

Representations of Asia in Popular Culture A&B

Performing Asian America

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Hyunjung Lee/Professor
Office/Building	2434 (Nakamiya Campus)
Office Hours	TBA (Via Zoom) Online office hours: If you need a private Zoom consultation please email me to set up an appointment. One-on-one consultation is available by individual appointment.
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【Course Outline / Description】

This course examines the ways in which the image of Asia or the theme of “Asian-ness” have been manipulated and consumed through contemporary (Western/American) plays, musicals, and other versions of popular culture. In this context, we will explore what is to be done in order to situate and perform a dramatic literature in a certain public arena; and how thematic variations in theatre and literature convey new meanings through different styles of performance.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

This course aims to explore to what extent literature and theatrical performance can be a cross-cultural, ethnographic representation. And more broadly, through different genres of culture/art such as musical theatre and film, the course explores how the notion of “Asia” and/or “Asian-America” has been received and consumed in American contemporary pop culture.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

(Note: Some of the contents and the schedule are subject to change)

Class 1 (Zoom): Introduction, Explain syllabus, plans for the semester, etc.

Class 2 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* via link on Blackboard

*Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 3 (Zoom): Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Part 1)

Class 4 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* via link on Blackboard

*Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 5 (Zoom): Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Part 2)

Class 6 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* via link on Blackboard

*Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 7 (Zoom): Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Part 3), Wrap-up

Class 8 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* via link on Blackboard

*Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 9 (Zoom): Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* (Part 1)

Class 10 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* via link on Blackboard

*Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 11 (Zoom): Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* (Part 2, Wrap-up)

Class 12 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* via link on Blackboard * Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 13 (Zoom): Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* (Part 1)

Class 14 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 15 (Zoom): Spring Break (No-class)

Class 16 (Asynchronous): * Watch Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 17 (Zoom): Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* (Part 2, Wrap-up)

Class 18 (Asynchronous): * Read reference documents (in Japanese) on Puccini's opera *Madama Butterfly*

* This week there is NO short-response post assignment

Class 19 (Zoom): Puccini, *Madama Butterfly* (opera)

Class 20 (Asynchronous): * Watch *M. Butterfly* (the film version of Henry David Hwang's play, *M. Butterfly*) via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 21 (Zoom): Henry David Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (Part 1)

Class 22 (Asynchronous): * Watch *M. Butterfly* (the film version of Henry David Hwang's play, *M. Butterfly*) via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 23 (Zoom): *M. Butterfly* (Part 2, Wrap-up)

Class 24 (Asynchronous): * Watch Boublil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 25 (Zoom): Boubilil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* (Part 1)

Class 26 (Asynchronous): * Watch Boubilil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 27 (Zoom): Golden Week (No-class)

Class 28 (Asynchronous): * Watch Boubilil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* via link on Blackboard

* Post short-response on the Discussion Board @ Blackboard

Class 29 (Zoom): *Miss Saigon* (Part 2, Wrap-up)

Class 30 (Zoom): Catch-up, Final Exam Instructions, etc. Last-day of class

[End of the semester]

Our Task & Various Instructions

1. **Assignment (Asynchronous Sessions):** Before our weekly Zoom Live Sessions you are required to read and/or watch the assigned readings/films and **post short responses on “Discussion Board” @ Blackboard** (*For specific schedule see “Assignment” slots in the “Course Schedule” below). I will be gathering your Blackboard posts prior to our live Zoom sessions and respond to them when we meet online.
2. **Access to the Readings and Films, etc.:** All readings, supplementary documents, and links to the films will be available on Blackboard under “**Course Materials.**”
3. **How to view the films (via Dropbox links on Blackboard):** Please watch the demonstration video posted on Blackboard. **Please do note that I only know how to do this on Mac and this is all I know about the film viewing, so please do not email me asking how you can watch the film. I won't be able to help you with the technological issue.** But I know there are other people in class who were/are able to watch the whole film via the link provided, so if you face trouble-shooting, please ask your classmates. **To the entire class: please help other classmates who are in need of technological assistance as we are all in a difficult situation 😊**
4. **Posting Short Responses on “Discussion Board” @ Blackboard:** After finishing your assigned readings and films (as per “Assignment” indicated in our schedule every week), please post your comments and/or questions about the readings/films on “**Discussion Board**” @ **Blackboard**. These are informal response-posts aimed to show how actively you have been involved in the readings and films and also for me to address your concerns during our live Zoom sessions. This is a FREE WRITING WITH NO FORMAT (NO MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM WORD COUNT REQUIRED. JUST USE YOUR COMMON SENSE). You are free to write either/or short responses, confusions, questions that arose while you were doing the class readings (or after watching the films). You can also post MULTIPLE responses on a SINGLE text or film—just make sure that you post your responses **within the assigned schedule** indicated in the “Assignment” slots. Over-due response posts will be discarded. (* Please feel free to read your classmates’ posts and give constructive feedback via reply-posts—extra-credit will be awarded to those who actively communicate with fellow classmates!)

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Students will be assessed by:

- 1) Participation (Short-response posts): 40%**
- 2) Midterm Paper: 30% (You are required to submit ONE essay by uploading the file on “Midterm Paper”@Blackboard). Details, instructions to be provided during our Live Zoom Session).**
- 3) Final Exam: 30% (Take-home exam to be submitted by uploading the exam paper file on “Final Exam”@Blackboard during the designated Final Exam week, Details TBA)**

Section 5

【Additional Information】

[NOTE: PLEASE DO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS REGISTERED ON BLACKBOARD IS THE MOST CURRENT, WORKING EMAIL ADDRESS. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO UPDATE THE INSTRUCTOR WITH A WORKING EMAIL AND RECEIVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATED TO THIS COURSE]

[During our weekly live Zoom sessions, I would like to ask the students to...]

1. Please turn on the camera during our Zoom sessions because it is very awkward and too impersonal for me to speak inside a blank space. Although this is an “untact” classroom (I mean, we are already distanced...) I want us to try our best to create a sense of community. Unless you are in a situation where you just *have to* make yourself invisible (in such cases, do let me know!), please show me/us who you are and what you are up to in each session.
2. Please do not share the links to Zoom recordings, IDs, and password with other people. You are not allowed to screen-capture or record the Zoom sessions and upload to SNS.

***NOTE: All live Zoom session will be recorded and the links to these recordings will be posted on Blackboard—just in case the students miss the live session due to internet malfunction, sickness, or other emergency situation.**