Asian Studies 612 is a foundational theory/methodology course that is required for Asian Studies M.A. students and helpful to graduate students studying Asia in a variety of disciplines and contexts. Class readings introduce key theoretical frameworks, issues, historical grounding, and methodological approaches broadly relevant to the study of Asia across disciplines. The course emphasizes the development of theoretical literacy together with the close reading and analysis of scholarly texts. Writing assignments are designed to contribute to articulateness in class and build proficiency in written interpretation and argument. Paper-writing also facilitates familiarity with—and critical inquiry into—disciplinary and place-based knowledge in the context of an increasingly global and transnational “area.”

Weekly class assignments and discussions engage current interpretive issues and historical debates that inform the interdisciplinary study of Asia. All classes and assignments (including short papers, as specified below) are required, as is active and informed participation in class discussion. The books that are listed below have been ordered in the bookstore. Various articles are accessible on Canvas, as indicated in the course syllabus.

**Books:**
Shelly Chan, *Diaspora’s Homeland: Modern China in the Age of Global Migration* (2018)

**Requirements:** Everyone should plan to attend all classes and complete all reading and written assignments on time. Informed and engaged participation in discussions is a minimal requirement for graduate level credit and is essential for intellectual community among members of the class. For any three of weeks 2-10 you should plan to write a 3-4 page critical reaction paper for the assigned readings. You must turn in at least two of these papers by week 7. These short papers should present, frame, and evaluate the readings in terms of the critical interpretive issues they raise (if there are multiple readings, you should group and tie them together
thematically, rather than comment on them serially). *These papers must be turned in at the start of the class for which the reading is assigned.* A final paper is due at the end of the term. This will be a longer critical book review of a recent notable or controversial book relevant to Asian Studies. For this paper please choose from the list of suggestions at the end of this syllabus. (If you would like to propose an alternate book yourself please consult with me in advance.).

Classes will begin with short general reflections on the reading by all members of the class. Designated individuals will take turns facilitating the discussions that follow.

**Schedule of Classes:**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>January 9</th>
<th>Introduction: What is particular about Asian Studies?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Orientalism</td>
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<td>Daniel Vukovich, <em>China and Orientalism: Western Knowledge Production and the PRC</em> (2012) [may be available online in e-book format through UO library], pp. 1-46; 126-150. [Canvas]</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>Intellectual Mappings: What is Asia? What is East? What is West?</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Jan 30</td>
<td>Field Formations: Asian Studies, Area Studies, and Asian-American Studies</td>
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<td>Fabio Lanza, <em>The End of Concern: Maoist China, Activism, and Asian Studies</em></td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Asian Traditions/ Asian Modernities/Postmodernities</td>
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Prince Shotoku in Modern Japan; •Louise Young, “Colonizing Manchuria;” •Carol Gluck, “The Invention of Edo;” •Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Afterward”)

**Week 6**  **February 13** Translation and Histories of Transnational Circulations

*Readings:*
•Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practice*, pp. xv-99.
•Lydia Liu, ed., *Tokens of Exchange*: read first five pages of introduction, then pp. 127-185 and 331-374. Includes:
  •Liu, “Legislating the Universal: The Circulation of International Law in the Nineteenth Century” [Canvas]
  •Alexis Dudden, “Japan’s Engagement with International Terms” [Canvas]
  •Q. S. Tong, “The Bathos of a Universalism: I.A. Richards and His Basic English;”

**Week 7**  **Feb 20** Cultural Constructions of Militarism

*Reading:*

**Week 8**  **February 27** Repositioning European and Asian Trajectories

*Readings:*
  (•begin reading Shelly Chan)

**Week 9**  **March 6** Migration/Diaspora

*Readings:*
•Shelly Chan, *Diaspora’s Homeland: Modern China in the Age of Global Migration* (2018)


**Week 10**  **March 13** Repositioning the Global

*Reading:*

DEADLINE FOR FINAL PAPERS: MARCH 14, noon, under my office door (375 McK)
Suggested books for final papers

The following books are suggested because they have stimulated scholarly debate on issues relevant to Asian studies, because they are both interesting and substantial in terms of their research/interpretive approach, and because they intersect in important ways with themes raised in our class. Your assignment is to write a thoughtful book review that conveys the ways in which the particular book enters into a scholarly discussion of particular issues concerning the conceptualization of Asia or an issue relevant to the study of regions within Asia. This involves introducing the book in context and presenting the topic, argument and general methodology/approach. You should conclude with a considered discussion of the strengths, weaknesses, and contributions of the book. **If the book’s perspective is global, your paper should explicitly address the question of the place of Asia/Asians within it. Aim for a 5-7pp paper that succinctly introduces, contextualizes and assesses the book you choose. You may also choose another book of your choice in consultation with me.

- Laura Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China* (2001)
- Theodore Huters, *Bringing the World Home: Appropriating the West in Late Qing and Early Republican China* (2005)
- Prasenjit Duara, *Rescuing History from the Nation* (1995)
- Louise Young *Japan’s Total Empire* (1998)