2015

CORE 100-03 Discover Asia in Cincinnati

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Fall 2015  
First Year Seminar  
Discover Asia in Cincinnati  
CORE-100-03

Class time: Wed./Fri. 3:00-4:15 pm  
Classroom Alter 107  
Instructor: Dr. Hsing-yi Kao  
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Office hours Mon./Wed./Fri. 10am to 11am (or by appointment)  
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Course Introduction

This seminar course seeks to construct a two-way understanding of “Asian” cultural presence in America, in broad sense, and its presence in Greater Cincinnati area, in specific sense. The course starts from taking a historical approach as we discuss relevant topics affecting Asian presence in the United States, whereby seeks to explore possible impact(s) Asian culture have on mainstream American society. Here Asia/Asian is seen as a collectivity (most usually the term refers to East Asia). Relevant topics as immigration, cultural representation and interaction, Faith and religion, and Everyday life serve as important concepts, which will guide in-class discussion.

Course Format

This class is a seminar course. It is mainly a discuss-based class. Students are required to read texts, which do not limit to readings but also other “forms” of texts. Films, posters, among others will be used in class to help broaden our understanding of Asian image. The class will also have several field trips.

Course goals

Students are expected to

- Become engaged in intellectually challenging and interesting questions and problems.
- Develop strong mentoring relationships with faculty in and out of the classroom.
- Join the community of scholars at Xavier University.
- Establish a solid foundation on which subsequent Core Curriculum courses will build.
- Engage with a common theme across all semesters: The Greater Good.

Student Learning Outcomes: students are expected to:

- Apply the approaches of multiple disciplines to a significant issue.
• Articulate the evolution of their **vocation** and aspirations to contribute to the world.
• Identify and critically assess multiple dimensions of an **ethical issue** in an attempt to reach a conclusion. In FYS, this includes:
  o Interpreting challenging **readings**.
  o Employing effective **library research and information literacy skills**.
  o Constructing arguments supported with evidence.

**Important concepts**
*This seminar class is part of the First-Year Experience at Xavier that includes Manresa, the First Year Co-Curricular Program, peer mentoring, and other core course. We encourage students to think about the following 2 important themes central to Jesuit education:*

**The Greater Good**
The Jesuit tradition invites us to work in a spirit of generous excellence--to consider the greater good in all that we do, including our academic work. There are many ways to work toward the greater good.

**Vocation**

“Vocation” is broader than preparation for a major or a job. It is a path toward the kind of person that you want to be. A key part of the Xavier mission is to challenge and support you as you cultivate a life of reflection, compassion and informed action. In this course, you will consider these questions:

• What brings me joy?
• What am I good at?
• What does the world need from me?

**Guiding themes**
The following themes serve to guide our class discussion; they are:
**Immigration / Cultural interaction or representation / Faith and religion / Overseas community / Everyday life**

The five themes serve to guide class discussion. Under each theme, we read, and discuss relevant texts. Each theme would likely to take two to three weeks.

**Course Evaluation**

Class participation / discussion .......... 50%
Two short (3-page each) papers ....... 20%
Group project ........................................30%
This is a discussion-based class. The majority of grading is based upon in-class participation (discussion and writing). There will be 2 short papers (due week 7th and 14th respectively). The instructor will give the topic beforehand. There is also a final group project. Each group (no more than 4 people) will do in-class presentation (roughly 40 minutes). The topic should include at least 2 themes of the class. Aside from Students are especially encouraged to do fieldwork, such as interviewing, active research; students are also encouraged to make connections among different themes. Participation is mandatory; students should come to class fully prepared.

**Required Texts**

1. Adam McKeown, *Chinese Migrant Networks and Cultural Change, Peru, Chicago, Hawaii, 1900-1936* (The Univ. of Chicago Press, 2001)
2. David Arkush & Leo Lee *Land Without Ghosts: Chinese Impressions of America From the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the Present* (Univ. of California Press, 1989)

* other readings will be posted on Canvass

**Course schedule (subject to change)**

As mentioned, the class is divided into several themes; they are: *Immigration, Faith and religion, Cultural interaction and representation, Everyday life* and *Overseas communities*. Each theme takes two or three weeks:

**Week One and Two:**
- Course Introduction / Overview
- Campus Inventory (Library resources)

**Week Three to Five: (9/9 ~9/25)**
- Theme one: *Immigration: broad and narrow senses*
  - Points: the cause (s) of global immigration in modern era
    - Asian immigration / Asian diaspora
    - The Impression of the West in the eyes of Asian: historical perspective

**Week Six to Eight: (9/30~10/16)**
- Theme two: *Faith and Religion*
  - Points: Function(s) of church
    - Churches East and West
    - Sociological roles of religion
  *first paper due on week seven

**Week Nine to Eleven: (10/21~11/6)**
- Theme three: *Cultural Interaction and representation*
  - Points: The concept of “culture”
    - Asian culture in American mass media: dramas, films
      - (Joy luck club; Fresh off the boat, and others)
Week Twelve to Fourteen (11/11~11/20)
Theme four: Everyday life and overseas community
Points: Who is an average American?
   Experience Asian life style: visiting Asian restaurant
   Building networks in the alien territory
* second paper due on week twelve

Week Sixteen to Seventeen (12/2~12/11)
Group presentations