

Advanced Issues in East Asian Art and Popular Culture**2015/2016**

Code: 101535

ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500244 East Asian Studies	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)

Prerequisites

Students should have enrolled in and passed Bachelor's Degree in East Asian studies' 3rd year's East Asian Art and Popular Culture course.

Since most of the readings will be written in English, it is necessary to have a minimum level of reading comprehension in English in order to understand both compulsory and complementary readings.

Since it forms part of the specialisation in Culture, Art and Literature of East Asia, this course is complemented by East Asian Comparative Cultural Studies, but it is not compulsory to enrol in both of the courses if the student does not want to obtain that specialization.

Students who wish to do their bachelor's degree final project about issues related to Advanced Issues in East Asian Art and Popular Culture should enrol in this course since, if it were not the case, they would have to independently compensate methodological and theoretical lacks.

Objectives and Contextualisation

- Acquire theoretical and methodological knowledge appropriate to the analysis of the works, products and phenomena related to popular culture and art.
- Apply those theoretical tools to the study of a particular issue under the teachers' supervision.
- Participate in a collective analysis of the documents (films, literary works, etc.), reading or watching them in class as assigned by the teachers.
- Improve critical sense and individual analytical ability, as well as debate ability and intercultural and communicative abilities focused on the exchange of ideas and experiences.
- Use theoretical tools and the analysis of cultural studies to communication media and new social networks provided by ICT.
- Integrate interdisciplinary knowledge acquired during the bachelor's degree in order to offer reasoning and studies historically placed and enriched by human multiplicity, and not to limit to a unique approach or an abstract and timeless analysis. Notice that specialization and preparation are not just contents or titles (easily available by different means), but mostly method: rigour, exigency and auto-critical ability. Make East Asian Studies graduated specialists basing on the fact being worked and argued as specialists, but not to make them to just accumulate knowledge previously presented as specialized.

Skills

- Applying knowledge of the art and popular culture to the analysis and comprehension of written texts in the languages of East Asia.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.

- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
- Knowing and comprehending the art and popular culture of the countries of East Asia.
- Knowing and using the information and communication technology resources (ICT) in order to collect, produce, analyse and present information related to the East Asian Studies.
- Knowing, comprehending, describing and analysing the values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia.
- Knowing the great literary, philosophical, and artistic movements of East Asia.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Solving problems of intercultural communication.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
- Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.

Learning outcomes

1. Applying knowledge of the art and popular culture to the analysis and comprehension of written texts in the languages of East Asia.
2. Assessing the obtained results in the information search process in order to update the knowledge about history, literature, linguistics, thought and art.
3. Carrying out the documentary search in the specific languages of East Asia.
4. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
5. Developing self-learning strategies.
6. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
7. Knowing and comprehending the art and popular culture of the countries of East Asia.
8. Knowing, comprehending, describing and analysing the values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia.
9. Knowing the great literary, philosophical, and artistic movements of East Asia.
10. Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
11. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
12. Solving problems of intercultural communication.
13. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
14. Using the specific terminology of history, literature, linguistics, thought and art.
15. Utilising different tools for specific purposes in the fields of history, literature, linguistics, thought and art.
16. Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.

Content

PART I. JAPAN.

Unit 1: Introduction to critical theory and cultural studies

In the first sessions, cultural studies and critical theory's key concepts, schools and thinkers will be introduced in order to provide the students with the tools allowing them to critically begin to study works, actors and phenomena which will be used during the course. However, we will not go deeper in those contents, since they are offered in detail in East Asian Comparative Cultural Studies.

Schools:

- Formalism
- Narratology
- Structuralism
- Post-structuralism
- Psychoanalysis

Unit 2: Social changes affecting labour model and family structures

We will analyse how recent cinematographic production reflects the crisis of family traditional models and androcentric labour models, and how that has been produced by the increase of social precariousness (Anne Allison) and by changes in masculinity model (Sharon Kinsella).

Unit 3: East Asian youth, the new social actors

Analytical tools and methodologies observed during introductory sessions can be applied to different society's elements. The analysis of materials will not be focused only in a certain aspect or dimension, but the teacher will also try to guide the reflection towards issues such as the followings:

- Youth as a driving force for change (or for stasis, if applicable)
- New familiar configurations and the crisis of the model of root family, not only regarding cultural tradition, but also regarding certain economic dynamics (for example, the role assigned to the youth housewife, , in post-war society)
- Young women, their expectations and their reactions;
- Young cultures, not only as zoku () for joining by aesthetical affinities-which, in any case, they are not random nor arbitrary-, but also as a result of social circumstances-for example, the yankii, which can be productively compared with collectives closer to Catalan urban space-.

From the point of view of industries offering products or shows for popular consumption, from the second half of the 20th century an unequivocal trend appeared to massively take advantage of youth culture around the world (although there were already different precedents), especially with the globalization, which started from the 70s.

Apart from usual forces (consumerism, music, fashion, rebelliousness), East Asian youth react to a Confucian culture, but each generation makes way for the next generation, which repeats certain operations (Debord's thesis (1967) about the society of show and history).

In contemporary Japan, the interdependence of economy, consumerism and culture is obviously depicted in the art world, with amateur artists in websites such as Pixiv, Drawr and Tegaki. It is also depicted by the insolent attitude of Murakami Takashi and his acolytes in Superflat movement, arising due to the consideration of the art to be an economic activity, and by the exploitation of "Japan's Gross National Cool" (McGray 2001).

Different aspects related to (or affecting) youth are liable to be analysed during the class sessions. Likewise, other topics can be analysed, considering that critical theory is more an interdisciplinary methodological approach than a closed collection of contents.

PART II. CHINA.

In the last century, China was submitted to turbulent political changes. The world of artistic and cultural production played an active role in the transmission and promotion of new politics ideas. Slogans such as "art for art's sake" and "art for the people" characterized diatribes between Chinese intellectuals. In this part of the class we will analyze those artistic and cultural phenomena that contributed to this period of transformation.

We will start by analyzing the cultural production of the 1930s, with the Shanghai's cinema, the first documentary photographers, the modern xylographic movement and the production of satiric magazines.

The Maoist period will be important for the analysis of the consequences of Yan'an discourses for the People's Republic cultural production. We will also analyze the production of animation films during the 1950s. Finally, we will have a look at the Great Cultural Revolution and all its consequences for the Chinese cultural world.

In the last part of the class we will focus on the cultural production of the New Era, with a new wave of avant-garde artistic production that was symbolized by the '85 Movement. We will conclude with the 1990s and the beginning of the new millennium, during which we witness to constant dialogue between the actors of cultural production and the political power of the Chinese state.

Basic bibliography:

- Gao Minglu, *Total modernity and the avant-garde in twentieth-century Chinese art*, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, cop. 2011
- Lin Xiaoping, *Children of Marx and Coca-Cola: Chinese avant-garde art and independent cinema*, Honolulu : University of Hawai'i Press, cop. 2010
- Sullivan Michael, *Art and artists of twentieth-century China*, Berkeley: University of California Press, cop. 1996
- Yiu Josh, *Writing modern Chinese art: historiographic explorations*, Seattle: Seattle Art Museum, 2009
- Wu Hung and Christopher Phillips, *Between past and future : new photography and video from China*, Chicago : Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago ; New York : International Center of Photography ; Göttingen : Steidl Publishers, cop. 2004
- Wu Hung (ed.), *Contemporary Chinese art: primary documents*, New York : Museum of Modern Art, cop. 2010

Films:

- *Street Angel* (*malu tianshi*) de Yuan Muzhi (1937)
- *Springtime in a small town* (*xiaocheng zhi chun*) de Fei Mu (1948)
- *Frozen* (*Ji du han leng*) de Wang Xiaoshuai (1997)
- *Sunflower* (*Xiang ri kui*) de Zhang Yang (2005)

Lliterature:

- Yu Hua, *The Past and the punishments*, Honolulu : University of Hawai'i Press, cop. 1996

Methodology

Methodology

(To see assessment activities mentioned in the following methodological explanations, see "Assessment criteria").

Critical and cultural analyse methodology will be acquired by studying, reading and commenting different important figures' contributions in cultural studies, as well as by applying that methodology to text fragments-films, chapters from series or printed extracts-. The activity, consisting on comments done in common, will be carried out every week and will have an important influence in the course's final note.

In short, this course requires a high reading commitment in order to acquire relevant theoretical tools and the ability to add them in a productive way to intellectual and dialogical abilities. The type of critique and analysis to be developed by means of these classes is not like the media and informational critique model usually employed-both articles presentation and written work cannot be just argumentative summaries or comments from blogs having been recycled, but they have to be supported in academic structure and argumentation.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Autonomous			
Personal reading	65	2.6	1, 2, 8, 9, 7, 5, 4, 3, 10, 11, 15, 14, 6

Evaluation

Assessment criteria

- Test on the Critical Theory contents of the course: 25%
- Essay delivered on multimedia support (blog): 35% (2000-2500 words)
- 2 Oral presentations introducing key texts that will be discussed in class: 20%+20%

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Blog entry offering a detailed analysis of a work of art or popular culture	35%	40	1.6	1, 2, 8, 9, 7, 5, 4, 3, 10, 12, 11, 13, 16, 15, 14, 6
Oral presentation introducing an assigned reading	20%	12.5	0.5	1, 2, 8, 9, 7, 5, 4, 3, 10, 12, 11, 13, 16, 15, 14, 6
Oral presentation introducing one of the assigned readings	20%	12.5	0.5	1, 2, 8, 9, 7, 5, 4, 3, 10, 12, 11, 13, 16, 15, 14, 6
Written practice assessing the assimilation of Critical Theory tools	25%	20	0.8	1, 8, 9, 7, 5, 4, 15, 14, 6

Bibliography

The following list is a very basic bibliography which will be increased with relevant and specific bibliography regarding issues related to popular culture and art.

Popular culture:

(Cultural studies, anthropology, sociology, art, literature and other disciplines)

Storey, John (1997, 2009) Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction. <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1405435~S1*cat >

Storey, John (2009) Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader. <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1847666~S1*cat >

Japan:

Goodman, Roger; Imoto, Yuki; Toivonen, Tuukka (eds) (2012) A Sociology of Japanese Youth. From Returnees to NEETS. <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1892656~S1*cat >

Itô Mizuko, Okabe Daisuke, Tsuji Izumi (eds) (2012): Fandom Unbound: Otaku Culture in a Connected Age. <
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/0300158645> >

Martinez, Dolores P. (ed) (2007) Modern Japanese Culture and Society. 4 vols. <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1823242~S1*cat >

Miller, Laura; Bardsley, Jan (eds) (2005) Bad Girls of Japan. <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1892512~S1*cat >

Mes, Tom; Sharp, Jasper (2005) Midnight Eye Guide to New Japanese Film, The. <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1675354~S1*cat >

Sugimoto, Yoshio (ed) (2009): Cambridge companion to modern Japanese culture. Accés a versió electrònica:
 < http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1866341~S1*cat >

China:

McGrath, Jason. (2008) Postsocialist modernity: Chinese cinema, literature, and criticism in the market age. Stanford University Press <
<http://www.amazon.es/Postsocialist-Modernity-Chinese-Literature-Criticism/dp/0804758743> >

Geremie R. Barmé (1999) In the Red: On Contemporary Chinese Culture. Columbia University Press <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1491069~S1*cat >

Latham, K. (2007) Pop culture China!: media, arts, and lifestyle.

< http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1715180~S1*cat >

Art:

Japan:

Favell, Adrian (2012) Before and after Murakami. A Short History of Japanese Contemporary Art

1990-2011. Ed. Timezone 8.

Yamaguchi, Yumi (2007) Warriors of Art. A Guide to Contemporary Japanese Artists. <
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/4770030312> >

Natsume, Fusanosuke; Saito, Nobuhiko (curators, eds) (2009): DNA 50 (DNA of Sunday and Magazine. The 50 Years of Weekly Shonen Manga Magazines.) <
<http://www.kyotomm.jp/english/event/spe/sundaymagazinedna.php> >

Toku Masami (curator, ed); Masuda Nozomi (contributor); Yamada Tomoko (contributor) (2008) Shojo Manga! Girl Power!. < http://www.kyotomm.jp/HP/2008/05/shojo_manga_power.php >

China:

Gao, Minglu (2011) Total modernity and the avant-garde in twentieth-century Chinese art. MIT Press <
http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1852614~S1*cat >

Additional bibliography and other resources:

- du Gay P., Stuart Hall, Linda Janes, Hugh Mackay, and Keith Negus. 1997. Doing Cultural Studies: The Story of the Sony Walkman. London: Sage, in association with The Open University.
- Gunster, Shane. 2004. Capitalizing on culture: Critical theory for cultural studies. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press.
- Hall S. 1997. Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices.: Sage.
- Lewis, Jeff. 2002. Cultural studies: The basics. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Storey, John. 1998. An introduction to cultural theory and popular culture. Athens, GA: Univ. of Georgia Press.
- Storey, John. 1997, 2009. Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction.
<http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1405435~S1*cat>
- Storey, John. 2009. Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: A Reader.
<http://cataleg.uab.cat/record=b1847666~S1*cat>
- Taylor, Paul, and Jan Li Harris. 2008. Critical theories of mass media: Then and now. Berkshire, UK: Open Univ. Press.
- .

