**H637 Seminar on East Asian Education, 2:30-5:15 TH, SPEA 270**
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**Course Description**
In this seminar we will read and discuss texts and articles in order to build a comprehensive understanding of the social, cultural, philosophical and political contexts of education in East Asia. We will consider four important interrelationships: the interrelationship between education and economic development; the interrelationship between education and politics; the interrelationship between education and nationalism; and the interrelationship between education and globalization. Our geographical emphasis will be Japan and the Peoples Republic of China, but seminar participants are encouraged to explore materials and ideas that will help them answer their own questions about education and schooling throughout East Asia.

Education will be broadly defined to include formal and informal schooling. Topics addressed will include education for minority and marginal populations, language education, education and gender, and cross-cultural perceptions of teaching and learning. Class texts and discussions will often be explicitly comparative (comparing China, Japan, and occasionally the U.S.), and we will evaluate why Americans admire Chinese and Japanese schooling (and vice versa), and whether "East Asian models" of schooling offer lessons to American teachers and students (and vice versa). Our purposes in these endeavors will be 1) to understand why certain educational issues are of fundamental concern to Chinese and Japanese students, teachers, politicians, and parents, and 2) to consider what such concerns tell us about the relationship between school and society, the continuity of tradition in "modern" and "postmodern" worlds, and how our "own" educational values and practices are shaped by culture.

Although we will focus upon contemporary education, our readings include historical materials designed to help us explore the development of Chinese and Japanese school systems and educational thought, particularly the "Confucian legacy." Seminar participants may choose an historical topic for their research paper. Seminar participants are also encouraged to select a topic that builds on thinking and writing they have begun in previous courses.

**Required Texts and Materials**
2) Ma, Liping. *Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics* Lawrence Erlbaum 1999
4) Rohlen and LeTendre *Teaching and Learning in Japan* Cambridge Univ. Press 1999
5) Merry White *Perfectly Japanese, Making Families in an Era of Upheaval* Univ. of CA Berkeley 2002
6) Heidi Ross *China Learns English* Yale Univ. Press, 1993 get on Amazon.com

**And choose one of the following:**
8) G. LeTendre *Learning to be Adolescent, Growing up in U.S. and Japanese Middle Schools* Yale 2000
9) Gary DeCoker (ed) *Nat’l. Standards and School Reform in Japan & the U.S.* Teachers College 2002
Films to View: *Heart of the Country; Not One Less; Breaking with Old Ideas; The Family Game*

Articles on Reserve:
H637 photocopied articles available on the web.

**Course Requirements and Expectations total (800 pts)**
1. 25-page research paper on a question/topic of your choosing (7-10 page proposal with background analysis and working bibliography, 25 points; 15-20 page draft with critical review of literature and clear argument fleshed out, 25 points; final paper, 300 pts; presentation to seminar, 50 pts) **400 points**
2. 3 critical reading essays (5-8 pages) 50 points each, **150 points**
3. Energetic class participation, moderating/guiding discussion of materials **200 points**
4. ½ hour history presentation **50 points**
   - Imperial Entrance Examination
   - Meiji Restoration and Tongzhi Restorations Compared
   - Occupation Japan/Dewey in China
   - Soviet Influence and Cultural Revolution China (emphasis on Cultural Revolution)

All of these assignments must be completed to pass the course. Lateness will result in the deduction of points from your grade. As you know, completion of reading prior to our seminar meeting is of paramount importance. Discussions and presentations are central to this course and will be developed around the reading materials. Active class participation is expected and will be evaluated accordingly. I take dialogue within community as a foundation for learning and teaching.

Finally, I understand why it is tempting to send papers as an email attachment, but please don’t. I need hard copies of your papers so I can read and react to them with the seriousness they deserve.

**Tentative Course Outline**

*Part I: Culture, Childhood, and Early Schooling in East Asia*

**Week 1:** Jan 15 Introduction to Ourselves, and to Education in East Asia  
Overview of the course, seminar participants’ study and research interests and backgrounds  
Ross will share some of her on-going research

**Week 2:** Jan 22 The Power of the Case Study: *Preschool in Three Cultures* (a view of East Asian Schooling from the late 1980’s)/Culture as a Concept  
read all of Tobin, Davidson, and Wu  
read pp. 1-16, *Teaching and Learning in Japan* (Rohlen and LeTrendre)  
read pp. 79-97 *Teaching and Learning in Japan* (Lewis)

- methodology homework assignment due: 2-3 page critical reflection on strengths and weakness of research methodology/typicality debate
- sign up for history presentations

***HAPPY YEAR OF THE MONKEY***
Week 3: Jan 29 Globalization, Identity, and Education: Defining “Material” Chinese and Japanese Childhood, *Golden Arches East*

Read *Golden Arches East*, Intro., Beijing, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan Chapters, pp.1-135, 161-182

Read e-reserve Bray “Comparative Education in the Era of Globalisation….”

Read e-reserve Sanders “Beneath the Smooth Skin….”

