

**East Asian Comparative Cultural Studies****2015/2016**Code: 101544  
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**

In order to follow the course pace, it is not necessary to have studied Anthropology, but it is necessary to have studied Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology, and East Asian Society and to have learnt Social Science specific tools. For this purpose, students should review theoretical and methodological contents learnt during those subjects. They should also have assimilated Gender and Society in East Asia, Modern and Contemporary East Asian Literature, and East Asian Art and Culture.

Likewise, 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. If the student lacks this ability, he will not be able to really follow the course pace.

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

Students who wish to do their bachelor's degree final project following a contrastive perspective or a perspective next to cultural studies, 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**

East Asian Comparative Cultural Studies is a course focusing on transnational and negotiated dimension of cultural processes and dynamics. It offers an approach based on the University of Birmingham's Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies' approach, which focuses on the importance of agents involved in cultural practices and on political and fighting dimension of power regarding all the cultural processes' social regulation. The course is not based on cross-cultural studies variety, whose peak was at the end of the 90s and at the beginning of the century with figures as Geert Hofstede.

The students will become familiar with cultural studies from different authors from East Asian region and/or who considered cultural phenomena/aspects of the region's social realities. They will also assimilate origins and diversity of approaches and methodologies considered in Cultural Studies as a hybrid discipline.

The following elements are included in specific objectives:

- Acquire theoretical and methodological knowledge appropriate to the analysis of the construction and reproduction of cultural perceptions related to prescriptive social speeches.
- Know the origin of cultural studies basing on literary studies' different schools and the difference between United Kingdom and United States of America's schools. Knowing the field's main current figures and those figures being specialized in cultural contrastive studies from East Asian point of view.

- 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.
- Improve critical sense and individual analytical ability, as well as debate ability and intercultural and communicative abilities directed to exchange ideas and experiences.

## **Skills**

- Applying strategies in order to solve comprehension problems of written texts in the languages of East Asia.
- Determining the social and historical context of oral or written texts in the languages of East Asia.
- Determining the values, beliefs and ideologies expressed in oral or 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 foundations of the cultural comparative studies.
- 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.
- Recognising the connotations of the specific cultural references in the field of East Asia and assessing the influence in the interlinguistic and intercultural communication.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Respecting the gender equality.
- Solving problems of intercultural communication.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
- Understanding the referential universe of written and verbal texts in the languages of East Asia.
- Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.

## **Learning outcomes**

1. Applying strategies in order to solve comprehension problems 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. Determining the social and historical context of oral or written texts in the languages of East Asia.
5. Determining the values, beliefs and ideologies expressed in oral or written texts in the languages of East Asia.
6. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
7. Developing self-learning strategies.
8. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
9. Knowing and comprehending the foundations of the cultural comparative studies.
10. Knowing, comprehending, describing and analysing the values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia.
11. Recognising the connotations of the specific cultural references in the field of East Asia and assessing the influence in the interlinguistic and intercultural communication.
12. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
13. Respecting the gender equality.
14. Solving problems of intercultural communication.
15. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.

16. Understanding the referential universe of written and verbal texts in the languages of East Asia.
17. Using the specific terminology of history, literature, linguistics, thought and art.
18. Utilising different tools for specific purposes in the fields of history, literature, linguistics, thought and art.
19. Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.

## Content

### Unit 1. Introduction to cultural studies

- Introduction to cultural studies. What is meant by culture. Culture registers. Distinction and consumption. Introduction to the study of culture.
- Basics and origins of Cultural Studies: Birmingham School and Stuart Hall.
- Examples of applied Comparative Cultural Studies: electrical appliances market and its postwar expansion to Japan and the USA, Sanrio's global strategy and its licenses of Hello Kitty.
- Cultural studies in Japan.

### Unit 2. Transhumanism and cyberDitation shaping in popular culture and different countries' collective imagination

- Korea: watching *I'm a cyborg, but that's OK* (Park Chan-wook). Analysis of projection element when making a fiction about psychological/social/family conflicts repressed in other channels of social expression. Inter-subjectivity vis-à-vis individualism or how there cannot exist a sense of the other. Tools and institutions disciplining body and soul.
- Japan: *Akira*, Katsuhiro tomo; *Ghost in the Shell and Innocence*, Oshii Mamoru. A transhumanism more next to body horror and a transhumanism of philosophical speculation. Connections with filmographies and intellectual influences from other countries (influences both received and done). The cyborg as an important destabilizer of hegemonic systems configuring gender, identity, working specializations, social inequalities and the human condition.
- Comparing films from countries not belonging to East Asian cultural field: Kike Maillo's *Eva* (2011) and Spike Jonze's *Her* (2013). New concerns and sensitivities appearing in last films exploring trans-humanist issues.

### Unit 3. The urban landscape in China's evolution during the last century.

- In this part of the class we will analyze how the urban space identified itself within the discourse of modernity in China in the last century. We will have a closer look at three key periods: from the beginning of the Republic to the Second World War, marked by the creation of the modern metropolis imaginary; the Maoist period and the time just after that, where the dichotomy between city and countryside influences structures of Chinese society; and finally the last decades, when the fast urban development in the region is a symptom of the fast economic and social change.
- During the class we will address issues such as the presence of the woman and the family disintegration in the urban space, the use of the public space by the political power, the aspects of urban modernity such as the fluctuant population.

#### Basic bibliography:

- Arif Dirlik and Xudong Zhang (ed.), *Postmodernism & China*, Durham [etc.]: Duke University Press, 2000
- Deborah S. Davis [et al.] (ed.), *Urban spaces in contemporary China : the potential for autonomy and community in post-Mao China*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995
- Jacques Lévy (ed.), *The city: critical essays in human geography*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008
- Leo Ou-fan Lee, *Shanghai Modern: The Flowering of a New Urban Culture in China, 1930-1945*, Harvard University Press, 1999
- Taciana Fisac y Steve Tsang (ed), *China en transición: sociedad, cultura, política y economía*, Bellaterra, 2002
- Zhang Zhen (ed.), *The Urban generation: Chinese cinema and society at the turn of the Twenty-first century*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2007

#### Films:

- *Scenes of City Life* ( *dushi fengguang*) de Yuan Muzhi (1935)
- *Yellow Earth* ( *huang tudi*) de Chen Kaige (1984)
- *Seventeen Years* ( *guo nian hui jia*) de Zhang Yuan (1999)
- *Suzhou River* ( *Suzhou He*) de Lou Ye (2000)

**Literature:**

- Henry Y.H. Zhao, *The Lost boat : avant-garde fiction from China*, London: Wellsweep, 1993
- Chen Ran, *A Private Life*, New York : Columbia University Press, cop. 2004

**Methodology**

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

East Asian Comparative Cultural Studies classes will be basically based on a critical reading/analysis of texts chosen by the teachers and commented in class. Texts will be both written and audiovisual and will be shown during class.

Another material will also be shown in order to go deeper in topics discussed by means of the main texts.

During debate and idea-sharing sessions, the teachers will guide the conversation and establish debate and analysis elements.

At the beginning of the course, some master classes will take place in order to introduce theoretical approaches and approximations of Cultural Studies which will have to be complemented by reading recommended materials. Cultural Studies' situation in Europa, the USA and East Asia will be analysed.

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; they have to be supported in academic structure and argumentation.

**Activities**

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Directed</b>			
Oral Presentation	2	0.08	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8
Oral presentation	3	0.12	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8
Written essay	5	0.2	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Cultural analysis on a subject based on a template provided by the professors	5	0.2	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Reading of texts providing theoretical frameworks and	30	1.2	2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13,

## Evaluation

### Assessment tasks

- Written practice on the history and the methodology of cultural studies (20%).
- One written essay. Students will have to follow one of the assignments that will be made available at the Campus Virtual (40%).
- 2 public presentacions on texts that will be discussed in class. (20% + 20%)

### Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Document Based Questionnaire on Texts Introducing Cultural Studies	20%	50	2	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8
Oral presentations	40%	25	1	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8
Written essay following an assignment	40%	30	1.2	1, 2, 16, 10, 9, 7, 6, 4, 5, 3, 11, 14, 12, 13, 15, 19, 18, 17, 8

## Bibliography

The following list is a selection of illustrative books, being an introduction to cultural studies:

- Agger, Ben. 1992. Cultural studies as critical theory. Philadelphia: Falmer.
- 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](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](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 Orientalis](#)

[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](#)