Broad Curriculum Cross-Faculty Module in Asian Studies

Introduction to Contemporary Asian Studies

Module code: BCASIA

ECTS Weighting: 5

Semester/term taught: Hilary Term

Contact Hours: Two lectures of one-hour duration per week for one term

Module Co-ordinator: Dr Lorna Carson

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

• outline the main theories of society, the individual and thought relevant to contemporary East Asia
• describe and explain the main differences in contemporary culture between China, Japan and Korea
• describe and analyse accounts of the development of the ‘Asian Century’ and the roles of Japan, Korea and China in the Asia Pacific
• explain the relationships between, and the evolution of, East Asian writing systems
• make oral presentations, either individually or in teams, to an audience of their peers

Module Learning Aims:
This course aims to provide an introduction to Asian Studies and in particular a multidisciplinary exploration of language, thought, society, culture, business and diplomatic relations in China, Korea and Japan.

Module Content:
The course will introduce students to the discipline of contemporary Asian Studies, and will explore how China, Japan and Korea have evolved as cultural and economic drivers in Asia and in a global context. It will examine key issues such as relationships between the individual, society and thought, the development of writing systems, and popular culture. Students from all disciplines will be encouraged to engage practically and critically with the topics explored in the module through classroom presentations and discussion.

Maximum capacity of the course: 50 students

Contact Information:
Dr Lorna Carson, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences
Telephone ext. 4035/1560
E-mail address carsonle@tcd.ie
Method of Assessment:
- Coursework (in-class presentations) – 40% of overall grade
- End of module assignment - 60% of overall grade

Date of submission of assignments:
Coursework (group presentations) presented in Weeks 9 and 10 of the course.
Assignment to be submitted in Week 12 of the course

Weekly topics:
Week 1 Module overview and introduction to East Asian Studies from a contemporary, comparative perspective.
Week 2 Historical context: from Empires to the Asian Century.
Week 3 Religion and thought – relationships between the individual and society.
Week 4 Writing systems of East Asia.
Week 5 Contemporary China society and culture.
Week 6 Contemporary Korean society and culture.
Week 7 Reading Week.
Week 8 Contemporary Japanese society and culture.
Week 9 In-class presentations.
Week 10 In-class presentations.
Week 11 Pan-Asian perspectives (diplomacy, ASEAN, areas of contact and conflict).
Week 12 Asian 'soft power' and the Asian Wave – the rise and impact of popular culture.

Recommended Reading List:
A reading pack comprising a range of articles relevant to the content will be available through Blackboard on joining the course. Further readings:
