

ANTH 442/SISA 442/WOMEN 446
Global Asia

<http://courses.washington.edu/globasia/>

Professor Sasha Welland

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(Please note: every effort will be made to respond to email within 72 hours.)

Course Description

This course employs a feminist analytic to examine how the idea of Asia as a region has been constructed through various global, and often gendered interactions, including imperialism, anti-colonialism, travel and tourism, transnational labor and markets, and globalizing forms of popular culture. We will analyze how people experience difference, similarity, and social inequality through these interactions; the representation of cultural encounters; and the social, political, and economic effects of global circulations of people, things, ideas, social practices, and cultural representations. We will consider how “Asia” and ideas about its place in the world emerge out of claims of commonality and distinction made by different people moving throughout the region.

Our travels over the quarter will require us to articulate debates about boundary making, knowledge production, and identity formation as they take place *through* cross-border movements. Boundaries—their maintenance and transgression—matter because they produce social distinctions, embedded in specific contexts of power, used to categorize objects, people, practices, and even time and space. We will explore, largely through ethnographic accounts, the everyday sociocultural practices that make, maintain, and modify intersecting categories such as race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender and sexuality. Throughout this process, one of our goals will be to challenge conventional, dichotomous mappings of East versus West. We will examine “Asia” not as a geographic given but a cultural construction created through heterogeneous interactions and whose boundaries shift in response to political and economic dynamics. In order to do so, we will critically analyze the variety of social imaginaries inscribed onto the geography of Asia and consider how particular forms of travel, exchange, and circulation shape these imaginaries.

This course, which is cross-listed in Anthropology, Asian Studies, and Women Studies, poses an additional challenge to the question of boundaries as they relate to academic disciplines and their methods of constructing knowledge about Asia and about globalization. The challenge and the promise of such an interdisciplinary endeavor is to learn from each other’s expertise; to build a shared vocabulary that integrates a variety of perspectives and approaches; and in the process, to develop new, more complex ways of thinking. Students will be pushed to go beyond their disciplinary comfort zone and to try out other perspectives and forms of analysis.

The course readings start with a grounding in disciplinary and theoretical approaches to the questions of Asian area studies formation and globalization, and then take us on a roughly chronological route, beginning with late nineteenth-century colonial movements and arriving at contemporary cultural encounters shaped by transnational capitalism. Many of the readings focus on China and Japan, the traditional and hegemonic mainstays of East Asian area studies, not with the intent of reifying the definitive importance of these places, but in order to examine how this centrality is continually constructed. By considering points of connection with Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, and even South Africa, we will unpack celebratory claims and freighted anxieties about where Asia begins and ends. There is nothing exhaustive about the geographic purview of the readings (the quarter is simply too short). Rather, the course materials suggest a starting point for us to collectively consider what Asia is; how it came to be an identifiable place on modern maps through multiple transnational circuits; and the significance of articulating *Global* together with *Asia*. Students with expertise in other related locales are encouraged to introduce further examples and materials that will push our thinking about how we define regions.

This is a seminar course, with mini-lectures by the instructor at the beginning of each class meeting, to be followed by in-depth, seminar-style discussion. Guiding questions are listed throughout the syllabus to suggest where our class discussions will begin.

Course Objectives

- To understand how shifting ideas of Asia and its place in the world have been constructed through a variety of global, and often gendered, interactions.
- To examine what globalization, in terms of historical and contemporary movements and cultural encounters, means to different social actors in Asia.
- To analyze how boundaries—in terms of categories such as race, ethnicity, nationality, class, gender, and sexuality—are made, maintained, and modified through everyday, sociocultural practices and how these boundaries support particular power relations.
- To engage in a deep and sustained interdisciplinary conversation that will challenge all of our ways of approaching the question of what Global Asia means.
- To develop creative, innovative academic work, including a class-produced compendium of keywords related to Global Asia, that will expand ways of understanding the historical and contemporary implications of Asia's role in processes of globalization.

Course Texts

Course Reader: Available at Rams Copy Center, 4144 University Way
(Articles in the reader are indicated with an **R** in the syllabus.)

Books: Available at The University Bookstore (in the Anthropology section)

Ian Condry, *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization*

Christine Guth, *Longfellow's Tattoos: Tourism, Collecting, and Japan*

Pun Ngai, *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*

Ara Wilson, *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*

Assignments and Evaluation

Each student's performance will be evaluated as follows:

Class Participation	10%	40 points
Short Reflection Papers (2 total, 40 points each)	20%	80 points
Midterm Paper	20%	80 points
Keyword Entry (draft + revision, 40 points each)	20%	80 points
Final Paper	30%	120 points

Class Participation: Active participation in each class session is a requirement of this course. As a result, missing more than two classes will seriously harm evaluation of your performance. Your class participation grade is based on your preparation for and contribution to in-class activities and discussion, and is judged not by the quantity of your comments but by their quality. This means that the more time you spend reading and thinking about the issues in the readings, the better your grade will be.

