This introductory course surveys the major countries of the East Asian region (China, Japan and Korea) and their national and transnational cultures and heritages. The East Asian region has a long history and is becoming increasingly significant in the 21st century. This course focuses on the major elements of the culture(s) in the region through a primarily historical perspective. It introduces various aspects of the East Asian heritages such as language, philosophy, religion, and art through an interdisciplinary approach. In so doing, the course will answer some of the most basic questions concerning “culture,” among them how peoples in the region view themselves and each other, how they think about the world, how they interact with each other, what they produced and valued through the centuries. This course fulfills the General Education category of Humanities and International Perspectives. This lecture-intensive course is taught in English, and no knowledge of Chinese, Japanese or Korean languages is required.

**General Education:**

This course fulfills the General Education Categories of Humanities and International Perspectives.

**Characteristics of all General Education Courses:**

1. General Education courses offer introductions to the central topics of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
2. General Education courses offer explicit rather than tacit understandings of the procedures, practices, methodology and fundamental assumptions of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
3. General Education courses recognize multiple perspectives on the subject matter.
4. General Education courses emphasize active learning in an engaged environment that enables students to be producers as well as consumers of knowledge.
5. General Education courses promote critical inquiry into the assumptions, goals, and methods of various fields of academic study; they aim to develop the interpretive, analytic, and evaluative competencies characteristic of critical thinking.

**Learning Objectives for General Education Humanities Courses**

Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect.

Humanities courses enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods of study, and theories of at least one of the disciplines within the humanities.

Depending on the discipline, humanities courses will enable students to demonstrate some or all of the following:

1. an understanding of the objects of study as expressions of the cultural contexts of the people who created them;
2. an understanding of the continuing relevance of the objects of study to the present and to the world outside the university;
3. an ability to employ the terms and understand the conventions particular to the discipline;
4. an ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along with the reasons or arguments that can be given for and against them;
5. an understanding of the nature of the texts, artifacts, ideas, or discourse of the discipline and of
the assumptions that underlie this understanding, including those relating to issues of tradition
and canon.

This course fulfills the general education category International Perspectives by meeting learning
objectives focused on a “region beyond Europe.” Such courses enable students to demonstrate:
1. knowledge of the distinctive features (e.g. history, institutions, economies, societies, cultures) of
   one region beyond Europe or European North America.
2. an understanding of the region from the perspective of its people(s).
3. an ability to analyze and contextualize cultural and historical materials relevant to the region.

This asynchronous class is presented through the Blackboard Learn learning management system.
All readings, homework assignments, and exams are done through Blackboard. No physical
textbook is required.

Course Objectives
In line with the General Education guidelines (http://www.albany.edu/generaleducation/),
students will learn about the distinctive cultural and historical features of the East Asian region
and its component nations; acquire an understanding of the East Asian region from the
perspective of its various peoples; learn to analyze and contextualize cultural and historical
materials from the region; and be able to locate and identify distinctive geographical features of
the region (International Perspectives).

Course Requirements and Policies
- Completion of the map assignment (5%); viewing all lectures and completing all readings,
  assessed through 27 daily homework assignments (55%); a midterm exam (20%) and a final
  exam (20%). Students must complete all homework assignments by 11:59PM on the date
  indicated in the syllabus below and on the Blackboard calendar. We suggest completing
  assignments immediately after you watch the assignment and do the reading, rather than
  waiting until before the hard deadline. In case of midterm and final exams, the earliest time
  you can start on the day of the tests is 9AM. It is to your benefit to follow the suggested
  schedule.

- There will be no curve. There will be no extra credit assignments. Even if you ask. We
  keep a close eye on your grades, but proceed with the above conditions in mind. No late
  assignments will be accepted, and no make-up exams will be allowed except in case of
  emergency (death in the family, extreme illness). All requests must come with written
  documentation. In the event of a technical glitch, the instructor has final discretion involving
  student retakes and make-ups. Please understand that these conditions will be adhered
  to stringently in this online course format and the syllabus will be the reference point
  by which such requests will be considered.

- This syllabus is a non-negotiable contract. We agree to teach the topics listed in the course
  syllabus, and to assess you fairly on assessment criteria. By participating in this course, you
  agree to take part in and engage with the course material and to submit your work for
  assessment, as well as to complete this work fully and to the best of your ability, or to accept
  responsibility for not completing the work. We consider a grade of “Incomplete” to be for
documented emergencies, not for students who fail to plan ahead.

- If you have a documented disability with the Disability Resource Center and wish to request
  accommodation, please disclose to the instructor within the first two weeks of class. All
discussions are confidential.

Grade Scale
93-100%=A; 90-92%=A-; 87-89%=B+; 83-86%=B; 80-82%=B-; 77-79%=C+; 73-76%=C; 70-72%=C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D; 60-62%=D-; 0-59%=E.

Course Guidelines and Suggestions

General information:
• Use Mozilla Firefox. Students have lost hours of work using Blackboard with Internet Explorer and Chrome. Use Firefox to ensure this does not happen to you.
• All due dates and may be viewed in two places on the course website: The “Due Today” section on the course homepage, and the Calendar, accessible from the sidebar. The “Due Today” section is occasionally glitchy, so it is your responsibility to confirm all due dates on the Calendar section of the Blackboard website or the syllabus.
• Once due dates have passed, your grades, as well as the results of your homework assignments, may be viewed in the My Grades section of the Blackboard website. Exam results will not be released online, and may be viewed in person only.

