

## Asian Modernities Reading List (Special Topic: Of Theories and Applications)

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Class time and location: Thursday 4-7 pm; GAR 2.124

Office Hour and location: 11 am to 2 pm Tuesdays (Or by appointment); WCH 5.104B

In this course we will look at the place of theory and criticism in the study of “Asia” in the academy today—or simply put, “Asia as method”—with particular attention to the origins and rise of modern comparative literary and cultural studies. We will engage in topics such as the construction of “literature,” literary traditions, and national cultures in a comparative context; articulations of internationalism and cosmopolitanism as counter-discourses; recent debates on nationalism and modernity, cultural studies, gender studies, translation and travel, imperialism and subalternity, and the proliferation of “post” studies (postmodern, postcolonial, postnational) as they pertain to our research and writing. We will aim to strike up a dialogue between current topics in Asian studies and a larger body of theoretical and historical work from which it draws.

### Requirements

Students are required to attend all seminars, complete the assigned reading, and present a short introduction to one or more of the readings in class. Students will “adopt” a week of his/her choice and facilitate class discussion during the week. Designed as an intensive reading and discussion course, this course is to familiarize you with a wide body of contemporary critical texts and concerns. It is imperative that you prepare the readings for discussion every week.

A full-length research paper (20-25 pages) is due on **December 12** (subj to change). A detailed prospectus (5 pages) and preliminary bibliography is be due **November 20**. You are expected to present your final project in an end-of-term workshop on **December 5**.

### Grading

Seminar paper (35%); class participation (35%); Prospectus and peer critique (15%), final presentation (15%)

Week One                      August 29

Logistics

Frederick Cooper, “Modernity”

Week Two                      September 5

Paul Cohen, *Between Tradition and Modernity*

Sabina Knight, *Chinese Literature: A Very Short Introduction*

Week Three                    September 12

David Wang, *Fin-de-siecle Splendor*

Week Four                      September 19

Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practice*

Week Five                      September 26

Hardt and Negri, *The Empire*

Week Six                        October 3

Foucault, *The Order of Things*

Chow, *World Target*, selected chapters (Optional)

Week Seven                    October 10

Dung, *The Atlas*

Chu, *The Old Capitol* (Optional)

Week Eight                    October 17

Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1

Purr, *Homonationalism*, select chapters

Week Nine                     October 24

Class will meet with Dr. Kirsten and Dr. Hindman and attend a talk on Natsume Soseki and modern Japanese literature

Week Ten                      October 31

Chu, *The Notes of A Desolate Man*

Week Eleven                  November 7

Judith Farquhar, *Appetites*

Week Twelve                 November 14

Shih, *Sinophone Studies: A Critical Reader* (Select chapters)

Wu Zhuoliu, *The Orphan of Asia*

Week Thirteen              November 21

Prospectus workshop

Week Fourteen              November 28

Thanksgiving, NO CLASS

Week Fifteen                      December 5

Presentation