Online bibliography about cultural studies and Japan updated until 2012: The Margins: <
<http://themargins.net/csbib.html> >

Associations and centers:

Association for Cultural Typhoon

<http://cultural-typhoon.com>

British Association for Japanese Studies

<http://www.bajs.org.uk/>

Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

<http://www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/>

European Association for Japanese Studies

<http://www.eajs.org/>

German Institute of Japanese Studies

<http://www.dijtokyo.org/?lang=en>

The Japanese Studies Association of Australia

<http://www.jsaa.info/>

Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~rijs/>

Center for Japanese Studies

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/japan/resources/links.asp>

English Language Journals

Cultural Studies journals (for more East Asia focused cultural studies journals, see following sections):

- [Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities](#)
- [Asian Ethnology](#)
- [Boundary 2](#)
- [Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies](#)
- [Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies.](#)
- [Critical Inquiry.](#)
- [Cultural Critique.](#)
- [Cultural Studies.](#)
- [Cultural Studies Review.](#)
- [Culture, Theory and Critique.](#)
- [differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies.](#)
- [European Journal of Cultural Studies.](#)
- [Feminist Media Studies.](#)
- [Globalizations.](#)
- [Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power.](#)
- [Inter-Asia Cultural Studies.](#)
- [International Journal of Cultural Studies.](#)
- [Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies.](#)
- [Journal of Intercultural Studies.](#)
- [Journal of Japanese & Korean Cinema.](#) Forthcoming.
- [Journal of Popular Culture.](#) (Issues)
- [Journal of Popular Film and Television.](#)
- [Media, Culture, Society.](#)
- [Mediations.](#)
- [Mechademia.](#)
- [New Formations.](#)
- [New Left Review.](#) In [Spanish.](#)
- [October.](#)
- [Parallax.](#)

- [Popular Culture Studies Journal, The.](#)
- [Positions. East Asia Cultures Critique.](#)
- [Public Culture.](#)
- [Science Fiction Studies.](#) A [JSTOR](#).
- [Social Text.](#)
- [Social Identities. Journal for the Study of Race, Nation and Culture.](#)
- [South Atlantic Quarterly](#)
- [Space and Culture.](#)
- [SubStance.](#)
- [Television & New Media.](#)
- [Theory, Culture & Society.](#)
- [Theory and society.](#)
- [Third Text.](#)
- [Traces.](#)

Japan journals:

[Contemporary Japan](#)

[Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal](#)

[Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies](#)

[Gaiko Forum](#)

[Japan Echo](#)

[Japan Focus: Asia-Pacific Journal](#)

[Japan Forum](#)

Japan Quarterly

[Japan Studies Association Journal](#)

[Japan and the World Economy](#)

[Japanese Journal of Religious Studies](#)

[Japanese Language and Literature](#)

[Japanese Studies](#)

[Japanese Studies Review](#)

[Journal of International and Advanced Japanese Studies](#)

[Journal of Japanese Philosophy](#)

[Journal of Japanese Studies](#)

[Journal of Renga & Renku](#)

[Journal of the Japanese and International Economies](#)

[Journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association](#)

[Monumenta Nipponica](#)

[Review of Japanese Culture and Society](#)

[The Shingetsu Electronic Journal of Japanese-Islamic Relations](#)

[Sino-Japanese Studies](#)

[Social Science Japan Journal](#)

[Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan](#)

[U.S.- Japan Women's Journal](#)

Asia/East Asia journals:

[Acta Asiatica](#)

[Ars Oreintalis](#)

[The Asia-Pacific Journal](#)

[Asia Pacific Studies](#)

[Asia Pacific World](#)

[Asian Affairs](#)

[Asian Anthropology](#)

[Asian Culture](#)

[Asian Ethnology](#)

[Asian Journal of Criminology](#)

[Asian Literature and Translation \(ALT\): A Journal of Religion and Culture](#)

[Asian Survey](#)

[Asiascape: Digital Asia](#)

[Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London \(BOAS\)](#)

[Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution](#)

[Critical Asian Studies](#)

[East Asian History](#)

[East Asia: An International Quarterly](#)

[East Asian Journal of Popular Culture](#)

[East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine](#)

[East Asian strategic review](#)

[Education About Asia](#)

[Far Eastern Affairs](#)

[Far Eastern Quarterly](#)

[Graduate Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies](#)

[Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies](#)

[Historiography East & West](#)

[The International Journal of the Asian Philosophical Association](#)

[International Journal of Asian Studies](#)

[International Relations of the Asia-Pacific \(IRAP\)](#)

[Journal of American-East Asian Relations](#)

[Journal of the American Oriental Society \(JAOS\)](#)

[The Journal of Asian Studies](#)

[Journal of East Asian Archaeology](#)

[Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies](#)

The Journal of Northeast Asian History

[Modern Art Asia](#)

[Pacific Historical Review](#)

[Positions: east asian cultures critique](#)

[Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs](#)