

**SOC 298 HIS TRANSNATIONAL ASIA**  
**University of Toronto, St. George Campus**  
**Winter 2017**

Time: Tuesday 12-2pm

Classroom: UC 179

**Teaching assistant: Omar Faruque**

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***COURSE DESCRIPTION***

This course approaches Asia from a transnational perspective to enhance our understanding of the complexities involved in Asia's contemporary transformations. By departing from traditional nation-state-oriented analyses, this class explores how Asia shapes and is shaped by trans-Pacific politics, global capitalism, labor migration, international norms of citizenship, urban development, and flows of ideas and culture. By closely examining Asia's transnational interconnectedness, we question the prevalent notion of Asia and regional studies and highlight the contradictions and challenges Asia faces in its political, economic, social, and cultural spheres. This critical approach is expected to offer a deeper investigation of Asia in and of itself while critiquing dominant assumptions and frameworks found in existing approaches to Asia.

***COURSE OBJECTIVES:*** Students are expected to achieve the following

- (1) To understand the basic concepts and debates related to transnational interconnections by critically engaging with readings, lectures, and class discussions
- (2) To gain knowledge on the political, economic, social, and cultural dimensions of transnational processes in Asia
- (3) To critically examine the transformations and challenges created by the transnational process
- (4) To demonstrate and articulate students' understanding of course materials in oral and written assignments.

***PREREQUISITE:*** No prerequisite required

## ***COURSE MATERIALS***

There is no required textbook. All readings are available on Blackboard (Course Materials). Important announcements, class-related information, and any additional materials will be posted here, so please check the website regularly.

## ***GRADING AND EVALUATION***

### **1. Attendance and discussion participation: 10%**

Regular attendance is a must for this class. If students have inevitable reasons for their absence, they have to inform the professor in advance. In case of absences, students are required to provide legitimate reasons and supporting documentation. Frequent missing of the class will result in a low grade in attendance and participation.

### **Tutorials**

Tutorials are offered to provide an opportunity for students to brainstorm, discuss, and develop ideas for the case study paper. Tutorial time may also be used for answering any other questions students might have about class materials. Please sign up for one session of the tutorials scheduled as follows:

Tutorial 1: February 1, 11am-12pm, Sidney Smith Hall 2127

Tutorial 2: February 8, 11am-12pm, Sidney Smith Hall 2127

Tutorial 3: February 15, 11am-12pm, Sidney Smith Hall 2127

### **2. Mid-term test (in-class): 30%**

There will be a mid-term test to assess students' understanding of the key concepts and arguments discussed in lectures and assigned readings (no multiple choice). **March 7.**

### **3. Case study paper: 50%**

Students write a case study paper on a topic of their choice. The paper should relate to a broad theme of transnational Asia and examine a case in the context of war, colonialism, Cold War politics, global economy, labor migration, diaspora and citizenship, urban spaces, or circulations of ideas, food, and culture.

A. Choose a topic/case that makes you think Asia as transnational and do preliminary research. Write up a one-page description/outline of your paper. Submit a hard copy in class on **February 28.** The outline will be returned with comments, which are expected to be reflected in the development of the paper **(10%).**

B. Do more research and develop the paper. The paper should (1) show how the case you examine allows you to see Asia as transnational, (2) discuss how it connects or disconnects different parts of Asia and the rest of the world, and (3) what specific changes, complications, or ramifications the process entails. The final case study paper is due on April 11. Word limit: 2000 (+ 100) words (about 7 pages) (40%)

**4. Final response paper (700 words or 2 pages): 10%**

Students write a short paper that summarizes their learning experience in class. The paper needs to discuss the most interesting/unexpected/out-of-box thing they learned in class and how it contributed to their understanding of transnational Asia.

**\* Recommended format**

All written assignments should be within the word/page limit set for each assignment, excluding tables, figures, and bibliography. Font 12 and double-spacing recommended. Full citations (in-text and bibliography) of all the sources used in the writings should be provided in appropriate formats.

**Rules for grading and evaluation**

**Grade scale:**

A: Above 94	B+: 87-90	C+: 77-80	D: Below 70
A-: 91-93	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	F: Below 60
	B-: 81-83	C-: 71-73	

**Late submissions:** Assignments that fail to meet the deadlines will result in losing one third of a letter grade for every 24-hour tardiness from the original due date.

**Missed tests:** Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero. Students who miss a test due to a medical or family crisis will be given the opportunity to write a make-up test if **within three days** they provide **the teaching assistant** with a written request for special consideration by explaining why the test was missed and accompanying proper documentation from a physician or college registrar. The request should include the student's contact information (telephone number and email address) to communicate about the date, time, and place of the make-up test. In case of illness, students must supply a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). A doctor's note is not acceptable. In case of a family crisis, students must get a letter from the college registrar.

