

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 Adrian Tien

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
- ❖ 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, 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 Adrian Tien, School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences,

Trinity Centre for Asian Studies

Telephone ext. 4035/1560

E-mail address tiena@tcd.ie

Method of Assessment:

- Coursework: in-class presentations worth 40% of overall grade
- End of module assignment worth 60% of overall grade

Date of submission of assignments:

Group presentations are to take place during Weeks 11 and 12 of the course. These presentations comprise a. a shared group score of 15% and b. an individual score of 25% based on a short written document (one per student) which demonstrates each student’s contribution to the group presentation. The end-of-module assignment is an essay which is due at the end of the term.

Weekly topics:

Weekly lectures with diverse topics on aspects of contemporary Asia will be delivered by various presenting lecturers who are experts in the field. Names of lecturers and their topics will be confirmed closer to the start of the term. The teaching schedule below gives an indication of the kind of weekly topics covered during Hilary Term of academic year 2016-17:

- ❖ Introduction to Asian Studies from a contemporary, comparative perspective
- ❖ Historical context: Imperialism, Revolution and War
- ❖ Contemporary Japan: language, society and culture
- ❖ Contemporary Korea: language, society and culture
- ❖ The Impact of Protracted Conflict on the North and South Korean Societies
- ❖ Contemporary China: language, society and culture
- ❖ Chinese language and the Chinese diaspora in Greater China
- ❖ Thinking through China: a. everything is connected, and b. everything changes
- ❖ Religion and thought – relationships between the individual and society

Reading List:

Required or recommended readings will be available through Blackboard on joining the course. The following is an indicative list (for reference only. Students are not required to have read these before the module):

Buzo, Adam (2007). *The Making of Modern Korea (Second Edition)*. London: Routledge.

Kingston, Jeff (2011). *Contemporary Japan: History, Politics, and Social Change since the 1980s*. Oxford: Blackwell

Spence, Jonathan (2012). *The Search for Modern China (Third Edition)*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.