Short Reflection Papers: Two short reflection papers (2-3 pages each) at the beginning of the quarter will serve to immerse you in the themes and questions of the course. Handouts with prompts for each short paper will be distributed one week in advance. These papers will be graded as follows: 40 points (distinguished); 30 points (good); 20 points (fair); 10 (turned-in, but poor effort).

Midterm Paper: You will write a short essay (5 pages) in response to questions that will be distributed one week in advance.

Keyword Entry: You will craft a keyword entry (1-2 pages) for our class-produced *Global Asia Illustrated Compendium of Keywords*, a cumulative collection of the vocabulary we have been building in relation to course concepts, questions, and debates. Keywords are sites of conflict and disagreement, so your entry should reflect two or more different understandings of the world-making term whose histories, usages, and political trajectories you choose to chart. You will be encouraged to be as creative, erudite, pithy, or eccentric as you like in your keyword choice, and to include diagrams, pictures, quotations, or stories that help illuminate the sociocultural life of your keyword. You should pick a keyword related to the topic you want to research and explore further in your final paper; in this way, your entry will provide you with a roadmap of sorts for the final paper. A handout with prompts and examples for this assignment will be distributed and discussed in class. You will submit a first draft of your entry, receive feedback from your classmates, and then submit a final, revised entry to complete the full assignment. Both your draft and revision will be graded as follows: 40 points (distinguished); 30 points (good); 20 points (fair); 10 (turned-in, but poor effort). An on-line submission system, linked to the course website, is under development so that you can post your entries electronically, making the full compendium viewable to everyone in the class.

Final Paper: A final 10-page paper is required. As suggested above, the keyword entry assignment will help you identify a topic and set of questions that you want to research and explore further in this paper. You may choose to research and critically examine a specific aspect

of Global Asia, to investigate critical theoretical issues through course and related readings, or to analyze a particular historical or anthropological cultural encounter, but you will be expected to make full use of course concepts and readings in your analysis. I will be available to work with students on paper outlines and ideas through Weeks 8 and 9. During Week 10 students will give short in-class presentations on how they are expanding their keyword entries into research projects to receive further feedback from other students. You cannot pass the class if you do not complete the final paper.

Class Policies: Please bring your books to class. Students are expected to complete the readings by the day they are listed in the syllabus and to discuss them in-depth, seminar-style, i.e. as an exchange of questions, explanations, and viewpoints about readings and key ideas. In so doing, you are expected to offer personal insights, to listen to others' viewpoints about class material, and to demonstrate, at all times, academic integrity and respect for others.

No papers will be accepted by e-mail without permission. Please inform me in advance if you must miss a session. Extensions are granted only in cases of emergency with prior permission from the instructor. Assignments submitted late will be marked down ten percent for every day they are late unless prior arrangements have been made. Plagiarism will be treated as a serious offense. For further information, please see the university policy on academic honesty <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>. The purpose of this course is to help students become critical and independent thinkers. Original thoughts and ideas will be highly valued, and students are expected to treat the work of others similarly.

If you have a disability or need special accommodations for note taking or any other aspect of your coursework, please let me know and/or contact the Disability Resources for Students Office (DRS), 448 Schmitz, Box 355839, (206) 543-8924, (TTY) 543-8925, uwdss@u.washington.edu.

Please feel free to speak with me for further clarification of assignments, if you have questions about the materials, or if you have personal concerns that will affect your academic performance. Students are welcome to use email to contact me and ask brief questions. I make every effort to respond to email within 72 hours. Students who have lengthy or complex questions should meet with me during office hours.

Schedule and Readings

Week 1

Introductions

Q. What does it mean to articulate “global” together with “Asia”?

T 04/01

- Introductions to course
- Student introductions mapping exercise

HANDOUT: SHORT REFLECTION PAPER #1

Boundary Displacement

Q. How do different disciplines define their areas of study? How can we learn from each other’s disciplinary expertise?

Th 04/03

- Shinji Yamashita, Joseph Bosco, and J.S. Eades, “Asian Anthropologies: Foreign, Native and Indigenous.” **R**
- Bruce Cumings, “Boundary Displacement: The State, the Foundations, and International and Area Studies during and after the Cold War.” **R**
- Chandra Talpade Mohanty, “‘Under Western Eyes’ Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles.” **R**

Week 2

Worldings

Q. What different imaginaries or narratives have been used for understanding the world, the globe, or the global situation? Where does Asia fit into the picture?

