al. Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1995. ISBN: 0882959212. Price: 26.95

Sources of Japanese Tradition, 1600-2000 (Paperback). Wm. Theodore de Bary, et al. Columbia University Press, 2nd Abridged Edition. ISBN: 0231139195. Price: 27.50

Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History, Updated Edition. Bruce Cumings. W.W. Norton, 2005. ISBN: 0393327027. Price: 12.37

Asian Art. Michael Kerrigan. Konecky and Konecky, 2005. ISBN: 1568525559. Price: 10.98

Giving Up the Gun: Japan's Reversion to the Sword, 1543-1879. Noel Perrin. David R. Godine Publisher; Reissue edition, 1995. ISBN: 0879237732. Price: 10.16.

Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook. Patricia Buckley Ebrey, Editor. The Free Press, 1993. ISBN: 002908752X. Price: 19.95.

Eastern Religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Shinto. Michael D. Coogan, editor. Oxford University Press, 2005. ISBN: 0195221915. Price: 14.56.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

Week 1 – January 24

- Introductions from Participants: As you introduce yourselves, please share your main questions, impressions, and needs, with respect to teaching about Asia.
- What makes Asia “different” from “the West”?
- Legacies of Orientalism, and its impact on teaching about Asia.
- Geographical Overview of Asia

Exercise: Analyses of “An Importer”, “China Looming”

Week 2 – January 31

Geographical overview of Asia, continue as needed
Cartography and Science in “Pre-Modern” Asia
Sources of Religious Tradition in Asia
Guest Speaker – Chinese Language Structure

Recommended Reading: Veeck, et al, *Geography of China*, Chapters 2-3
Coogan, *Eastern Religions*, Portions TBA.
Handout: Medlicott Essay – Science in “pre-modern” China

Week 3 – February 7

Historical Geography of China
Early encounters between China and the West
Emergence of Social and Cultural Traditions in China
Artistic Traditions in China
Guest Speaker - Rural Culture and Religion in China

Recommended Reading: Handouts – Confucian Scholars Encounter the West (Lee, Vol. 2)
Iriye, et al., *The World of Asia*, 7-28.
Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, Passages TBA.
Kerrigan, *Asian Art*, Passages TBA.

Week 4 – February 14

Historical Geography of Japan
Sources of Social, and Cultural Traditions in Japan
Early political and military patterns – “Giving up the Gun”
Artistic Traditions in Japan
Short Film - Shinto: Nature, Gods, And Man In Japan (Steely, GCLC Collection, VT 573)
Guest Speaker – Japanese Cultural Traditions and Language (Pauline Delaney)

Recommended Reading: Iriye, et al., *The World of Asia*, 155-175.
de Bary, et al., *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Passages TBA.
Perrin, *Giving Up the Gun*, Passages, TBA
Kerrigan, *Asian Art*, Passages, TBA.

Week 5 – February 21

Historical Geography of Korea
Korea and the Tributary System
Emergence of Social and Cultural Traditions in Korea
Artistic Traditions in Korea
Korean Language Structure

Recommended Reading: Iriye, et al., *The World of Asia*, 233-247.
Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, Ch. 1-2
Handouts, Korean *Yangban* and the Tributary System
Handout, Geomancy in Korea
Begin Kim, *Lost Names*.

Week 6 – February 28

Early Modern Asia and Western Geopolitics
Early modern China – the challenges of 19th century Western contact and the end of the Tributary System
Early modern Japan
Rise of Nationalism and “Westernization”

Recommended Reading: Iriye, et al., *The World of Asia*, 29-39, 176-187, 247-258
Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, Passages TBA
de Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Passages TBA
Veeck, et al., *Chinese Geography*, Ch. 8.

Week 7 – March 7

Art Museum Trip
Discussion of TIPS

Recommended Reading: Kerrigan, *Asian Art*, passages TBA.

Week 8 – March 14

Discussion of TIPS
Korea and Colonialism
Christianity in Korea
Korean Nationalism
Performing Art Speaker or Film, TBA

Recommended Reading: Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, Ch. 3
Coogan, *Eastern Religions*, Passages TBA.
Handout: Medlicott Essay on Korean Christianity
Medlicott, Passage from “Constructing Korean Sovereignty”
Kim, *Lost Names*, continued

Week 9 – March 21

Conflict and War in 20th Century Asia
Rise of Revolutionary Politics in China & Korea
Divided Korea – Politics and Symbol
Nationalism and the Arts in North and South Korea

Recommended Reading: Iriye, *The World of Asia*, 40-74, 188-225
Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, Ch. 4-6
de Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Passages TBA
Veeck, et al, *Chinese Geography*, Ch. 4.

Week 10 – March 28

Post War Japan and the West
Developments in Art, Cinema, Media
Late Mao and Post-Mao China
Politicization of Performing Arts in China and Korea – Guest Speaker

Recommended Reading: de Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Passages TBA
Medlicott, “Nature and Nation in North Korean Film”
Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization*, Passages TBA
Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, Ch. 8

Week 11 – April 4

FINAL DRAFTS OF TIPs ARE DUE!
New Economic Geographies
Asian Investment in US
A Changing Geopolitical and Security Arena
Speaker – Georgetown-Tahara Sister City Relationship (Tentatively, Dr. Milton Patton)

Recommended Reading: Veeck, et al., *Chinese Geography*, Ch. 6-7, 9.
de Bary, *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Passages TBA.
Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, Ch. 10.
Medlicott, “Symbol and Sovereignty in North Korea”