

**MLC 212: Survey of East Asian Literature**  
Spring 2008 - 3 credits

**Professor:** Dr. Christopher T. Keaveney

**Office:** Walker 321

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Phone:** 883-2584

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

East Asia boasts a remarkable literary legacy that offers one important avenue for understanding present-day cultural and social values in Asia. In this course we will encounter works of literature from China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Readings in the course will include a variety of genres including fiction, poetry, drama and essays. We will seek to discover in our readings the qualities distinct to the cultural milieu in which each work was written while also attempting to identify what these works have in common with works from Western literature with which we are familiar.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Barnstone, Tony, ed. *Literatures of Asia*, Prentice Hall, 2001.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/ EDUCATIONAL GOALS

- To come to a greater understanding and appreciation of the cultural foundations of East Asian Culture.
- To develop critical thinking skills through frequent reading, writing and discussion.
- To discuss what role traditional cultural values play in the literary works we encounter.
- To discuss works of Asian literature in the context of works from the Western tradition.

PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH:

This course will take the form of an on-line course facilitated via the Blackboard platform. Blackboard is an instructional delivery system currently used throughout Linfield College. It permits instructors to distribute material and assignments to students, assess student performance and to communicate with students and to facilitate communication between students all in a secure course site. All assignments and evaluation will take place via the Blackboard course web site in conjunction with e-mail. Students are invited, though not required, to visit the course instructor during the semester.

**Formal Assignments:** There will be two formal papers of 3-5 pages each written in response to specific assignments. These will involve responses to specific readings from among homework readings.

**Informal Discussion Responses:** There will be regular writing assignments of an informal nature. These will be short responses to weekly discussion questions submitted to the homepage and are meant to be informal, spontaneous and unrevised.

**Final Examination:** The final exam will be administered through the WebCT site and will be derived from the material we have discussed throughout the course of the semester with reference to specific literary works.

AREA OF INQUIRY: In this course, we will read and discuss a variety of works of literature from East Asia in English translations. Insofar as the focus of this course is on

the reading and critical analysis of works of literature, the Images and Arts (IA) or Creative Studies (CS) designation is most appropriate. In keeping with the catalog description of the IA (or CS) designation, this course will “explore creation, performance, and critical appreciation of artistic expression.” Moreover, the works we will encounter in class all come from the East Asian tradition, thus, a Global Diversity (DG) designation is appropriate.

### CLASS OUTLINE

- WEEK 1: Introduction to Course/Overview of Asian Literature  
Confucianism and *The Analects*
- WEEK 2: Confucianism and Confucian Orthodoxy: The Five Classics  
Daoism: *Dao de Jing*
- WEEK 3: Sima Qian and Historical Writing in China  
Daoism: *Zhuangzi*
- WEEK 4: Two Tang Period poets: Li Bai and Du Fu
- WEEK 5: Korean Fiction: “Tale of Ch’unhyang”  
Korean Drama: The *Pansori* Drama
- WEEK 6: Japanese Literature: Selections from *Tale of Genji*
- WEEK 7: Vietnamese Fiction “Tale of Kieu”  
Vietnamese Poetry
- WEEK 8: Korean Poetry: The Sijo Form
- WEEK 9: Chinese Drama: The Beijing Opera  
*Peony Pavilion*
- WEEK 10: Chinese Traditional Fiction
- WEEK 11: Samurai Values and the Zen Arts: Haiku, Nô
- WEEK 12: Popular Theater in Feudal Japan: Bunraku and Kabuki,
- WEEK 13: Popular Literature in Contemporary Asia

EXAM

CRITERIA USED FOR ASSIGNING GRADE:

- |                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Formal Assignments:             | 50% |
| 2. Informal Writing (Discussions): | 25% |
| 3. Final Exam:                     | 25% |

**GRADING SCALE:**

95-100=A	88-90=B+	78-80=C+	65-70=D+
91-94=A-	83-87=B	73-77=C	< 65= F
	81-82=B-	71-72=C-	

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

In case of academic dishonesty, the guidelines in the Linfield College Catalog will be followed. An “F” grade will be given automatically for any form of plagiarism. We will discuss in class what constitutes plagiarism.

**DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

College Policy: Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.