

***Sample syllabus, subject to revision

Modern East Asian Texts

Instructor: Chloe Estep

I. Course Description

This course is an introduction to and exploration of modern East Asian literatures and cultures through close readings and discussion of selected literary works from the early 20th century to the start of the 21st century. Focusing on China, Japan, and Korea, we will explore the shared and interconnected experiences of modernity in East Asia as well as broaden our perspective by considering the location of East Asian cultural production within a global modernity. Major issues we will encounter include: nation-building and the modern novel; cultural translation; media and technology; representations of gender, race, and class; history and memory; colonialism; war; body and sexuality; globalization. No knowledge of the original language is required.

II. Course Materials

In order to ensure all students have free access to materials, all required readings will be uploaded to Canvas or otherwise made available digitally.

Some students may prefer to purchase a paper copy of the novels or other longer readings. I have indicated these texts with a star (*) and listed them below. If you wish to do so, you may do so from your preferred retailer. One option is Bookshop.org, which supports local bookstores. If you choose to purchase your own copy, please purchase the version indicated in the syllabus, if possible.

-Natsume Sōseki, *Kokoro*, trans. Edwin McClellan, Gateway Editions, 1996. ISBN 9780895267153

-Dazai Osamu, *The Setting Sun*, trans. Donald Keene, New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1968. ISBN 9780811200325

-Qiu Miaojin, *Notes of a Crocodile*, trans. Bonnie Huie, New York Review of Books, 2017. ISBN 9781681370767

-Theresa Hak-Kyung Cha, *Dictée*, University of California Press, 2009. ISBN 9780520261297

-Tawada Yoko, *Where Europe Begins*, New Directions Publishing Corporation, 2007. ISBN 9780811217026

-Chi Ta-Wei, *The Membranes*, trans. Ari Larissa Heinrich, Columbia University Press, 2021. ISBN 9780231195713

Films will be made available to stream on your personal device or in DVD form to check out from the library. The library also has viewing stations where you can view DVDs. Screenings may be scheduled for certain films depending on interest and availability.

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VI. Class Schedule:

Week 1 9/10: Organization and Introduction: The Brink of Modernity

Week 2 9/17: Writing the Modern Subject

Natsume Sōseki, *Kokoro* (1914) (J)*

Week 3 9/24: Literature and Social Reform

Lu Xun, Selected Works (1910s-'30s) (C)

Week 4 10/1: Decadence, Mystery, Modernism

Mu Shiyong, "Shanghai Foxtrot" (1932) (C)

Edogawa Ranpo, "The Human Chair" (1925) (J)

Tanizaki Jun'ichiro, "In Praise of Shadows" (1933) (J)

Yi Sang "Wings" (1936) (K)

Week 5 10/8: Love and Revolution

Ding Ling, "When I was in Xia Village" (1941) (C)

Mao Zedong, "Talks at the Yan'an Forum" (1942) (C)

Zhao Shuli, "Little Erhei's Marriage" (1943) (C)

Week 6 10/15: Humor, Absurdism, War

Kojima Nobuo, "American School" (1954) (J)

Chōn Kwang-yong, "Kapitan Ri" (1962) (K)

Jiang Wen, dir., *Devils on the Doorstep* (2000) (C) [film]

Week 7 10/22: Postwar Transitions (Paper #1 Due)

Dazai Osamu, *The Setting Sun* (1947) (J)*

Week 8 10/29: Nationalism, Masculinity, Eroticism

Ōe Kenzaburō, *Seventeen* (1961) (J)

Mishima Yukio, "Patriotism" (1960) (J)

Wong Kar-wai, dir., *In the Mood for Love* (2000) (HK) [film]

Week 9 11/5: Feminism, Livelihood, Capitalism

Hara Kazuo, dir., *Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974* (1974) (J) [film]

Pak Wan-sō, "Identical Apartments" (1974) (K)

Yūko Tsushima, "The Silent Traders" (1982) (J)

Zhai Yongming, Selected Poems (C)

Week 10 11/12: Race, Ethnicity, Nation

O Chōng-hŭi, "Chinatown" (1979) (K)

Yi Yang-jī, "Koku" (1985) (J/K)

Zheng Wanlong, "The Clock," (1989) (C)

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Takbum Gyel, “Notes on The Pekingese” (2014) (C/Tibet)

Week 11 11/19: Space and Place in Queer Narratives

Qiu Miaojin, *Notes of a Crocodile* (1994) (TW)*

Zhang Yuan, dir., *East Palace, West Palace* (1996) (C) OR Park Chan-wook, dir., *The Handmaiden* (2016) (K) [film]

Week 12 11/26: University Holiday (No Class)

Week 13 12/3: Language, Globalization, Disorientation (Paper #2 Due)

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, *Dictee* (1982) (K)*

Tawada Yōko, *Where Europe Begins* (1991) (J)*

Jia Zhangke, dir., *The World* (2004) (C) [film]

Week 14 12/10: Industrialization, Environment, Climate Futurity

Chi Ta-wei, *The Membranes* (1995) (TW)*

Han Kang, *The Vegetarian* (2007) (K)*

Xu Bing and Ouyang Jianghe, *Phoenix* (2014) (C)

Final Exam Due December 17