National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA)
Summer 2007 – “Teaching About Asia” – For Grades 6-12 Teachers

Time/Place: Monday July 30 – Friday August 3
Morehead University Campus Center
Morehead, Kentucky

Instructor: Dr. Carol Medlicott, NKU Department of History and Geography
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36 hours of meetings spread over five days will mix lecture, discussion, film, and small-group exchanges. Guest speakers will include university professors and local specialists.

Course Goals:

1) To examine the cultures and societies of China, Korea, and Japan from a multi-disciplinary perspective. In addition to history, we will emphasize the geography, cultural patterns, folk traditions, political traditions, and recent social/political/cultural developments. This will instill in each of us a greater sense of confidence, appreciation, and familiarity as we confront material about Asia and seek ways to present it to our students.

2) To develop a better understanding of the common images of Asia, as well as common misconceptions and stereotypes. The first step to overcoming stereotypes is to gain a better understanding at how they have evolved. The present “Western” understanding of Asia is the product of hundreds of years of awkward and problematic encounters, fraught with stereotype and laden with political and cultural baggage. We will ask how these longstanding ways of interpreting Asia continue to inform us today.

3) To recognize how past traditions continue to underlie contemporary patterns and events in East Asia. The countries that we will study are, for the most part, active participants in the global economy and in some of the dominant Western cultural patterns that have become “globalized.” So does that mean that their traditions are now irrelevant? We will examine how contemporary China, Korea, and Japan continue to be informed by their respective classical traditions.

4) To find reliable, engaging, and stimulating materials and prepare ourselves to teach them. We will locate and evaluate teaching resources, ranging from scholarly book resources to Internet resources to resources in the local community. We will confront and discuss the challenges of incorporating fiction, film, poetry, popular culture, and museum displays into our teaching lessons. We will identify resources in the Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky areas that can be of ongoing value.

5) To share our respective knowledge and insights about East Asia within this group and within the regional and national NCTA network. We hope that your experience with NCTA will bring you into a lasting relationship with other Asia specialists and with the broader NCTA family.

Background: The Asia Center, University of Kentucky, organizes this seminar on behalf of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA), a national initiative supported by the Freeman Foundation of Stowe, Vermont. For more information see www.uky.edu/centers/asia. You may contact the Asia Center at Asia Center- University of Kentucky, 304 Bradley Hall, Lexington, KY 40506-0058, tel: 859-257-7858  fax: 859-323-1026
Instructor: Carol Medlicott is Assistant Professor of Geography in the Department of History and Geography at NKU. In addition to teaching courses on Asia at NKU, Dr. Medlicott has taught courses on Asia at University of Southern California and Dartmouth College. Dr. Medlicott spent 13 years as an Asia specialist for a US Government agency before completing a Ph.D in Geography at UCLA and beginning an academic career. She has worked in South Korea and India, in addition to visiting other parts of Asia. Dr. Medlicott has long specialized in Korea, and several of her publications deal with North Korea.

National NCTA Requirements: For you to receive your stipend, further money for school curriculum materials, eligibility for future travel tours, and other benefits, you will:

- Attend at least 30 hours of class.
- Complete recommended reading assignments, before class if possible.
- Participate in discussion and group activities each week.
- Submit a Teaching Implementation Plan (TIP) made up of three individual lesson plans, one each for Korea, China, and Japan.
- