

2023 Spring Semester

ASP Representations of Asia in Popular Culture

Section 1

Instructor	Hyunjung Lee/Professor
Office/Building	2434 (Nakamiya Campus)
Office Hours	TBA (Contact: kenteihj@kansai.ac.jp)

【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)

Week 1 Introduction

Class 1: Explain syllabus, introduction

Class 2: Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Read Script)

Week 2 Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (The Musical)

Class 3: Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Read Script)

Class 4: Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Read Script)

Week 3: *South Pacific* (The Musical)

Class 5: Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Read Script)

Class 6: Rodgers and Hammerstein, *South Pacific* (Read Script)

Week 4: Rodgers and Hammerstein, *King and I* (The Musical)

Class 7: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* (Read Script)

Class 8: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* (Read Script)

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Week 5: *King and I* (The Musical)

Class 9: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* (Read Script)

Class 10: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *King and I* (Read Script)

Week 6: *King and I* (1999 movie version)

Class 11: Andy Tennant, *Anna and the King* (1999)

Class 12: Andy Tennant, *Anna and the King* (1999)

Week 7: *King and I* (1999 movie version)

Class 13: Andy Tennant, *Anna and the King* (1999)

Class 14: Andy Tennant, *Anna and the King* (1999)

Week 8: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* (The Musical)

Class 15: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* (Read Script)

Class 16: Rodgers & Hammerstein, *Flower Drum Song* (Read Script)

Chin Yang Lee, *Flower Drum Song* (excerpts from the novel)

Week 9: *Madama Butterfly*

Class 17: Puccini, *Madama Butterfly* (opera) [explained in-class]

Class 18: Puccini, *Madama Butterfly* (opera) [explained in-class]

Week 10: *M. Butterfly*

Class 19: Henry David Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (read script), film version shown in-class.

Class 20: Henry David Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (read script), film version shown in-class.

Week 11: *M. Butterfly*

Class 21: Henry David Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (read script), film version shown in-class.

Class 22: Henry David Hwang, *M. Butterfly* (read script), film version shown in-class.

Week 12: *Miss Saigon & Beyond*

Class 23: Boublil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* (musical)

Class 24: Boublil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* (musical)

Week 13: *Miss Saigon & Beyond*

Class 25: Boublil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* (musical)

Class 26: Boublil & Schonberg, *Miss Saigon* (musical)

Week 14: *Japan & U.S.*

Class 27: Joshua Logan, *Sayonara*

Class 28: Joshua Logan, *Sayonara*

Week 15: *Wrap-up*

Class 29: *Wrap-up*

Class 30: Final exam review, practice

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【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

All Scripts and readings available on Blackboard

Rodgers and Hammerstein, South Pacific

R&H, King and I

R&H, Flower Drum Song

C.Y. Lee, The Flower Drum Song

Henry David Hwang, M. Butterfly (1988)

Puccini, Madama Butterfly

Boublil and Schonberg, Miss Saigon (1989)

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

- 1) Participation (Short-response postings on Blackboard, Attendance/participation, etc.): 40%
- 2) Midterm Paper: 30% (You are required to submit ONE essay by uploading the file on Blackboard). Details, instructions TBA. Paper due date: TBA (to be uploaded on Blackboard under “Midterm Paper” menu)
- 3) Final Exam: 30% (On designated exam date/time during Final Exam week, Details TBA)

Section 5

【Work outside of Class Activities】

Please post your comments and/or questions about the readings/films at the end of each week. These are informal response-postings aimed to show how actively you have been involved in the readings and films and also for me to address your concerns during our class (on average it will be 1 post per week). 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. Over-due response postings will be discarded.