Course videos:
• All course videos may be accessed through the Blackboard website. All videos are streamed through YouTube, but are unlisted on that website. It is your responsibility to make sure you are in a location with a reliable Internet connection and can view the videos. Failure to complete assignments because of an inability to view the course lectures is unacceptable.

Homework assignments and exams:
• It is our expectation that you will complete the homework assignments and exams without assistance from others, although you are permitted to access the course materials while working on them. In order to maintain fairness and to deter unauthorized collaboration, all assignments and exams must be completed in one attempt. You must answer the questions in the order that they appear, and cannot backtrack once you have answered a question.
• All homework assignments have a time limit of 20 minutes. All exams have a time limit of 80 minutes. While question types are standard, a reminder that multiple answer questions deduct negative credit for incorrect answers.
• In the event of a Blackboard glitch, make sure you are using Firefox rather than another browser. You may try to log out and log back in, restart your computer, reset your Internet connection and try again. Blackboard will take you back to where you left off in the homework assignment. Please note that the timer will continue to count down during this process, and there is no concession for that.
• Exams must be begun in the designated time period announced by the instructor, regardless of the due date on Blackboard. In the event of an exam, a later due date may be selected to ensure that students who start the exam towards the end of the designated time period will not have their results disqualified. This due date is not the same as the designated time period for beginning the exam, and will not be used in granting leniency for a late start or a missed start for an exam.

Below is a grid of the course units, the associated readings, and the related homework assignments.
They appear here the same order that they do on Blackboard. We have included approximate lengths for each lecture, to give you an idea of how much time to set aside for that part of the unit. Reading selections come from a variety of sources, including the following:


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Lecture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Related Homework</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Course Introduction (23 mins.)</td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>General Introduction to East Asia (30 mins.)</td>
<td>“World Factbook” webpages on China, Japan, and Korea</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/31</td>
<td>Geography of China (45 mins.)</td>
<td>Shaughnessy, 12-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Geography of Japan (36 mins.)</td>
<td>Totman, “Geology, Climate, and Biota” 11-19</td>
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<td>9/5</td>
<td>Geography of Korea (12 mins.)</td>
<td><em>A Handbook of Korea, “The Country”</em> 10-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>People of Japan (22 mins.) Language of Japan (45 mins.)</td>
<td>Reischauer, “Isolation”31-36 and “Language” 381-388</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Resource</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>People of Korea (15 mins.) Language of Korea (16 mins.)</td>
<td><em>A Handbook of Korea, “People and Language”</em> 40-47</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/14</td>
<td>Chronology of China (75 mins.)</td>
<td>Shaughnessy, 24-55</td>
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<td>9/18</td>
<td>Chronology of Japan (47 mins.)</td>
<td>Leibo, “History” 64-72</td>
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<td>9/22</td>
<td>Chronology of Korea (27 mins.)</td>
<td>Chŏng, “Profile of the Korean Past” 11, 15-38</td>
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<td>9/25</td>
<td>Religious Daoism and Divinities in China (54 mins.)</td>
<td>Shaughnessy 136-145; Schipper, 1-5, 20-43, 100-112</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/28</td>
<td>Shintoism and Daoism in Japan (44 mins.)</td>
<td>Earhart, “The Formation of Shinto” 29-38 and “Religious Daoism” 55-58</td>
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<td>Shamanism and Daoism in Korea (incorporated with the above)</td>
<td>Sohn, “Religion and Philosophy”</td>
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<td>10/2</td>
<td>Confucianism in China (72 mins.)</td>
<td>Gardner, “Confucius and his Legacy” 1-47 and “The Reorientation of the Confucian Tradition after 1000 CE” 70-111</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5</td>
<td>Confucianism in Japan (40 mins.)</td>
<td>Smith, “The Background of Confucianism and the Tokugawa Legacy” 1-40</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Confucianism in Korea (15 mins.)</td>
<td>Yang, “An Outline History of Korean Confucianism” 81-101 and 259-276</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td><strong>Midterm Exam</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26</td>
<td>Buddhism in China (65 mins.)</td>
<td>Shaughnessy, “The Way of the Buddha” 108-119</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading/Reference</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
<td>Literature of China (51 mins.)</td>
<td>Mair, selected poems and excerpts</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Literature of Korea (67 mins.)</td>
<td>Sohn, “Literature”</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
<td>Arts of Japan (64 mins.)</td>
<td>Britannica Online Encyclopedia, “Japanese Art”</td>
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<td>11/21</td>
<td>Arts of Korea (74 mins.)</td>
<td>Britannica Online Encyclopedia, “Korean Art”</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>First Encounters with the West – China (36 mins.)</td>
<td>Ebrey, “The Ming Empire in China” 269-288</td>
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<td>11/30</td>
<td>First Encounters with the West – Japan (34 mins.)</td>
<td>Kōdansha Encyclopedia of Japan, “namban”; “namban art”; “namban trade”; “Western Learning”</td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td>First Encounters with the West – Korea (28 mins.)</td>
<td>Seth, “Korea in the Age of Imperialism” 225-263</td>
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<td>12/6</td>
<td>East Asia in Modern Times – China (51 mins.)</td>
<td>Ebrey, “Manchus and Imperialism: The Qing Dynasty” 220-258; “China: A Century of Revolution”</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/7</td>
<td>East Asia in Modern Times – Japan (60 mins.)</td>
<td>Encyclopedia Britannica “Modern Period” from (with a focus on the arts)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>East Asia in Modern Times – Korea (40 mins.)</td>
<td>Seth, “South Korea: From Poverty to Prosperity, 1953-1997” 373-404</td>
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<td>12/14</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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