## ***ACADEMIC HONESTY and CLASS ETHICS***

**Academic integrity/Plagiarism:** Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that students earn will be valued as a true indication of their individual academic achievement. Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

### **In papers and assignments:**

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
  - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

### **On tests and exams:**

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

### **Misrepresentation:**

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

To remind students of these expectations and help them avoid accidental offences, I will ask students to include a signed Academic Integrity Checklist with every assignment. Assignments without the inclusion of such a statement will not be graded.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on the student's transcript. If students have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from the professor, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website. If students are experiencing personal challenges that may impact their academic work, please inform the professor or seek the advice of the college registrar.

**Turnitin:** By taking this course, students agree that all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %) unless a student instead provides, along with their paper, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

### ***ADDITIONAL MATTERS***

**Writing skills:** The quality of writing will greatly impact the grade. Writing skills (clarity, logic, parsimony, organization) are probably the most important skills students need to develop in university. Students in need of improving their writing skills can be assisted by various services and workshops offered by the Academic Success Centre, the Career Centre, and UofT Libraries. <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/news/writing-plus>

**Electronic devices:** Cell phones should be turned off during class. Laptops can be used in class for note-taking purposes only. No web browsing is allowed as it inhibits learning and disrupts class discussion. If it is found, points will be deducted from class attendance.

**Taping, recording, photographing lectures:** Lectures and course materials prepared by the professor are the professor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record lecture or other course material are required to ask the professor's explicit permission and may not do so unless permission is granted. This includes tape

recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Blackboard materials, etc. Once obtained, such permission is only for that individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them in any way. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to publish the professor's notes to a website or sell them in other form without formal permission.

**Accessibility needs:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if students have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach the professor and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978-8060 or visit: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

**Contacting the professor:** If students feel overwhelmed by the course materials or encounter other personal difficulties that may affect their performance in class, they should immediately contact the professor and seek consultation EARLY in the semester. I will be happy to offer any additional guidance that might be needed for each student.

### ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics, Readings, and Assignments</b>
Jan 10	<b>Introduction and overview</b>
Jan 17	<b>What is Asia?</b> Ravi Palat, "Fragmented visions: excavating the future of area studies in a post-American world" in <i>After the Disciplines: The Emergence of Cultural Studies</i> (Bergin & Garvey 1999) p.87-126 Amitav Acharya, "Asia is not one" <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69-4 (2010) p.1001-1013
Jan 24	<b>War and Asia</b> Lisa Yoneyama, "Transpacific Cold War formations and the question of (un)redressability" in <i>Cold War Ruins</i> (Duke University Press 2016), p.1-42 Ji-yeon Yuh, "Moved by war" <i>Journal of Asian American Studies</i> 8-3 (2005) p.277-291
Jan 31	<b>Global economy and Asia</b> Saskia Sassen, "The state confronts the global economy and digital networks" in <i>A Sociology of Globalization</i> (Norton and Company 2007) p.45-96 Manfred Steger, "From market globalism to imperial globalism" <i>Globalizations</i> 2-1 (2005) p. 31-46

Feb 7	<p><b>Asia's economic growth</b></p> <p>Ming Wan, Chapter 7 in <i>The Political Economy of East Asia</i> (CQ Press 2008) p.199-229</p>
Feb 14	<p><b>Labor in Asia</b></p> <p>Dae-oup Chang, "Informalizing labor in Asia's global factory" <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 39-2 (2009) p.161-179</p> <p>Siow Yue Chia, "Labor mobility and East Asian integration" <i>Asian Economic Policy Review</i> 1 (2006) p.349-367</p> <p>Watch a clip from "Mardi Gras made in China"</p>
Feb 21	<p><b>No Class: Reading week</b></p>
Feb 28	<p><b>Migration, gender, and citizenship</b></p> <p>Apichai Shipper, "Politics of citizenship and transnational..." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 83-1 (2010) p.11-29</p> <p>Minjeong Kim, "Gender and international marriage migration" <i>Sociology Compass</i> 4-9 (2010) p.718-731</p> <p><b>Paper outline due</b></p>
Mar 7	<p><b>Midterm test</b></p>
Mar 14	<p><b>Globalization and urban spaces</b></p> <p>Koichi Iwabuchi, "Lost in TransNation" <i>Inter-Asia Cultural Studies</i> 9-4 (2008) p.543-556</p> <p>Mike Douglass, "Local city, capital city or world city?..." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 78-4 (2005) p.543-558</p> <p>Hyun-bang Shin et al. "Locating gentrification in the global East" <i>Urban Studies</i> 53-3 (2015) p.455-470</p>
Mar 21	<p><b>Transnational culture</b></p> <p>Eunyoung Jung, "Transnational Korea: A critical assessment of the Korean Wave in Asia and the United States" <i>Southeast Review of Asian Studies</i> 31 (2009) p.69-80</p> <p>Chris Berry, "Transnational culture in East Asia" <i>Asia Journal of Social Science</i> 41 (2013) p.453-470</p>
Mar 28	<p><b>Food and Asia</b></p> <p>James Watson, "China's Big Mac attack" <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 79-3 (2000) p.120-134</p> <p>Robert Ku, "Kimchi" in <i>Dubious Gastronomy</i> (University of Hawaii Press 2014) p.81-119</p>
Apr 4	<p><b>Wrap-up/Final response paper due/ Case study paper due April 11</b></p>

