

**East  
Asian  
Studies  
2014-2015**

**Dickinson**

# Chair's Message



**Neil Diamant**

Greetings once again from Carlisle!

This is our second departmental newsletter, which we hope helps keep you abreast of all the activities in the East Asian Studies (EAS) department as well as the individual endeavors of our faculty. As you can see below, there's a lot happening. We are a small, but

highly energetic and active department!

The academic year 2014-15 was a busy one. We are now into the third year of our Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment Grant, which is ably administered by Professor Ann Hill from the Anthropology Department (see her "LIASE Report" on p. 4). It was a banner year for the project. Professors Strand and Hill each offered first year seminars on Asian environments—"Tropical Asia" (Professor Strand) and "Culture and Environment in Upland Asia" (Professor Hill), and the faculty colloquium hosted a variety of speakers, including Prof. Karen Thornber (Harvard) and Prof. Wang Xingguang (Zhengzhou University).

In addition to these Luce activities, the East Asian Studies department also sponsored Flaherty Lectures on two off-the-beaten path topics. Professor Marco Moscovitz, an anthropologist from the University of South Carolina and author of *Go Nation* (University of California Press) presented a fascinating talk on the game of weiqi—how it's taught, why it is popular and how it helps us understand masculinity in China. Professor Christopher Leighton, an historian from MIT, shifted our attention to businessmen in China, describing in detail the ways in which the Chinese Communist Party cultivated elite businessmen as "red

capitalists" in the 1950s, and how these individuals helped usher in the "reform and opening up period" after 1978.

The EAS Department does not only work hard; we play hard, too! Our department, with the assistance of our excellent Majors Committee and student volunteers from the PRC, Japan, Korea and Vietnam, hosted a massive New Year's Celebration in the HUB Social Hall. Featuring songs, dances, skits, poetry readings and drumming by the multi-talented Professor Bender (accompanied on the cymbals by Professor Yang), and specially- prepared delicacies from China Palace, students and faculty welcomed the Year of the Goat (or Sheep). During the year students also had the opportunity to prepare sushi under the guidance of Satsuki Swisher, while the Dickinson Aesthetic Club make bonsai trees (now on display in Stern). We are always impressed by students' ability to juggle all these activities while taking classes, writing papers and memorizing their characters!

Looking ahead, the 2015-16 academic year promises to be an exciting one for Dickinson students interested in East Asia. The East Asian Studies department is happy to welcome Professor Nan Ma, who after earning degrees from Peking and Qinghua Universities has just completed her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. While writing her dissertation she taught Chinese language and courses on Chinese literature and the development of dance at Swarthmore College, earning glowing reviews from her students. Our department is particularly excited to be able offer multiple courses on Korea for the very first time! Prof. Jina Kim, who will be replacing Professor Strand for two years while he...

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# Lectures and Events

## September

- Moon Festival (9/08)
- Lecture: Asia: "Buddhist Contributions to Climate Ethics," Stephanie Kaza, Univ of Vermont (9/16)
- Lecture: "Asia & the Environmental Humanities," Karen Thornber, Harvard (9/18)
- Dickinson Farm Field Trip for Japanese Language Classes

## October

- Alumni lecture, Jeff Wilson (10/28)
- Sushi Making class, led by Satsuki Swisher (10/30)



## December

- Lecture: "Asbestos, and the Unmaking of Japan's Modern World," Brett Walker, Univ of Montana (12/03)

## February

- Asian New Year celebration (2/18)
- Japanese cooking class for Japanese language classes, led by interns from Tohoku University (2/20)
- Bonsai Workshops for Faculty, Staff, and Students led by Jim Doyle of Nature's Way Nursery (2/25, 3/04, 3/11)

## March

- Flaherty Lecture: "Go Nation: Chinese Masculinities and the Game of Weiqi in China," Marc Moskowitz, Univ of South Carolina (3/17)

## April

- Flaherty Lecture: "Revolutionary Rich: Businessmen in China's Transitions," Christopher Leighton, MIT (4/01)
- Lecture: "Elements of Japanese Garden Design," Jim Doyle, Nature's Way Nursery (4/01)
- Field trip to Baltimore with Chinese language classes (4/04)
- Japan Fest, Franklin & Marshall College (4/04)
- Trip to Sakura Matsuri, Washington, DC (4/11)



# LIASE Report

*In 2012, Dickinson College was awarded a \$400,000 Luce Initiative in Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) grant. This grant is awarded to liberal arts colleges that aspire "to encourage innovative approaches to Asian studies teaching and research at the undergraduate level through the lens of the environment and sustainable development." The grant will run over four years, and the College intends to use it to build a broader awareness of both East Asian and Environmental studies among the faculty and student body. Dr. Ann Hill, professor of anthropology and East Asian Studies and LIASE project director, provides an update on LIASE activities over the past year.*

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This was a banner year for our LIASE project. Professors Strand and Hill each offered first year seminars on Asian environments--**Tropical Asia** (Strand) and **Culture and Environment in Upland Asia** (Hill). Their seminars composed a coordinated learning community that included, among other activities, cooking an Asian meal together and a joint discussion of a common reading on resilience as a core idea for recovering from natural disasters.

Dickinson's curriculum was also enriched by a Luce-supported, interdisciplinary course called **Climate Change, Rivers, and Chinese Society**. Professor Hill and the grant's teaching fellow, Kelin Zhuang, co-taught the course. Led by Professor Zhuang, a geologist, the course included a two-week field trip to the Yellow River Basin in North China. Students saw firsthand some of the flood control efforts on the Yellow River, and while on board a research boat, also observed how China's scientists use simple but effective instrumentation to predict the potential dangers of a rise in the river's level. Students also visited several archaeological sites from the Neolithic and early dynastic periods in China and were able to draw their own conclusions about the impact of climate change on China's populations.

Four students from the climate change class presented research posters at a national conference, the **Bard Asia/Environment Student Research Conference**, April 16-17. Students represented the interdisciplinary nature of the course; their majors included environmental studies, American studies/environmental studies, Latin American, Latino and Caribbean studies, and East Asian studies.

Faculty colloquia continued to feature outstanding speakers, beginning with Karen Thornber from Harvard University. She addressed our theme for the second year of the grant, "**Asian Environments in the 20th Century**," from a literary point of view, presenting her analysis of East Asian writing on environmen-

tal degradation and the portrayal of relations between people and the natural world. In April 2015 the colloquium hosted Professor Wang Xingguang, a well-known historian of China's Central Plains in the north. At Zhengzhou University, Prof. Wang specializes in technology and agriculture. His talks were on the development of the plow in the Central Plains region and the relationship between flood control on the Yellow River and the development of science in China.

The colloquium also met to discuss new pedagogy for teaching about Asian environments, and in the library, faculty who participated in the Valley and Ridge program in China presented PowerPoint slides to a large audience of students and colleagues.

Looking ahead, we are planning a student trip to Jingdezhen, an old pottery town in Central China that has evolved into an arts center for modern sculptors. The 3-week trip in summer 2015 will be led by Professor Diduk in the Art and Art History Department and her counterpart in Jingdezhen, Professor Li Chao. Students will not only study the evolution of pottery production but also interview older workers in the pottery factories about their changing work requirements and its impact on the environment. Professor Diduk's vase project featuring Chinese artists' representations of scenes from contemporary Jingdezhen on vases referencing the famous blue and white porcelain well-known to Chinese and foreign connoisseurs alike will be exhibited this fall in the College's Trout Gallery.

Our project continues to benefit from the expertise of Jim Doyle, a nationally-recognized artist in the bonsai tradition. This academic year Jim taught three classes on bonsai in our Stafford Greenhouse, as well as a workshop on bonsai display. He also gave an illustrated talk on elements of Japanese garden design.

*For more on the Bard Asia/Environment Student Research conference, see [http://www.dickinson.edu/news/article/1575/something\\_in\\_the\\_water](http://www.dickinson.edu/news/article/1575/something_in_the_water)*

# Visiting Faculty

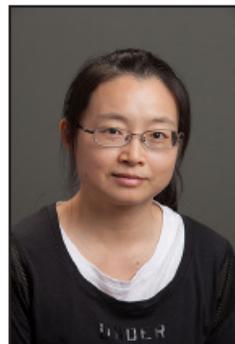


**Noriaki Hoshino**  
*Visiting professor of History*

I very much enjoyed the experience of working with my wonderful colleagues and students at Dickinson College. As a scholar and teacher early in my career, I appreciate the warm support and advice my colleagues so generously gave me. I am very impressed by their professionalism and I count the stimulating dialogues I had with my colleagues about teaching and research as among my most precious experiences at Dickinson.

