

Shattering Myths: The Cultural Diversity of East Asia

A free online seminar for K-12 Educators

Funded by the Freeman Foundation and presented by the Asian Studies Center, University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh and the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia

“All Asia is [NOT] One.” East Asia is a culturally diverse and historically rich region. This seminar will enhance your classroom’s curriculum by providing content and resources for teaching about cultural diversity through the window of China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. The seminar is designed for all K-12 educators, and will provide you with a basis “East Asia 101” course with emphasis on the theme of cultural diversity. Sessions include presentations by scholars and master teachers, hands-on activities, and discussions of resources and teaching strategies, including tools for online learning.

Seminar Leaders: Dr. Brenda G. Jordan and Dr. Patrick W. Hughes

Program Assistant: Stephen Wludarski

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Benefits for Participants

Each participant who completes the course and course requirements will receive:

\$300 worth of teaching materials for your classroom, including the course textbook, a one-year subscription to the journal *Education About Asia*, additional materials such as a set of tangrams and a calligraphy set, and a \$100 mini-grant for purchase of approved materials for your classroom.

(The purpose of the mini-grant is to get teaching materials into “brick and mortar” schools. Due to the increasing variety of our seminar participants, not all participants may be able to receive a mini-grant. Please consult with us about this early in the course.)

\$200 stipend at the completion of all requirements.

Certificate of Completion (36 hours) PA educators will receive **2 continuing education/in-service credits (60 Act 48 hours) and 6 additional Act 48 hours for the follow up session.**

NCTA alumni are eligible to apply for NCTA GEEO study tours to East Asia, and are also eligible for small grants, travel subsidies for conferences, and other benefits that we offer from time to time; NCTA alumni are also often given priority preference in competitive applications for summer institutes, Fulbright-Hayes study tours to East Asia and other programs. Our office also writes letters of recommendations for alumni who apply to competitive study tours and summer institutes. All alumni will receive a NCTA email newsletter with information about free professional development programs and teaching resources.

Seminar Requirements

Expressed commitment to integrating East Asia into your curriculum.

In addition, to complete the seminar and receive the benefits, you must fulfill the following requirements:

- Attend and participate in all online sessions (36 contact hours, with 30 hours in the fall and 6 hours in the spring)
- Complete all assignments and requirements, including designing a lesson plan that incorporates East Asian material into your curriculum, writing a “philosophical essay” and completing a mini-grant form for your teaching materials. (A full list of assignments will be posted on our website.)
- Each participant is expected to come to class prepared to participate in class discussions. Each week there will be a short writing assignment or some other short assignment based on the readings for that class.
- Use of a laptop or desk computer with camera and mic are important for full participation in the class. If you only have an iPad, a keyboard is recommended. Please be willing to turn on your video. Only use a cell phone camera as a last resort (if you don’t have access to a laptop, for example).

2021-22 SCHEDULE

On Zoom [Participants need to be able to use the Chat function and also should be willing to turn on their video as there are numerous group discussions, Q&A sessions, and interactive sessions.]

Dates: Wednesday, September 8

Tuesday, September 14

Wednesday, September 29

Wednesday, October 13

Tuesday, October 26

Tuesday, November 9 & November 16

Wednesday, December 1

Tuesday, December 7 & December 14

Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Eastern Time (4:30-7:30 p.m. Central Time)

An additional Follow-up Session(s) (6 hours total) required in the Spring of 2022 (date to be decided with your input).

Wednesday, September 8: Geography and Climate Matters

Presenters: NCTA Team of Dr. Brenda G. Jordan, Dr. Patrick Hughes and Stephen Wludarski; Dr. Tom Mueller (National Geographic Certified Educator; California University of Pennsylvania)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

1. "Introduction: What is East Asia" from *A History of East Asia* by Charles Holcombe
2. Be prepared to give a very short introduction of yourself: your name, what you teach, where you teach, and what brought you to this class (for example, what are you interested in learning? Why did you take this course?).
3. Complete the Entry Survey prior to the class (important!).

Recommended Additional Resource for Your Classroom:

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/geography/>

ArcGIS site for tonight's session with Tom Mueller:

<https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/wayback/?active=51423&ext=-115.34940,36.03895,-115.24760,36.08904>

Tuesday, September 14: Chinese Thought Systems and the Chinese Writing System

Presenters: Ms. Cindy McNulty, Oakland Catholic High School (retired) (NCTA master teacher); Dr. Haixia Wang (University of Pittsburgh)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Read (everyone): Holcombe text, "The Origins of Civilization in East Asia" (pp. 12-30) and "The Hundred Schools of Thought" (pp. 36-45).

Individual Assignments available on our ProBoards site:

Prepare for game of "Convince the Emperor": each person will be assigned a Chinese thought system to study and then promote to the Chinese Emperor as the system that he should adopt to run the country: Confucianism, Daoism, or Legalism. Study the materials associated with your assignment; come prepared work with other participants (in smaller groups) to make the case to the Emperor as to why your thought system is **superior** to the others.

Patrick will be playing the role of the Emperor—so be on your best behavior!

