

Ethnic Diversity in East Asia

Code: 101533
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
East Asian Studies	OT	4

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

To take this subject, students should ideally have obtained the programme's first-year, second-year and third-year credits. Students must be able to read and understand academic texts in English.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The aim of this course is to study the ethnic diversity of East Asia, specifically in Chinese and Japanese societies. It includes different theoretical perspectives from historical, political, and ethnological study. In the case of Chinese society, the classes will take as a reference the notion of *minzu* (ethnicity), which is central in the political construction of ethnic diversity in the People's Republic, as well as in the official ethnic categorization and the evolution of policies and legislation on ethnic minorities. In the case of Japanese society, the notion of *minzoku* (ethnicity) will be key in the historical, political and cultural understanding of ethnic diversity, mainly in the framework of the modern construction of Japanese nation-state and its project of colonial expansion as empire, but also in the analysis of its pre-modern historical background and its ramifications in the context of today's multicultural society. In both parts, the classes will address the analysis of specific case studies with an emphasis on representational issues. The ultimate goal of the course is to provide different tools for reflection on the issue of ethnic diversity in East Asia.

Competences

- Designing and managing projects.
- 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.
- Following the characteristic code of ethics of the professional practice.
- Know and understand the characteristics of society and social processes in 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 the ethnic and cultural diversity of East Asia, the identity management policies of East Asia and their evolution.
- Knowing the history, values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia in order to understand and critically assess social issues, phenomena, and processes related with that region.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Solving conflict situations.
- Solving problems of intercultural communication.
- Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
- Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.
- Working in teams in an international, multilingual and multicultural context.

Learning Outcomes

1. Assessing the obtained results in the search information process in order to update the knowledge about political sciences, economy and sociology.
2. Designing and managing projects.
3. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
4. Developing self-learning strategies.
5. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
6. Following the characteristic code of ethics of the professional practice.
7. Know and understand the characteristics of society and social processes in East Asia.
8. Knowing the ethnic and cultural diversity of East Asia, the identity management policies of East Asia and their evolution.
9. Knowing the history, values, beliefs and ideologies of East Asia in order to understand and critically assess social issues, phenomena, and processes related with that region.
10. Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
11. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
12. Solving conflict situations.
13. Solving problems of intercultural communication.
14. Students must be flexible and capable of adapting to new circumstances.
15. Using different tools for specific purposes in the fields of political sciences, economy and sociology.
16. Using the specific terminology of political sciences, economy and sociology.
17. Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.
18. Working in teams in an international, multilingual and multicultural context.

Content

Chinese society

1. Introduction and historical perspective
2. The ethnic question in modern China
3. The representation of ethnic minorities

4. Contemporary themes

Japanese society

1. Introduction and historical perspective
2. The ethnic question in modern Japan
3. Representation of ethnic minorities: The Ainu people and Ryūkyū islands
4. Contemporary themes: Zainichi and multiethnic Japan

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and papers discussion	50	2	6, 7, 8, 9, 3, 2, 13, 11, 15, 16, 5
Presentations			
	15	0.6	6, 1, 7, 8, 9, 4, 3, 2, 10, 13, 12, 11, 14, 18, 17, 15, 16, 5
Type: Autonomous			
Written essay and study	35	1.4	6, 1, 7, 8, 9, 4, 3, 2, 10, 13, 12, 11, 14, 18, 17, 15, 16, 5

To achieve the established objectives, this subject involves both lectures and practical classes. Given that its teaching is shared, the lecturers will inform students of the characteristics of assessment activities on the first day of class. The work students carry out mainly consists of lectures, individual/group presentations in class, debates and discussions in class based on selected readings, watching documentaries, documentation searches, reading assignments, and written assignments. Students must keep abreast of the news and information published on the Virtual Campus / Moodle.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Group assignment and presentation in class	30%	15	0.6	6, 1, 7, 8, 9, 4, 3, 2, 10, 13, 12, 11, 14, 18, 17, 15, 16, 5
Written essay (China)	35%	17.5	0.7	6, 1, 7, 8, 9, 4, 3, 2, 10, 13, 15, 16, 5
Written essay (Japan)	35%	17.5	0.7	6, 1, 7, 8, 9, 4, 3, 2, 10, 13, 15, 16, 5

Continuous assessment

Students must provide evidence of their progress by completing various tasks and tests. These activities are detailed in the table at the end of this section of the Study Guide.

