

SOC 372H1F TRANSNATIONAL ASIA
University of Toronto, St. George Campus
Fall 2020

Time: Thursday 2-4 pm

Room: Online synchronous
and asynchronous

Teaching assistant: Youngrong Lee

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Office hours: See Attendance and TA office
Hours

Professor: Yoonkyung Lee

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Office hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course approaches Asia from a transnational perspective to enhance our understanding of the complexities involved in Asia's contemporary transformations. Departing from traditional nation-state-oriented analyses, this class explores Asia's transnational interconnectedness through the experiences of trans-Pacific politics, war and colonial legacies, global capitalism, labor migration, international norms of citizenship, urban development, and flows of ideas and popular cultures. As a way of questioning the prevalent notions about Asia and the dominant assumptions in regional studies, we closely examine 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 the limitations of the existing frameworks and approaches found in the study of 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. Students enrolled without the prerequisite will be removed at any time, and without notice.

COURSE DELIVERY MODE

This course will be delivered virtually via Quercus and Zoom, to which all UofT instructors and students have access. Students need to have a computer with a microphone and camera in order to participate in online class activities. They also need to have PowerPoint and the ability to use Quercus and Zoom. As specified in the Course Schedule, three sections will be synchronously run and others asynchronously. For synchronous classes (on September 17, October 22, and December 3), students need to be virtually present. For asynchronous classes, students can watch the prerecorded lecture files asynchronously, i.e., any time of their choice. Weekly lectures will be given in a PowerPoint file with embedded voice recording, which will be uploaded to Quercus at 2 pm on Thursdays.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook. All readings are available on Quercus. Please check the website regularly as important announcements, class-related information, and any additional materials will be posted there.

Suggested reference reading to understand the timeline of important events in Asia:

-Carla Thomas, “Five Historic Moments that Transformed Asia in the Last Century” *Forbes* September 19, 2017:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cfthomas/2017/09/19/5-historic-moments-that-transformed-asia-in-the-last-century/#fa701763e5f4>

-Asia for Educators, Columbia University:

http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/main_pop/related/timelines.htm

GRADING AND EVALUATION

1. Attendance and TA office hours: Three synchronous virtual classes and one virtual meeting with the TA, 10% of the final mark

Online teaching constrains the interactions and discussions that are possible in in-person classes. As a way of promoting the connections between the professor and students and mutual co-presence for learning, students need to virtually attend three synchronous classes (2.5 x 3 = 7.5 point) on September 17, October 22, and December 3.

Students also need to have at least one virtual meeting with the TA (2.5 point) during her office hours, which will be held

at 4-5 pm on Thursdays: Sep 24, Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 15, Oct 22, Nov 5, Nov 19, and Nov 26
and at 3-5 pm on Wednesday: Oct 28

Students need to sign up for a virtual meeting with the TA here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19Tb5QubibvOSErCet4pcHnO7m0pJa62H_xNXqpLO5wg/edit#gid=0

Students can use the synchronous, virtual office hours as an opportunity to ask questions and clarifications about class readings, lectures, and assignments.

If students have inevitable reasons to miss any of the three synchronous classes, they have to inform the professor in advance (see the absence and late/missed assignments policy below). They may make an additional virtual meeting with the TA to supplement the lost point. Only one substitution is permitted.

For instance, if a student attended two synchronous classes but missed one, s/he may meet with the TA twice during the semester. This will give a full attendance mark (10 point) to the student. But if a student attended one synchronous class but missed two, s/he is permitted to meet with the TA twice, not three times, during the semester. This student will get 7.5 point for attendance.

2. Short response memos: 2 x 15 point = 30% of the final mark

Students prepare a short response paper in the length of 700 words for 2 classes of their choice between Week 3 and Week 11. Students need to sign-up for the first response memo before or by Week 7 so that each student receives 15 percent of the final mark before the drop date, November 9. A sign-up sheet will be posted on Quercus. The response paper should discuss all assigned readings (no pick and choose) and address the following:

- What is the main argument in the readings?
- What are the empirical examples used in the readings?
- How do the readings inform and change our understanding of Asia?

Students submit an electronic copy of their response papers to Quercus by 2 pm on Thursdays they originally signed up for. Any paper submitted afterwards will be regarded as late submission and get a penalty of minus 1 point for every 24 hours. A list of references is required for materials other than assigned readings cited in the paper. The paper should include a word count in the end of the paper.

3. Mid-term test: 30% of the final mark

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). The test will

consist of 4 short questions to be answered in about 200-300 words for each (4 x 5 = 20 point) and one essay question to be answered in about 700-800 words (1 x 10 = 10 point). The questions will be posted on Quercus at 2 pm on October 24 and students need to return the answers in 3 hours by 5 pm the same day. Same late submission penalties will apply if the answers are submitted after 6 pm.

4. Final reflection paper: 30% of the final mark

The professor will pose three broad questions that touch upon central themes discussed in the course throughout the semester. Students choose one question and write an essay that responds to the posed question. Three questions will be posted on Quercus by November 12 to give time for students to reflect on course materials and to conduct some independent research. The essay should

- Be in the length of 1200-1500 words
- Demonstrate a solid understanding of relevant course materials
- Incorporate at least three readings outside course readings (more is fine). The three readings can be a combination of journal articles, books, and book chapters found from students' independent research.
- Articulate students' own reflections on the topic. Instead of just summarizing the readings and the authors' arguments, students need to describe what new knowledge and perspective they gained by studying the subject posed in the question.
- Use a proper citation style of the student's choice, including in-text citation and a list of references.
- Be submitted to Quercus by 2 pm December 10. Same late submission penalties will apply if the essay is submitted after the due date and time.

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.

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. Please visit <https://writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>

Absence and late/missed assignments policy: For the Fall semester only, if students miss tests or submit assignments late for **medical reasons**, they do not need to submit medical notes or the Verification of Illness forms. Instead, they have to **email the professor and declare their absence on the system (ACORN)**. For other reasons, such as family or non-medical personal reasons, students need to have their College Registrar email the professor. **When assignments are submitted late without following the above procedure, a penalty of minus 1 point for every 24 hours will be applied.**

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

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.

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.

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.

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 forms without formal permission.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments
W1: Sep 10	Class cancelled: Scholar Strike against racist police brutality in the US & Canada
W2: Sep 17	<p>Synchronous class: Introduction & 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> <p>Prasenjit Duaram, “Asia redux: Conceptualizing a region for our times” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69-4 (2010): Read the first three sections p.963-977</p>
W3: Sep 24	<p>Colonialism, 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>Eva Hansson, Kevin Hewison, and Jim Glassman, “Legacies of the Cold War in East and Southeast Asia: An Introduction” <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 50-4 (2020) p.493-510</p>
W4: Oct 1	<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 8	<p>Capitalism, the state, and Asia</p> <p>Meredith Woo-Cumings. “Introduction” in <i>The Developmental State</i> (Cornell University Press 1999) p.1-31</p> <p>Wonik Kim, “Rethinking colonialism and the origins of the developmental state in East Asia” <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> 39-3 (2009) p.382-399</p> <p>Toby Carroll, “Capitalism, conflict and contradiction: Southeast Asia’s development and the reorganisation of production” <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i> (volume and issue not assigned yet; 2020) p.1-26</p>
W6: Oct 15	<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>

Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments
W7: Oct 22	<p>Synchronous class: 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 University Press 2015, second edition) p.1-52</p>
W8: Oct 29	<p>Midterm test: Questions are posted at 2 pm. Answers should be returned by 5 pm.</p>
W9: Nov 5	<p>Globalization and urban spaces</p> <p>Prasenjit Duaram, “Asia redux: Conceptualizing a region for our times” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69-4 (2010): Read the section on “The circulation of people” p.977–983</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, “Economic transition and speculative urbanization in China” <i>Urban Studies</i> 53-3 (2016) p. 471-489</p>
Nov 12	<p>Reading Week: No Class. Questions for final reflection papers are posted.</p>
W10: Nov 19	<p>Transnational culture</p> <p>Chris Berry, “Transnational culture in East Asia” <i>Asia Journal of Social Science</i> 41 (2013) p.453-470</p> <p>Solee Shin and Lanu Kim, “Organizing K-pop” <i>East Asia</i> 30-4 (2013)</p> <p>Ashvin I. Devasundaram, “Bollywood’s soft power: Branding the nation, sustaining a meta-hegemony” <i>New Cinemas: Journal of Contemporary Film</i> 14-1 (2016) p.51-70</p>
W11: Nov 26	<p>Food and Asia</p> <p>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</p> <p>Robert Ku, “MSG” in <i>Dubious Gastronomy</i> (University of Hawaii Press 2014) p.159-189</p>
W12: Dec 3	<p>Synchronous class: Wrap-up</p>
Dec 10	<p>Final reflections papers should be submitted by 2 pm.</p>