

## EAST ASIAN SOCIETIES [AN 357] COURSE MAP:

**Course Title:** EAST ASIAN SOCIETIES

**Department Name:** BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

**College/School/Division Name:** SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

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### University Course Catalog Description

#### AN 357 East Asian Societies (3)

This course consists of an examination of traditional and contemporary Japanese and Chinese societies. The course emphasis is on the traditional societies and the process of cultural change. Topics will include: the importance of examining past cultural history when interpreting contemporary societies; how patterns of social ritual reinforce social relationships; how culture defines social behavior; To provide some understanding about the world's single largest population group (at over one fifth of the world's population) and the tremendous cultural differences within the term East Asian. *Course offered annually in the Fall semester. Fulfills Global Awareness course requirement.*

#### Course Overview

This course is intended to provide an introduction to traditional and contemporary Japanese and Chinese societies from an anthropological perspective. We will examine both traditional social pattern, continuity and patterns of change in these societies.

#### Required Learning Materials

Garcia, Hector 2010. *A Geek in Japan*. Rutland: Tuttle.

Collins, Robert 1992. *Japan-Think, Ameri-Think*. NY: Penguin.

Osburg, John 2013. *Anxious Wealth: Money and Morality Among China's New Rich*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press.

#### Course Schedule

MODULE 1 [JAPAN 1 GEOG-SOCIAL HISTORY]:

**Ass: Read Garcia ch. 1-4, 6[61 pg]; Collins Ch. 1-9[70 pg]  
[6 hr reading]**

Topics: Isolation / Role of Nature / Taiwan-Korea migrations / Ainu-ethnic Japanese / Yayoi-Jomon vs East Asia / Uji-clans / Amaterasu-Yamato / visible-nonvisible power / male-female role change / function vs appearance / shogun concept / residence vs kin / vertical alliance / social logic of change as norm / social class-caste 1200-1860 / samurai-bushido-47 Ronin / Shogun-Meiji Emperor-20<sup>th</sup> c Imperialism / samurai to zaibatsu

MODULE 2 [JAPAN 2 KINSHIP]:

**Ass: Read Garcia ch. 5, 7[26 pg]; [1.5 hr reading]**

Topics: Ie-household / centrality of family / '3 P's' / extended-nuclear families / koseki / neighbors vs clan / oyabun-kobun / Amae unidirectional generator-sponge / ikigai / obligations / visible

effort-skill / gaijin concept / subtlety / self-discovery / future time oriented / geosociobiology / relational oriented

MODULE 3 [JAPAN 3 SOCIAL VALUES]:

**Ass: Read Collins Ch. 10-24[135 pg]  
[7 hr reading]**

Topics: Traditional male-female roles / 20<sup>th</sup> c work impacts / women as OL, men as samurai / male immaturity vs female maturity / trad marriage-20<sup>th</sup> c version / work-family-marriage-kids-neighbors

MODULE 4 [SOCIAL STRUCTURES]:

**Ass: Read Garcia ch. 8-10[126 pg]; [6 hr reading]**

Topics: Education-work stratification / minority status / ED routing-testing / ED-Work interrelationship / Role of ED in Japan / 'salariman' goal / group-individual in workplace / work-family / ringi system / 'small business' in Japan

MODULE 5 [JAPAN 5 RELIGIONS]:

Topics: Syncretic religions / Qi-karma as universals / Shinto place-specific system / Shinto-Govt-State Shinto / permeability and realities / supernatural-kami / ritual purification / Buddhism-Govt / millenarian Buddhist sects / Soka Gekka

MODULE 6 [JAPAN CHANGE]:

Topics: Male-Female relats / Heroic Pasts-Apocalyptic Futures / Otaku as indicators / manga and reality

MODULE 7 [CHINA 1 GEOG-SOCIAL HISTORY]:

**Ass: Read Osburg ch. 1-2[75 pg]  
[4 hr reading]**

Topics: Geography-bowl effect; loess impacts; 'Middle Kingdom'-barbarians-isolation; early hominid settlement; Neolithic settlement patterns; name clans; centralized state + ritual; Imperial Chinese states-cycles of control to collapse; Shang-Chou-Qin-Han-T'ang-Ming-Qing as social markers; 'Mandate of Heaven'; Bureaucracy-clan loyalties; Centralized State-standardization; Han-minorities relationships

MODULE 8 [CHINA 2 KINSHIP]:

**Ass: Osburg ch. 3-4[162 pg]; [7 hr reading]**

Topics: 4 kinship keys; gender roles; Chinese sociobiology; family-kin roles-contractual relationships; kin morality; individual ethics [Confucianism]; marriage logic-rituals; knowledge vs cash as status

MODULE 9 [CHINA 3 SOCIAL STRUCTURE]:

Topics: impacts of Colonial-20<sup>th</sup> c period; PRC social history-the hukou

MODULE 10 [CHINA 4 VALUES]:

**Ass: Read Osburg ch. 5-6[50 pg]; [ 2 hr reading]**

Concepts: individual ethics [Confucianism]; marriage logic-rituals; knowledge vs cash as status / Situational-generalized morality; ED success as collective status; ED explicitly competitive-no rules; social networks-guanxi; name-face-mianzi; risk-taking-need to dominate; centrality of 'Rectification

of Name' as check; 'doctrine of Mutual Responsibility'; relational self-identity vs. workplace; success-failure temporary states vs permanents; wealth as tool vs goal

MODULE 11 [CHINA 5 RELIGION]:

Concepts: Syncretic Chinese religions; Central concepts yin-yang, change as constant, karma, reincarnation, numerology [ming shui], geomancy [feng shui]; Taoism popularistic-intellectual paths; Confucian morality-State Bureaucracy / Buddhism 'big questions'; lack of central authority, diversity; multiple paths-multiple truths; relat to CCP Marxism-Famen Temple; CCP as religious structure

MODULE 12 [CHINA and REGIONAL CHANGE]:

Concepts: 'Riding the Tiger'-CCP; China-Tibet-Minorities; moral-social group in 21<sup>st</sup> c. China; Role of Govts in 21<sup>st</sup> c. China / Social Changes in East Asia