*view Heart of the Country?*

One-page brief on proposed research topic

Week 4: Feb 5 Is there a “Teaching Gap” between East Asia and North America?

Read all of Ma Liping, *Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics*

Read e-reserve, Biggs; “Western Misperceptions…” and Marton, et al “Memorizing…”

Read *Teaching and Learning in Japan* pp 213-247

Read Howard Gardner e-reserve “A Long March…Fitting the Key”

Read *Teaching and Learning in Japan* pp. 345-368 (Peak)

Read *Teaching and Learning in Japan* pp. 190-247 (Tsuchida and Lewis)

**Essay #1 due: Local and Global Cultures in East Asian Schools**

Part II: *A Historical-Philosophical Glimpse into the Development of Chinese and Japanese Education*

Week 5: Feb 12 Exploring/interrogating the Confucian Legacy: Confucian Philosophy, the Imperial Entrance Examination and Reflections on Confucian Principals in Education

Read Ivanhoe, Philip J. *Confucian Moral Self Cultivation*


For Pictures/ thumbnail sketch see [http://www.csupomona.edu/~plin/ls201/confucian1.html](http://www.csupomona.edu/~plin/ls201/confucian1.html)

Chinese language Analects/Lunyu at [http://zhongwen.com/rujia.htm](http://zhongwen.com/rujia.htm)

History presentation on imperial entrance examination

Week 6: Feb 19 From Confucian to Modern/Western School System

Read e-reserve Merry White *Challenge of Japanese Education* pp 50-65

Read e-reserve Rohlen *Japanese High School*, pp 45-76

Read e-reserve Peterson and Hayhoe, Bailey “Active Citizen…”; Ross “Historical Memory…”

Read Hayhoe e-reserve “China Universities and … Knowledge and Modernity”

History presentation on the Meiji and Tongzhi Restorations Compared

Presentation on Dewey in China/Japan’s Occupation?

Ross presentation of McTyeire case study

Part III: *The Cultural Politics of Secondary Education in China and Japan*

Week 7: Feb 26 A Chinese Case Study—Revolutionary Modernity in China

Read Ross *China Learns English*, chapters 1-3

Read [http://www.morningsun.org](http://www.morningsun.org) (go through the menu and do all, that is watch tv and film clips; from *Little Red Book* read chapters 1-4, 11, 16-17, 20-27, 30-33;

Read through “Smash the Old World”; read through The East is Red)

History presentation on Soviet Influence and China’s Cultural Revolution view

Breaking With Old Ideas
proposal for research paper due

Week 8 Mar 4  Post-Mao China’s Material Children/Culture: China’s Human Software?
Finish reading Ross *China Learns English*
Read Deborah Davis at [http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display_article?id=2242](http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/display_article?id=2242)
Read e-reserve Joel Spring, “OECD and the World Bank…” and “Conclusion…”
view *Learning to Survive* video in class?

Week 9 Mar 11 no class, CIES annual conference, Salt Lake City

Week 10 Mar 18 no class, spring holiday

Week 11 Mar 25  Adolescence and Schooling, Continued: the Case of Japan
Read LeTendre *Learning to be Adolescent*
Read *Teaching and Learning in Japan* pp. 275-294 ((LeTendre)
View *The Family Game*
Essay 2A due on Adolescence and Schooling in East Asia

Week 12 Apr 1  The role of the Family in East Asian Schooling Revisited
Read White *Perfectly Japanese*
Reading on China to be announced
draft of research paper due including critical literature review and major analysis
and findings fleshed out

*Part IV: Glimpses of Diversity and Inequality in Chinese and Japanese Education: Schooling at the Margins*

Week 13 Apr 8  Case Studies of Inequity: Guest Speakers Helen McCabe, Chris Frey
Read [http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridoca/Huridoca.nsf/e06a5300f90fa0238025668700518ca4/d2a0154274b5f3f3c1256dff0f02ff8f4/$FILE/G0317038.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/Huridoca/Huridoca.nsf/e06a5300f90fa0238025668700518ca4/d2a0154274b5f3f3c1256dff0f02ff8f4/$FILE/G0317038.pdf)
Read Emily Hannum on line Poverty and Basic Education in Rural China: at : [http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CER/journal/contents/v47n2.html](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CER/journal/contents/v47n2.html)
Read e-reserve in Peterson and Hayhoe Mette Hansen "Ethnic Minority Girls…”
Read e-reserve E Croll, *Endangered Daughters*
Read e- reserve Kwong, “Educating Migrant Children”
Further Readings on Japan to be announced
View film *Not One Less*
Essay #3 due: *The Economics of Schooling in E. Asia* or *The Politics of Schooling in E. Asia*

Week 14 Apr 15 no class, AERA annual conference, San Diego

*Part V: Conclusions: Globalization and Schooling: Convergence or Parallelism?*

Week 15 Apr 22  Globalization, Education, and the State
Read DeCocker *National Standards and School Reform in Japan and the United States*
Read e-reserve Zweig “Internationalizing China”
Essay 2B due *East Asian Educational Standards*
Week 16 Apr 29 Presentation of Seminar Participants' Research
   *if we need to schedule another class period for research presentations we will do so
   Final Research Papers due

As you know, the material on East Asian education has grown exponentially in the last two decades. Articles, political commentaries, cultural monographs abound. Here is a sampling of book length studies, among many others:

**Teaching, Learning, and Culture**
- Catherine Lewis *Educating Hearts and Minds*
- Stevenson and Stigler, *The Learning Gap*
- Stigler and Hiebert, *The Teaching Gap*
- Watkins and Biggs, *The Chinese Learner*
- Shimahara and Sakai, *Learning to Teach in Two Cultures*
- John Singleton, *Learning in Likely Places*
- Lewis, Rohlen, Stevenson and Lee, Paine chapters in Cummings & Altbach, *The Challenge of Eastern Asian Education*
- Body projects in Japanese childcare
  - Japan, the childless society?
  - Learning to go to school in Japan
  - Marketing the menacing fetus in Japan
  - Chinese views of childhood / edited by Anne Behnke Kinney
  - Growing up the Chinese Way
  - Hong Kong's Young Children
  - Feeding China's Little Emperors

**Equity Issues (Gender, Ethnicity, Region, Social Class)**
- Mette Halskov Hansen *Lessons in Being Chinese*
- Gerard Postiglione *China’s National Minority Education in Culture, Schooling, and Development*
- Liu, Ross, and Kelly *The Ethnographic Eye*
- Lin, Jing *Social Transformation and Private Education in China*
- Grace C. L. Mak *Women, Education, and Development in Asia*
- Fanny M. Cheung. *Engendering Hong Kong Society, a gender Perspective of women’s status*
- Fujimura-Fanselow and Kameda, *Japanese Women Michael Weiner, Japan’s Minorities*

**Adolescence and Secondary Schools**
- Shoko Yoneyama *The Japanese High School*
- And Thomas Rohlen *Japan’s High Schools*
- Douglas C. Smith. *Middle Education in the Middle Kingdom, The Junior High in Modern Taiwan*
- Martin Schoenhals, *The Paradox of Power in a PRC Middle School*
- Thomas Shaw “Taiwanese Schools Against Themselves” Levinson, *The Cultural Production of the Educated Person*
- Shimahara and Le Tendre chapters in Cummings & Altbach, *The Challenge of Eastern Asian Education*
- Holloway, Susan *Contested Childhood*
- and White, Merry *The Material Child*

**Higher Education**
Schools  David Post in Asian Survey “Post-Secondary Education in Hong Kong” and in Oxford Review of Education “Hong Kong Higher Education…”
Brian McVeigh Japanese Higher Education as Myth and Hayhoe and Pan, East-West Dialogue in Knowledge and Higher Education

Historical Development
Suzanne Pepper Radicalism and Education Reform in 20th Century China
Thomas Rohlen, Japan’s High Schools (pp. 45-76)
Edward Beauchamp Education and Schooling in Japan Since 1945
Paul Bailey Reform the People, Changing Attitudes Towards Popular Education in Early 20th Century China
Evelyn Rawski, Education and Popular Literacy in Ch’ing China
Glen Peterson The Power of Words and Miyazaki, Ichisada, China’s Examination Hell
Merry White The Japanese Educational Challenge (pp. 50-65)
John Cleverley The Schooling of China
Dorothy Ko Teachers of the Inner Chambers
Marianne Bastid, Educational Reform in Early 20th Century China
Elman and Woodside Education and Society in Late Imperial China
Martha Tocco, Schoolbound
Stig Thogersen A County of Culture, 20th century china seen from the village schools of Zouping, Shandong

General On-line Resources:
On-line resources in English, Chinese, Japanese are also mushrooming. Here are just a tiny number of the many possibilities to explore:

Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education in China
http://www.hku.hk/chinaed/ (search by subject from archives)

Columbia Teachers College the Center on Chinese Education
http://www.tc.edu/centers/coce/ (interesting papers, some in Chinese)

Chinese Education and Research Network
http://www.edu.cn/HomePage/english/index.shtml (basic reports with information on all levels of Chinese schooling).

Gansu Basic Education, Family, and Health Project

World Bank data on Chinese schooling:
http://www.developmentgateway.org/countryprofile/index?country_iso=cn
http://asia.dailynews.yahoo.com
http://www.jinjapan.org/kidsweb/index.html
http://www.sino.uni-heidelberg.de/igcs
http://www.fpif.org/china/index.html
http://www.hku.hk/chinaed
http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/
http://www.ntu.edu.tw
http://www.economist.com/countries
http://www.asiasociety.org
http://asianet.anu.edu.au/
http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/jet/index.html
http://jin.jcic.or.jp/
http://www.nichibun.ac.jp/
http://www.ksky.ne.jp/~akihiroh/
http://www.j-pop.com/
http://www.halfthesky.org/
http://www.indiana.edu/~ealc/resources/resources.html#media