I will also never forget the time I spent with the wonderful students here. They always showed great enthusiasm and were passionately involved in class discussions. I really enjoyed our in-class conversations, and the diverse backgrounds of my students further enriched my experience. They will always remind me of the beauty and importance of vigorous intellectual curiosity and engagement. I especially appreciated Dickinson's teaching environment, where teachers and students can enjoy close communication and interactions both in and out of class. Student commitment to class activities and interest in scholarship not only stimulated many intellectual exchanges in my class but also helped me expand my pedagogical range.

Next fall, I will be an NYU Shanghai Global Perspectives on Society Teaching Fellow, a position which will allow me to focus on both teaching and research in a global network university. My experience at Dickinson has further strengthened my foundation as a scholar and teacher and I am eager to advance my skills and interests in a new environment. I will remain very fond of Dickinson College and its community throughout my career.



**Yan Wang**  
*Visiting professor of Chinese*

I am very glad that I was able to spend the past year at Dickinson in the department of East Asian studies. I enjoyed working with the faculty and the lovely students. My daughter and I also enjoyed life in Carlisle! I like the snow, and I like the quiet, relaxed pace of the town. And the Dickinson campus is quite beautiful.

I felt honored to have the opportunity to teach Dickinson students and to help them improve their Chinese. But I want to say that I learned more from my students than I believe I taught them. In particular, I was impressed by their volunteer activities and by their engagement with athletics.

Fortunately, after returning to China, I will be able to continue teaching Dickinson students studying Chinese at Peking University. I am excited to have a chance to show them Chinese culture beyond the textbook. We will have many good times together in Beijing. I look forward to seeing the students make great progress.

I will miss the beautiful campus. I will miss all of you students and colleagues. I hope you all have a wonderful time in the coming school year!



# Faculty News

Over this past year **Alex Bates** taught first and second year Japanese along with a class on Japanese literature and film. He also oversaw the senior seminar, a rewarding experience guiding students through their senior thesis research and writing. For his own research, Professor Bates has been putting the final touches on his first book *The Culture of the Quake: The Great Kanto Earthquake and Taishō Japan*. The book explores the relationship between literature and the Great Kanto Earthquake and is coming out in the fall from The University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies Press. In addition to this work, Professor Bates presented on the massacre of Koreans after the 1923 earthquake at a conference at the University of Kansas and on the ecocriticism of disaster at the American Comparative Literature Annual Conference in Seattle. This summer he will take a group of students to Japan for a course on war and disaster. 2015 marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of Japan's



Prof. Hill with faculty colleagues on the Valley and Ridge in China program

wars with China and the allied powers. It is the perfect year to consider the impact of that war on today.

In fall 2014, **Shawn Bender** co-taught "Introduction to East Asia" with Prof. Neil Diamant and, for the first time in several years, also taught an introductory course on cultural anthropology called "Anthropology for the 21st Century." In spring, Prof. Bender taught "Japanese Society," and, together with Prof. David Sarcone (INBM), "Health and Healing in Cross-Cultural Perspective," part of a two-course sequence in the **CGSE Global Scholars US-Japan program**. Funded for two years by a grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, the program brings together four students from Akita International University and four students from Dickinson in order to investigate a problem of global significance. In its second and final year, the program is comprised of both the spring semester course and an six-and-a-half week summer field-study program on the Health-Related Quality of Life of older adults in the US (Harrisburg) and Japan (Akita City). Together with his AIU colleagues and Dickinson Colleagues Prof. Sarcone and Prof. Shalom Staub (Academic Affairs & Civic Engagment), Prof. Bender will help lead this summer program in the US and Japan.

Following the conclusion of this summer program, Prof. Bender will visit Germany for a short-term research project that examines how physical therapists there are using a



robotic exoskeleton originally developed in Japan. This project builds on his previous research on robotics in Japan and Denmark. In Prof. Bender presented a paper on this research at the spring meeting of the American Ethnological Society. This year marks his seventh as Treasurer of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies and his second as editor of the EAS Newsletter!

**Neil Diamant** spent the year teaching courses on law and society, environmental protection in Asia and, in the Middle East Studies Program, the history of Zionism. He also published several articles on veterans in China as well as on the National Discussion of the Draft Constitution of 1954--the PRC's first. During the summer he was an instructor at the Harvard-Yenching Institute's advanced seminar on qualitative research methods at the University of Nanjing in China.

This year **Ann Hill** had the pleasure of teaching a first year seminar on "Culture and Environment in Upland Asia." This class was in a learning community with Professor Strand's first year seminar on

Tropical Asia, the highlight of which was a shared meal of Asian foods prepared by students and faculty. She also co-taught a course with Professor Zhuang, the post-doctoral teaching fellow for the College's grant from the Henry Luce Foundation on Asian Studies and the Environment. The course began with a 2-week fieldtrip to China's Yellow River basin arranged by Professor Zhuang. Four students from the climate change class went on to present their research at a national conference, the Bard Asia/Environment Student Research Conference in April.

In June Prof. Hill spent a productive week in the village of Fengyu in southwest China. Historically the village was organized around local water sources including wells, springs, and streams that were integral to the economic and social organization of the village. Her goal was to understand how this earlier water-based system functioned in the new environment of China's global economy. While she noted many changes to the water system, the most important came not from climate change but from changes in the local political economy.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, **Akiko Meguro** taught Elementary (1st year), Intermediate (2nd year) and Advanced (3rd year) Japanese courses. Prof. Meguro organized various activities for the Japanese students including a tea ceremony



as well as calligraphy and sushi making workshops. She also organized trips to the Japan Festival at Franklin and Marshall College, the Washington DC Cherry blossom festival, and a cookout at the Dickinson Farm. She mentored Japanese teaching interns from Tohoku University for the second year in a row (Spring 2014 and 2015). In exchange, one Dickinson student received a scholarship to participate in a summer program in Japan (funded by the Japan Foundation). Finally, Akiko Meguro served as study abroad coordinator and increased to eight the number of students going to study in Japan at Nanzan University and Akita International University for the coming academic year 2015-2016.

During the spring of 2014, **Dave Strand** was on sabbatical leave. His East Asian Studies-related activities while on leave included a trip to India supported by a Dickinson Center for Sustainability Grant. He spent a week in Varanasi [Banaras] studying the relationship between the city of nearly two million people and the Ganges River. The Ganges, central to the life of the city and to Hinduism, is threatened by pollution and by the melting of the Himalayan glacier at the river's source. The information and impressions collected on this visit will enrich sections of courses Dave teaches on "Asian Urban Ecology" and "The Politics of Parks."

He also visited the temples and museum at Sarnath, now a northern suburb of Varanasi, where Buddha preached his first sermons. He then travelled to Delhi for three days studying religious sites and parks. In May Prof. Strand is scheduled to attend a three-day workshop at the University of Zurich on "China and the Anthropocene" where he will make a presentation on "City Making and Ecology." Both the India and Zurich trips were inspired in part by the

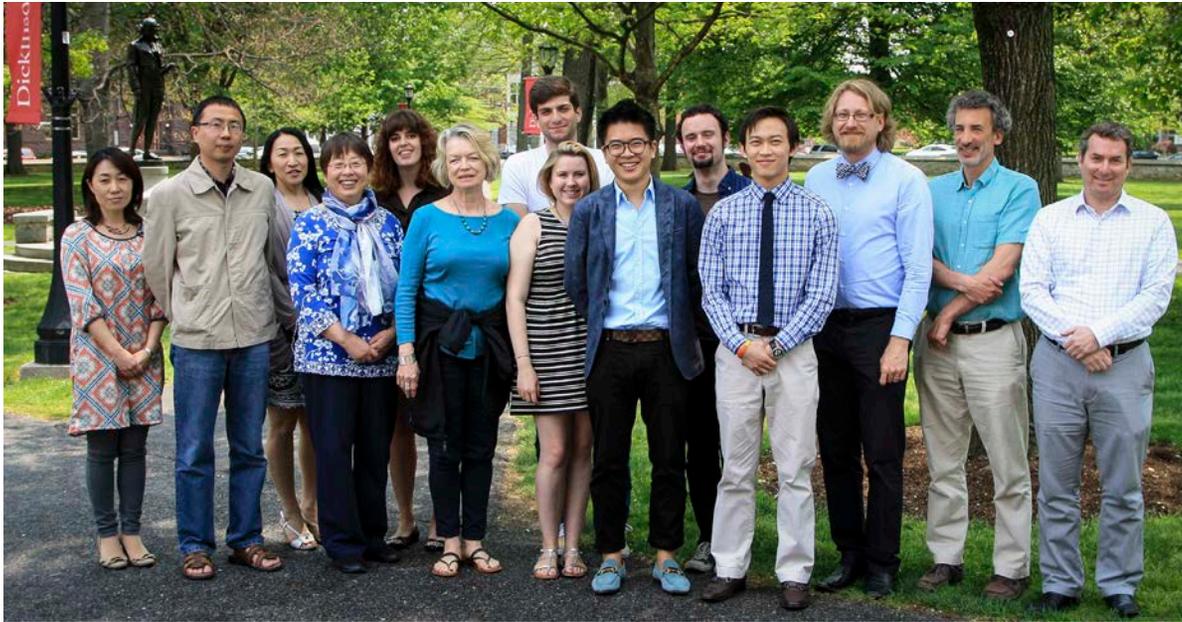


East Asian Studies Department's participation in Dickinson's four-year Henry Luce Foundation grant to support Asian Studies and the Environment.

Given her new academic interest in immigration, **Rae Yang** continues to take Spanish and finished 116. Prof. Yang traveled around Spain last summer to practice the language. Last fall she offered a new course on the environment named "Chinese Approaches to the Environment, Traditional to Contemporary." The course focused on Chinese philosophies like Taoism, Neo-Confucianism and Zen Buddhism, Chinese art, medicine and contemporary issues, the challenges and dilemmas.

Last winter, she took Dickinson students to Fujian Province. They visited the picturesque Wuyi Mountain, the unique beehive dwellings of the Hakka people, the capital city of Fuzhou, and Gulang Island. This May she took the remaining Dickinson students to Taiwan for another trip. This is the first time Prof. Yang has visited Taiwan. The island does not have spectacular natural beauty, but the culture is wonderful: food, tea, night markets, temples, and great museums! In Taiwan the Dickinson group met friends old and new. We also met a student's family in Taipei. In the future, she will continue to take students to visit Taiwan.

# Senior Theses



From left: Ikubi Aiba, Junjie Luo, Akiko Meguro, Rae Yang, Nicole Aguiar, Ann Hill, Brody Paul, Jennifer Sheary, Ronghui Zhou, Christopher Ivimey, Kevin Yoo, Alex Bates, Neil Diamant, Shawn Bender

## CHINA AREA

1. Brody Paul, "Recent Anti-corruption Campaigns in China"
2. Jennifer Sheary, "Mao-era Chinese Propaganda Posters"
3. Ronghui Zhou, "Transnational Marriage in Contemporary China"

## KOREA AREA

4. Nicole Aguiar, "Culturally Specific Mental Illness in Korea"

## JAPAN AREA

5. \*\*Christopher Ivimey, "Japanese Naturalist Literature and 'Nature'"
6. Kevin Yoo, "Gay Rights: Recent Developments in Japan"

\*\* *Departmental honors*

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is on duty at Dickinson's Norwich Program, comes to us via Smith College, after earning her doctorate at the University of Washington. She will be offering courses on Korean popular culture (aka K-Pop), Korean literature and gender-related courses, in addition to East Asian Studies 101.

Change is blowing outside of the EAS Department as well. Dickinson's Art and Art History Department broadened its curricular offerings by hiring a tenure-track faculty member in Asian Art—Professor Wei Ren. Prof. Ren earned her BA degree at Williams College and just finished up her dissertation on early 20th century design in China at Harvard. In the fall she will be teaching "Arts of East Asia" and "Poetics and Politics of Ink Painting." Our ranks are bolstered even further by a new addition to the history department. Prof. (William) Evan Young, a specialist in the history of medicine in medieval Japan with strong comparative interests in China and Korea, will be moving from Princeton, N.J., to Carlisle in the fall. He will be teaching "History of Modern Japan 1800 to the Present" and "The Rise of Modern China."

Change also means that we had to say farewell to our seniors. After a grueling semester under the tutelage of Professor Alex Bates, students presented their senior theses (on topics ranging from Japanese literature, mental illness in Korea, and corruption and courtship in China!) and then feasted with the faculty in celebration of their accomplishments. Departmental honors was awarded to Christopher Ivimey for his thesis on "naturalism" in modern Japanese literature.

In closing, all this would not have been possible without the support of the hard work of our faculty and senior administrators, our departmental coordinator Etsuko Nichols, generous donors such as Woody and Susan Goldberg and Kellie Newton, and the students who choose our major. I am grateful to all of you.

# Upcoming Courses 2015-2016

## FALL 2015

### EASN101-01: Introduction to East Asia

Profs. Neil Diamant & Alex Bates

This course introduces students to traditional social and cultural patterns in East Asia and to the variety of transformations that have taken place there.

### EASN205-01: Arts of East Asia

Prof. Ren Wei

An introduction to a selection of objects and sites that elicit new modes of cultural perception and insight into the artistic cultures of China, Korea, and Japan. The diverse media (sculpture, ceramics, metalwork, lacquer, prints, painting, calligraphy, photography, performance, and architecture) and the long historical span (300 BCE to contemporary) covered in class charts how culture traveled within East Asia, and later, globally, as well as each culture's distinctive methods of adaptation over time.

### EASN 205-02: Poetics and Politics of Ink Painting

Prof. Ren Wei

An introduction to the unique ink-and-brush painting tradition in East Asia. Through a series of case studies from 10th-century China to post-war America, the course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the most iconic works in Chinese and Japanese art. Concepts explored in the course facilitates broader discussions regarding how the history of East Asian art has been constructed by collecting and modern museum practices. At the end of the semester, the class will travel to the Freer and Sackler Galleries in Washington D.C. to visit the exhibition *Lineage of Elegance: Tawaraya Sōtatsu*.

### EASN 206-01: China's Foreign Relations

Prof. Neil J Diamant

This course examines China's relationship to the major world powers, regions and international organizations. Beginning with a consideration of traditional Chinese relations with foreign countries, we then examine the revolutionary legacy of Mao Zedong and the reorientation of foreign policy under Deng Xiaoping after 1978.

The course will focus on the role of ideology, history, culture, interests, and leadership in China's foreign relations.

### EASN 206-02: Babies and Boomers: Asian Societies in Transition

Prof. Shawn Bender

The rapid economic growth of Asia in the past several decades has led to equally rapid social transformation. This course takes the family as a lens through which to understand this social change. It explores shifts and continuities in both conceptions of family life and the composition of families themselves. The causes and effects of lowered fertility and increased longevity in Asia, particularly in China and Japan, receive special emphasis. Course materials draw from social scientific and historical accounts.

### EASN 206-03: Rise of Modern China

Prof. W Evan Young

The history of China from the fall of the Qing dynasty in 1912 to the rise of China as a global economic and political power in the twenty-first century. Topics include issues of cultural change and continuity, the growth of modern business, women's rights, urban and rural social crises, the rise of modern nationalism, Communist revolution, the political role of Mao Zedong, post-Mao economic reform and social transformation, human rights, and prospects for Chinese democracy.

### EASN 206-04: History of Modern Japan

Prof. W Evan Young

This course explores two centuries of successive transformations that have restructured Japanese society. Key topics include Japan's transition from a feudal to a capitalist regime, the expansion of the Japanese empire, the Second World War, the post-war "economic miracle," and recent political and economic anxieties as well as hope for the future. We examine a range of engrossing primary sources and thought-provoking secondary scholarship to understand how geopolitical strategies and economic booms and busts have affected the daily lives of people in Japan, East Asia, and the rest of the modern world.

### EASN 206-05: Soap, Sparkle, and Pop: Contemporary Korea and Soft Power (taught both Fa2015 & Sp2016)

Prof. Jina Kim

This course investigates and evaluates contemporary Korean popular culture, and more specifically the 21st century South Korean cultural phenomenon called *hallyu* (Korean Wave)—its promises and limitations as well as its popularity and backlash against it. We study television, *manhwa* (comic books), and music and ask how they participate in the transnational production and circulation of culture, identity, modernity, tradition, ideology, and politics both regionally and globally.

### EASN306-01: Modern Girls and Marxist Boys: Gender and Modernity in East Asia

Prof. Jina Kim

This course explores discourses of modern "femininity" and "masculinity" through the study of the two most iconic figures to emerge in the early 20th century: Modern Girls and Marxist Boys. We explore who these Modern Girls and Marxist Boys were, what was so new or modern about them, and what can be said about the modern discourses accompanying them in East Asia. We use these figures as a way to enrich our understanding of gendered politics, consumer culture, colonial modernity, and international relations.

## Spring 2016

### EASN 205- Japanese literature into film

Prof. Alex Bates

This course introduces students to major figures in the cinematic and literary history of Japan while exploring the issue of film adaptation. Each week we read a book or short story and watch a film made from that source. Rather than discuss questions of a film's fidelity, we examine how different techniques are used in the source and the adaptation to explore similar or even diverging themes.

# Upcoming Courses 2015-2016

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## **EASN205-03 Modern Chinese Performance Culture**

Prof. Nan Ma

This course examines twentieth and twenty-first century Chinese culture through the lens of performance. It uses significant works as case studies to examine a range of genres in modern Chinese performance culture. Students will learn to examine these works as cultural texts embedded in local, national, and global histories. They will become fluent in the landscape of performance culture in China.

## **EASN206-01 Chinese Politics**

Prof. Neil Diamant

An introduction to the contours of contemporary politics as shaped by traditional and revolutionary legacies, the institutions of state socialism, China's underdevelopment and struggles over power and policy.

## **EASN206-02 Modern China and Its Diaspora Communities**

Prof. Ann Hill

This is a comparative course that examines contemporary Chinese communities in the PRC, as well as Chinese immigrant cultures located in Southeast Asia and the U.S. The focus is on both the structure of these communities and the processes of identity formation and re-imagining the "home" country or "native place" in the midst of considerable flux. The course explicitly uses comparison to deconstruct staid truths about "the Chinese" and monolithic "Chinese culture." Offered every other year.

## **HIST120-01 History of East Asia From Ancient Times to the Present**

Prof. Evan Young

This course explores the diverse and interrelated histories of the region currently composed of China, Korea, and Japan, over the past two thousand years.

## **HIST215-03 - Medicine and The Body in East Asia**

Prof. Evan Young

This course is an introduction to the history of medicine in East Asia. We begin by exploring the theoretical and practical underpinnings of classical Chinese medicine, which was the foundation of healing practices in pre-modern China, Korea, and Japan. We then move on to trace the introduction of modern bio-medicine and the eventual reemergence of "Traditional Chinese Medicine" as an alternative style of therapy in the 20th century, among other topics.

## **HIST315-01 - Women and Society in Modern Japanese History**

Prof. Evan Young

This course is an exploration of women's lives and livelihoods in modern Japanese history. We analyze the changes Japanese society underwent from the 19th century to the present, paying particular attention to transformations as well as continuities in family structure and gender roles. A key theme of the course is the socially-constructed nature of gender norms and feminine ideals and how women frequently transgressed such norms, a theme that we will explore through both primary sources in translation and secondary scholarship.

## **ARTH 108: The Japanese Woodblock Print**

Prof. Ren Wei

This course provides a thorough introduction to the woodblock print—Japan's most celebrated artistic medium—from its emergence in the mid-17th century to the modern era. Technical developments, major genres, and master designers are explored within the context of the print's relationship to the urban culture of early modern and modern Japan. Topics including censorship, theatricality, the representation of war, nationalism, and Japonisme. Special emphasis is placed on an examination of habits of pictorial representation and protocols of viewing unique to the Japanese print medium.

## **ARTH 205: Visual Cultures in Modern China**

Prof. Ren Wei

The course introduces students to the many facets of Chinese visual culture from the First Opium War to the eve of the People's Republic. The course explores issues persistent during the late Qing and Republican period in a thematic fashion. Each week is devoted to an organizing concept in Chinese visual art. The selection of themes serves to exemplify the conceptual interest in Chinese visual art during one of the most transformative periods in Chinese history.

## **ARTH 391: Modern Design in East Asia**

Prof. Ren Wei

Traditional Chinese and Japanese art and design served as an important source of inspiration for European modernism. But what happened to art and design within China and Japan during the modern period? This class offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of modern East Asian design and examines how the concept of design emerged and developed in Japan and China in relation to both fine arts and industry in a broad cross-cultural nexus.

## **Screening Korea: Films and Historical Understanding**

Prof. Jina Kim

This course investigates South Korean and North Korean films with the aim of gaining a rich and textured understanding of these nations' past and present. Using films as our primary sources, we study the politics, economy, and social relations of key time periods in the past.

## **North Korea: Beyond the Visible**

Prof. Jina Kim

This course examines how literature, film, and media produced within and about North Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) construct "North Korea." By studying North Korea's history, literature, and visual culture since its establishment in 1948, this course attempts to understand North Korea beyond the immediately visible.

# Alumni Voices

*An update from Jeff Wilson '09, Freelance Japanese-to-English Translator*



I've been told I'm one of a rare breed, in that I came to Dickinson knowing almost exactly what I wanted to do. In my freshman year, I sat down with my first-year advisor and worked out how I could double-major in English and East Asian Studies. He helped me draw up a four-year plan that included studying abroad and left very little room for error, and I stuck to it.

That's not to say there were no tweaks along the way. I initially came to Dickinson wanting to major in English and become an author of fiction. Once I studied abroad in Japan and fell in love with it, however, I wanted nothing more than to go back and figure out a career that somehow involved the Japanese language skills I had spent the last three years or so acquiring. The easiest way to do that was through applying to the JET Programme, so before graduating I applied as a Coordinator for International Relations, a position requiring high-level Japanese.

I wasn't even called for an interview.

Not to be deterred, I applied the next year for a teaching position, and it turned out to be the perfect timing. I was placed in rural Yamagata Prefecture with a group of fellow teachers who were as enthused about using their Japanese as I was. Over the course of four years from 2010 to 2014, we helped each other deal with culture shock, banded together to provide aid

to those affected by the Tohoku earthquake (and each other), and honed our skills until we all passed the highest level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT). These people are now as close to me as the friends I've made at Dickinson, whom I already considered family.

However, there were even bigger things on the horizon. In my third year on the JET Programme, my girlfriend suggested that we travel the world. It was an offhand suggestion as she looked at the world map she had hanging on the wall of her apartment. Gradually, we began taking the idea more seriously, as neither of us really knew what we would be doing after finishing our tenure on JET. We planned a yearlong trip around the world on a small budget, starting in New Zealand, moving to Australia, stopping off to see friends in Japan, and then moving on to Europe before returning to the United States. We decided we would start in November 2014 and skip winter entirely.

While we were planning this journey, I attended the translator-focused IJET networking event in Tokyo with a friend. Almost by chance, we met a video game translator who translates from English to Japanese. He had a long history in the industry, and was keen to help us break into the industry on the Japanese to English side.

I couldn't believe it. It felt like all that careful planning at Dickinson was about to pay dividends. Not only would I be able to put my Japanese and English writing skills to good use, I would be able to do so through the video games that had been a passion of mine since I was a young boy. Add to this the fact that as freelancers I'd be able to work from anywhere that has an internet connection, and

suddenly it was looking quite possible that I would be able to travel AND work. At the very least, I was going to give it a shot, because this was an offer I couldn't refuse.

Just one year after that fateful meeting, I am indeed doing both. My girlfriend and I have six months left on our journey, and we are currently translating games together while travelling Eastern Europe. We travel slowly, spending months at a time in each country so we can travel during lulls in work, which have occurred far less often than we anticipated! I have worked on a few major titles that I'm not at liberty to mention yet, and I plan to continue translating games for as long as there are games to be translated. In 2016 we will return to the United States for a time, but are itching to get back to Japan and continue networking in person.

It goes without saying that none of this would have come to pass had I not attended Dickinson. Dickinson gave me the tools I needed to launch myself into the game translation scene and build a career in an industry I've long admired. I am incredibly grateful that I also get to engage the world while doing so.



*Alumni: Have a story to share? Get in touch with us and make your voice heard. Visit our Facebook page or send an email to our department coordinator Etsuko Nichols at [nichoets@dickinson.edu](mailto:nichoets@dickinson.edu).*



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