

East Asian Gardens: More than Mere Rocks

5:15 to 6:45 PM Mondays and Wednesdays Fall 2023

EALC 1106 for undergraduate credit EALC 5106 for graduate credit. Graduate credit will require foreign-language sources, and longer, deeper, more insightful papers. We will also schedule some additional meeting times for graduate students only.

Explore the beauty of gardens (and associated buildings) in Japan, China, and Korea from ancient times to the present. Lectures will be illustrated by photographs from dozens of sites in East Asia, and by a field trip to the Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park. The main body of the course will be a historical survey of the evolution of East Asian garden art forms from the sixth century to the present. Discussion will touch on geographic and climatic parameters, spiritual and aesthetic principles, practical limitations and creative innovations of East Asian gardens.

Assignments:

Online quizzes about the readings (due before the class discussion) will account for 20% of the term grade. Lowest two scores are dropped.

In-class writing assignments, discussion participation, and attendance together will account for 20% of the grade.

One paper will describe an East Asian garden (or a garden in East Asian style) which you have actually seen. You will need to research the history, design, plants, and landforms used in the garden, and link it to garden history in East Asia, comparing it to other gardens. Include a bibliography of works consulted, illustrations, and links to any historical documents of significance to the garden. The paper grade will make up 30% of the course grade. Paper is due on the last day of class, April 28, and students will present their work that day.

An in-class presentation of your paper will make up 10% of the grade.

A take-home final exam will account for 20% of the total grade.

Required Textbooks: Six texts will provide source material, along with illustrated lectures. These texts will be available for purchase at the Penn Bookstore.

The Art of the Japanese Garden, by David and Michiko Young

The Chinese Garden: History, Art and Architecture, by Maggie Keswick

The Craft of Gardens, by Ji Cheng

Japanese Garden Design by Marc Peter Keane and Ohashi Haruzo

Korean Gardens: Tradition, Symbolism, and Resilience by Jill Matthews

Sakuteiki, translated and adapted by Mark Peter Keane and Takei Jiro

Recommended Textbooks: Purchase online if you are serious about East Asian Gardens.

The Art of Japanese Gardens, by Loraine E. Kuck

Gardens in China by Peter Valder

Gardens of Korea: Harmony with Intellect and Nature, by Heo Kyun

The World of the Japanese Garden, by Loraine E. Kuck

These and other books on East Asian Gardens will be on reserve at the Fisher Fine Arts Library. Some readings will be available electronically through the Canvas web site.

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Office hours Wednesdays 3:30-4:30 PM and by appointment.

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Tentative Lecture/Discussion and Reading Schedule

(Please do the readings and take the online quiz before Tuesday of that week of class)

Week 1	August 30	Introduction to the Course, East Asia, and Gardens Introduction, Foreword or Preface to each book
Field Trip	Date TBA	Meet at Japanese House, Fairmount Park Date and Time TBA
Week 2	September 6	Garden Elements Heo 10-89, Ji 9-39, Keane 117-159, Keswick 1-55 Matthews 2-61, Young 18-59 Recommended: Kuck (World) 38-64, Valder 16-63
Week 3	Sept 11,13	Early Chinese Gardens in Literature and Archaeology Heo 10-89, Keane 117-159, Keswick 1-55,128-207, Matthews 62-77 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 3-15 (World) 19-64, Valder 16-63
Week 4	Sept 18, 20	Imperial Gardens and Parks in China Keswick 56-83 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 16-32 Valder 127-179
Week 5	Sept 25, 27	Chinese Private Gardens Ji Cheng; Keswick 84-127, 208-230 Recommended: Valder 218-389
Week 6	October 2, 4	Early Gardens in Korea: Anapji and elsewhere Heo 15-88 and other PDF Files, Matthews 100-141
Week 7	October 9, 11	Palace Gardens of Seoul; other Joseon era gardens Heo 89-153 Matthews 78-99,142-191
Week 8	October 16, 18	<i>Shinden</i> Gardens of Heian Japan <i>Sakuteiki</i> 1-126; Keane 1-44, Young 60-81 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 24-84 (World) 65-93,
Week 9	October 23, 25	Zen Gardens: Emptiness and Transcendent Rocks <i>Sakuteiki</i> 148-206; Keane 45-66, 117-159 Young 82-111 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 85-161, (World) 91-186 Film: <i>Dream Window, Reflections on the Japanese Garden</i> , 1992
Week 10	Oct 30 Nov 1	<i>Roji</i> : Gardens for Tea Keane 67-96, Young 118-123 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 162-200 (World) 187-200,
Week 11	November 6. 8	<i>Rikyū</i> : Imperial Villa Gardens Keane 97-116 Young 124-137 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 201-221, (World) 201-215
Week 12	Nov 13, 15	Daimyō Residence and Castle Gardens Keane 117-158, Young 112-117, 138-157 Recommended: Kuck (Art) 222-261 (World) 222-230
Week 13	Nov 20	<i>Machiya</i> and Commoner Gardens Keane 159-179 Young 124-130 Recommended: Kuck (World) 231-244
Week 14	Nov 27, 29	Modern and Contemporary Gardens of East Asia Young 158-174. PDF article by Kendall Brown, Recommended: Kuck (Art) 263-288 (World) 245-270,
Week 15	December 4, 6	Papers and presentations, final questions distributed.
Final Exam	December 20	Final Exam Due 12 Noon