T 04/08

- Edward Said, “Knowing the Oriental” and “Imaginative Geography and Its Representations.” **R**
- Shinji Yamashita, “Constructing Selves and Others in Japanese Anthropology: The Case of Micronesia and Southeast Asian Studies.” **R**
- Arjun Appadurai, “Global Ethnoscapes: Notes and Queries for a Transnational Anthropology.” **R**

DUE: SHORT REFLECTION PAPER #1

Q. What is globalization? How do we imagine, understand, or study it?

Th 04/10

- Mauro F. Guillén, “Is Globalization Civilizing, Destructive or Feeble? A Critique of Five Key Debates in the Social Science Literature.” **R**
- Anna Tsing, “The Global Situation.” **R**

HANDOUT: SHORT REFLECTION PAPER #2

Week 3

Colonial Circulations/Circuits

Q. How has Asia been imagined and represented through colonial encounters and related practices of looting and collecting? How does nineteenth-century “globe-trotting” serve as a foundation to contemporary ideas of cross-cultural travel, self & other, and cultural authenticity?

T 04/15

- James Hevia, “Looting Peking: 1860, 1900.” **R**
- Christine Guth, *Longfellow’s Tattoos: Tourism, Collecting, and Japan*, Introduction & Chapter 1.

Th 04/17

- *Longfellow’s Tattoos*, Chapters 2-3.

DUE: SHORT REFLECTION PAPER #2

Week 4

T 04/21

- *Longfellow’s Tattoos*, Chapters 4-5.

Third World Circulations/Circuits

Q. What intra-Asia and/or Third World connections have been imagined and forged in response to the East-West colonial dynamic? What is the legacy of these anti-colonial movements in the contemporary era of neoliberal globalization?

Th 04/24

- Rebecca Karl, “Recognizing Colonialism: The Philippines and Revolution.” **R**
- Excerpts from *Asia-Africa Speaks from Bandung*. **R**
- Hee-Yeon Cho and Kuang-Hsing Chen, “Bandung/Third Worldism.” **R**
- Partha Chatterjee, “Empire and Nation Revisited: 50 Years after Bandung.” **R**

HANDOUT: MIDTERM PAPER QUESTIONS

Week 5

T 04/29

- Hee-Yeon Cho, “‘Second Death’ or Revival of the ‘Third World’ in the Context of Neoliberal Globalization.” **R**
- Chen Yingzhen, “What the ‘Third World’ Means to Me.” **R**
- Gillian Hart, “Taiwanese Networks in Newcastle: The Projection of Knitwear and of Difference.” **R**

Global Work

Q. How is labor (in the factory and the home) organized, managed, and disciplined in a global chain of production? In globalizing labor markets, what race, class, and gender boundaries are transgressed or reinforced?

Th 05/01

- Pun Ngai, *Made In China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*, Introduction & Chapter 1.

DUE: MIDTERM PAPER

HANDOUT: KEYWORD ASSIGNMENT

Week 6

T 05/06

- *Made In China*, Chapters 2-4.

Th 05/08

- *Made In China*, Chapters 5-7.

DUE: KEYWORD ENTRY (DRAFT)

Week 7

T 05/13

- Pei-Chia Lan, “Introduction” and “Cinderella with a Mobile Phone.” **R**

Intimate Economies

Q. How has capitalist modernity transformed the intersection of market economies and everyday life? And how have intimate identities and relationships—gender, ethnicity, and sexuality—been centrally involved in the operations of modernizing markets?

Th 05/15

- Ara Wilson, *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*, Introduction & Chapter 1.

IN-CLASS WORK: KEYWORD FEEDBACK & CROSS-REFERENCING

Week 8

T 05/20

- *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, Chapters 2-3.

Th 05/22

- *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, Chapters 4-5 & Conclusion.

DUE: KEYWORD ENTRY (REVISION)

Week 9

Global Popular Culture

Q. What is the interrelationship between the global and local in the realm of popular culture? What methods can we use to understand how the forces driving new, globalizing cultural styles—such as hip-hop and rap—emerge from interactions and connections forged among diverse social actors?

T 05/27

- Ian Condry, *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization*, Introduction & Chapters 1-2.

Th 05/29

- *Hip-Hop Japan*, Chapters 3-5.

Week 10

T 06/03

- *Hip-Hop Japan*, Chapters 6-7 & Conclusion.

Wrap-Up

Th 06/05

- Keyword→final paper presentations

Finals Week

T 06/10: **FINAL PAPER DUE**

- Your final paper is due by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 10. Please put it in my box in the Anthropology Department office on the mezzanine level of Denny Hall. If you would like me to return the paper with comments to you, please attach a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.