

SOC395H1F – New Topics in Sociology: TRANSNATIONAL ASIA
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
Fall 2019

Time: Thursday 2-4 pm

Room: SS 1073

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Office hours: Wednesday 3-4 pm

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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, war and colonial legacies, global capitalism, labor migration, international norms of citizenship, urban development, and flows of ideas and popular 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 in Asia
- (4) To demonstrate and articulate students' understanding of course materials in oral and written assignments.

PREREQUISITE: Two (1.0 FCE) of 200-level sociology courses

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook. All readings are available on Quercus. 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. At the end of every class, students submit a memo with their name and a sentence or two that summarize their take-away from the class. Each memo for nine classes accrues to 9 points. 1 extra point is added for students who made all nine classes.

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.

2. Short response memos: 2 x 10 = 20%

Students prepare a short reaction paper (700 words or 1-2 pages) for 2 classes of their choice between Week 2 and Week 11 (Sign-up for the first response memo before or by Week 7, October 17, so that each student receives 10 percent of the final mark before the drop date, November 8). A sign-up sheet will be circulated in class. The reaction paper should address the following:

- What is the main argument in the readings?
- How do the readings inform and change our understanding of Asia?
- Raise 1-2 questions about the readings, which would help initiate a class discussion.

Students bring a hard copy of their reflection papers and use them for class discussion. Submit the hard copy to the professor in the end of each class.

3. 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). **October 24.**

4. Case study paper: 40%

Students write a case study paper on a topic chosen from the following list.

*Students may choose other topics not listed below but with consultation with the professor and the teaching assistant.

- “Comfort women” (sexual slavery by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II)
- US military bases in Asia
- Chinese economy and its impact on/relation to the global economy
- Labor and marriage migration
- Migration and citizenship
- Cities in Asia and urban problems
- Circulation of popular culture and food

A. Choose a topic from the list and do preliminary research. Whichever topic you choose, think about how it relates to Asia’s transnational connectedness. Write up a 1-2 page outline of your paper. In the outline, identify the focus of your paper and describe what it is. Submit a hard copy in class on **October 10**. 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, (3) what specific changes, complications, or ramifications the process entails, and (4) reference at least 5 academic books and 5 academic journal articles. **Word limit: 2500 words (or about 7 pages)**. The final case study paper is due on **November 28 (30%)**

*Students are encouraged to have an individual meeting with the teaching assistant during her office hours, at least once before the submission of the outline and once before the completion of the paper.

*Students can pick up their marked papers after December 13.

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 sources used in the paper should be provided in appropriate formats.

Rules for grading and evaluation

Grade scale:

A+: Above 90	B+: 77-79	C+: 67-69	D+: 57-59
A : 85-89	B : 73-76	C : 63-66	D : 53-56
A-: 80-84	B-: 70-72	C-: 60-62	D-: 50-52
			F: Below 49

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). A doctor's note is acceptable but **MUST** indicate the start and anticipated end date of the illness. 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.

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.

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 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

Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments
W1: Sep 5	Introduction and overview
W2: Sep 12	<p>What is Asia?</p> <p>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</p> <p>Amitav Acharya, “Asia is not one” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69-4 (2010) p.1001-1013</p>
W3: Sep 19	<p>War and Asia</p> <p>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</p> <p>Ji-yeon Yuh, “Moved by war” <i>Journal of Asian American Studies</i> 8-3 (2005) p.277-291</p>
W4: Sep 26	<p>The military and Asia</p> <p>Jim Glassman and Young-Jin Choi, “The chaebol and the US military-industrial complex” <i>Environment and Planning</i> 46-5 (2014) p.1160–1180</p> <p>David Vine, “No bases? Assessing the impact of social movements...” <i>Current Anthropology</i> 60 (2019) p. 158-172</p>
W5: Oct 3	<p>Global economy and Asia</p> <p>Meredith Woo-Cumings. “Introduction” in <i>The Developmental State</i> (Cornell University Press 1999) p.1-31</p> <p>Ming Wan, Chapter 7 in <i>The Political Economy of East Asia</i> (CQ Press 2008) p.199-229</p>
W6: Oct 10	<p>Labor in Asia</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>Arne Kalleberg and Kevin Hewison, “Precarious work and the challenge for Asia” <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> 57-3 (2013) p. 271-288</p> <p>*Paper outline due</p>
W7: Oct 17	<p>Migration, gender, and citizenship</p> <p>Nicole Constable, “Introduction” in <i>Cross-border Marriages: Gender and Mobility on Transnational Asia</i> (University of Pennsylvania Press 2005) p.1-16</p> <p>Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, Chapters 1-2 in <i>Servants of Globalization</i> (Stanford</p>

	University Press 2015, second edition) p.1-52
W8: Oct 24	Midterm test
W9: Oct 31	Globalization and urban spaces Mike Douglass, “Local city, capital city or world city?...” <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 78-4 (2005) p.543-558 Hyun-bang Shin, “Economic transition and speculative urbanization in China” <i>Urban Studies</i> 53-3 (2016) p. 471-489
Nov 7	Reading Week, No Class
W10: Nov 14	Transnational culture Chris Berry, “Transnational culture in East Asia” <i>Asia Journal of Social Science</i> 41 (2013) p.453-470 Solee Shin and Lanu Kim, “Organizing K-pop” <i>East Asia</i> 30-4 (2013) Taylor Glasby, “How BTS became the world’s biggest boyband?” <i>The Guardian</i> (October 11, 2018): https://www.theguardian.com/music/2018/oct/11/how-bts-became-the-worlds-biggest-boyband
W11: Nov 21	Food and Asia Nicolyn Woodcock, “Tasting the ‘Forgotten War’: Korean/American memory and military base stew” <i>Journal of Asian American Studies</i> , 2018, Vol.21(1), pp.135-156 Robert Ku, “MSG” in <i>Dubious Gastronomy</i> (University of Hawaii Press 2014) p.81-119
W12: Nov 28	Wrap-up/Case study papers due