Primary Sources (in translation) to Read for Your Argument (on ProBoards):

1. If you are a Confucian, read: “Confucian Teachings” (from Ebrey) AND Mencius_reproving_ruler
2. If you are a Daoist, read: “Daoist Teachings” (from Ebrey) AND laozi_dadejing.pdf
3. If you are a Legalist, read: “Legalist Teachings” (from Ebrey) AND hanfei_five_vermin

Recommended Reading: The Pronunciation Guide for CHINESE in your Holcombe textbook (pp. XV-XVI); EAA Article by D Wood Spring 1997. Also, if you have time, read Holcombe, “The Age of the Classics,” pp. 31-35.

Wednesday, September 29: Buddhism for the Unenlightened and Dynasty Smackdown

Presenters: Dr. Clark Chilson, Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh and Mr. Matthew Roberts, Pine Richland High School (NCTA master teacher)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Before reading the assigned readings, please post in the ProBoards Module 3 Assignment section an answer to the following question: “What do you think of when you hear the word ‘Buddhism?’ ”

Holcombe text: “Buddhism Comes to East Asia” (pp. 72-81); pdfs “Introduction to Buddhism” and “Deer Park Sermon” on ProBoards.

ALSO, Prepare for Dynasty Smackdown:

Wednesday, October 13: the Shinto faith; the Art of Origami

Presenters: Dr. Clark Chilson, Religious Studies; Katsuko Shellhammer, Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Holcombe text: “Yamato Japan” (pp. 88-92); “Imperial Japan” (pp. 120-126 [through the Nara period]).

Selections from *Shintō in the History and Culture of Japan* by Ronald S. Green (Key Issues in Asian Studies, 2021); pdf on ProBoards

ProBoards Discussion Assignment: What surprised you about these readings? Is there anything more that you want to know? Share some examples with your classmates. Feel free to respond to others’ posts.

Tuesday, October 26: The Silk Road; and the Joy of Tangrams

Presenters: Dr. Margarita Delgado Creamer; and Mrs. Karen Gaul, 5th Grade Teacher, Winchester Thurston School (NCTA master teacher)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Holcombe text (for background): “First Empire” (pp. 45-49); “The Han Empire” (pp. 49-56); “Cosmopolitan Elite International Culture” (pp. 71-72).

Explore the Silkroad Interactive Map and the “About” section and “Themes” section of this website: <https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/silkroad-interactive-map>

Read this section in particular for the discussion: <https://en.unesco.org/silkroad/about-silk-roads>

ProBoards Discussion Assignment: In your opinion, what was the most important thing passed or traded along the Silk Road? And why? Please respond to at least one other post: do you agree or disagree and why?

Additional resources: ArcGIS Site for Silk Road, created by Tom Mueller:
<https://arcg.is/KHW95>

Tuesday, November 9: Women Authors in the Japanese Imperial Court

Presenters: Dr. Brenda G. Jordan and Ms. Michele Beauchamp (NCTA master teacher)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Holcombe text: “Imperial Japan” (pp. 126-129)

Also read primary source *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shōnagon (read any five pages and select one or two journal entries that you think would resonate with your students and/or resonated with you. Be prepared to comment on this in class.

Primary source: Read pdf of the Yūgao chapter from *The Tale of Genji*. (This chapter will be addressed in class.)

Recommended reading: the section on the Pronunciation of Japanese language in Holcombe (p.xvi).

Tuesday, November 16: Cracking the Samurai Code and the Concept of Play in the Tokugawa Period

Presenters: Dr. Brenda G. Jordan and Dr. Ethan Segal (History, Michigan State University)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

BEFORE reading the text, please upload an image that comes to mind when you hear the word “samurai” to the ProBoards site.

Holcombe text: “Warrior Japan” pp. 154-164; “The Reunification of Japan and the Tokugawa shogunate” pp. 187-197.

Wednesday, December 1: Teaching About Korean Culture—film and interactive lesson ideas

Presenters: Dr. Seung-Hwan Shin (East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh) and Ms. Angie Stokes (NCTA master teacher)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Holcombe text: “The Emergence of Korean Kingdoms,” (pp. 81-88); “The Birth of Korea” (pp. 114-120); “Confucian Korea” (pp. 149-154).

AND: please watch the film *JSA: Joint Security Area* in preparation for the presentation. Dr. Shin will explain about the film during his presentation.

Link to the film: [IMDB link to the film: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0260991/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0260991/)

Tuesday, December 7: The Korean Language; Minorities in China and Japan

Presenters: Dr. Mi-Hyun Kim (East Asian Languages and Literatures, University of Pittsburgh) and Dr. David Kenley (Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Dakota State University)

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

Tuesday, December 14: Vietnam: Shattering Stereotypes Past and Present

Presenters: Dr. Brenda G. Jordan and Dr. David Kenley; Dr. Tom Mueller on learning about North Korea through an interactive exercise

Assignments for tonight (due by MIDNIGHT the day before class):

BEFORE reading anything, upload one image to the ProBoards that says “Vietnam” to you.

Then READ in Holcombe: Chapter 7 Dai Viet (pp. 199-216); “The French Colonization of Vietnam,” pp. 255-257; and Chapter 13 Vietnam since 1945 (pp. 350-358).

January 10: All assignments due: lesson plan; philosophical essay and your mini-grant request form

Spring one-night follow up (to be decided with your input)

Upon finishing the follow-up class and final paperwork, we will process your stipends and your Act 48. You will then be considered a NCTA alumnus/alumna in good standing. This entitles you to numerous benefits and perks.

Thank you for joining our nationwide network of K-12 NCTA teachers! We hope to continue supporting you in the future.