Continuous assessment activities

- Group assignment and presentation in class (30%)
- Written essay (China) (35%)
- Written essay (Japan) (35%)

Review

When publishing final marks prior to recording them on students' transcripts, the lecturer will provide written notification of a date and time for reviewing assessment activities. Students must arrange reviews in agreement with the lecturer.

Missed/failed assessment activities

Students may retake assessment activities they have failed or compensate for any they have missed, provided that those they have actually performed account for a minimum of 66.6% (two thirds) of the subject's final mark and that they have a weighted average mark of at least 3.5.

The lecturer will inform students of the procedure involved, in writing, when publishing final marks prior to recording them on transcripts. The lecturer may set one assignment per failed or missed assessment activity or a single assignment to cover a number of such activities. Under no circumstances may an assessment activity worth 100% of the final mark be retaken or compensated for. In case of retaking, maximum grade will be 5 (Pass).

Classification as "not assessable"

In the event of the assessment activities a student has performed accounting for just 25% or less of the subject's final mark, their work will be classified as "not assessable" on their transcript.

Misconduct in assessment activities

Students who engage in misconduct (plagiarism, copying, personation, etc.) in an assessment activity will receive a mark of "0" for the activity in question. In the case of misconduct in more than one assessment activity, the student involved will be given a final mark of "0" for the subject. Assessment activities in which irregularities have occurred (e.g. plagiarism, copying, impersonation) are excluded from recovery.

Single assessment

This subject may be assessed under the single assessment system in accordance with the terms established in the academic regulations of the UAB and the assessment criteria of the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting.

Students must make an online request within the period established by the faculty and send a copy to the teacher responsible for the subject, for the record.

Single assessment will be carried out in person on one day during week 16 or 17 of the semester. The Academic Management Office will publish the exact date and time on the faculty website.

On the day of the single assessment, teaching staff will ask the student for identification, which should be presented as a valid identification document with a recent photograph (student card, DNI/NIE or passport).

Single assessment activities

The final grade for the subject will be calculated according to the following percentages:

- Written essay (40%)

- Oral defense of the written essay (20%)
- Test on Chinese and Japanese societies (40%)

Grade revision and resit procedures for the subject are the same as those for continual assessment. See the section above in this study guide.

Misconduct in assessment activities

Students who engage in misconduct (plagiarism, copying, personation, etc.) in an assessment activity will receive a mark of "0" for the activity in question. In the case of misconduct in more than one assessment activity, the student involved will be given a final mark of "0" for the subject. Assessment activities in which irregularities have occurred (e.g. plagiarism, copying, impersonation) are excluded from recovery.

Bibliography

Chinese society

Anonymous, 2021, "You shall sing and dance: contested 'safeguarding' of Uyghur Intangible Cultural Heritage", *Asian Ethnicity*, vol.22, no.1, pp. 121-139.

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Mullaney, Thomas, James Leibold, Stéphane Gros, Eric Vanden Bussche, eds., 2012, *Critical Han Studies: The History, Representation, and Identity of China's Majority*, Berkeley, University of California Press.

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Wang Hui, 2011, "The 'Tibetan Question' East and West: Orientalism, Regional Ethnic Autonomy, and the Politics of Dignity", Wang Hui, *The Politics of Imagining Asia*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press, pp. 136-227.

Japanese society

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Graburn, N. et al., (eds.). (2008). *Multiculturalism in the new Japan: crossing the boundaries within*, New York, Berghahn Books.

Guarné, B. (ed.). (2018). *Antropología de Japón: Identidad, discurso y representación*, Barcelona, Edicions Bellaterra.

Guarné, B. & Yamashita S. (eds.). (2015). *Japan in global circulation: transnational migration and multicultural politics*, *Kokuritsu Minzokugaku Hakubutsukan Kenkyu-Houkoku*, Special Issue, Minpaku, The National Museum of Ethnology in Japan, vol.40, no.1.

Kerr, G. H. (2011). *Okinawa: The history of an island people*. Tuttle Publishing.

Lewallen, A. E. (2016). *The fabric of indigeneity: Ainu identity, gender, and settler colonialism in Japan*. University of New Mexico Press.

Lie, J. (2001). *Multiethnic Japan*, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press.

Tanji, M. (2007). *Myth, protest and struggle in Okinawa*. Routledge.

Weiner, M. (1997). *Japan's minorities: the illusion of homogeneity*, London & New York, Routledge.

Software

No specific software will be used.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan/Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed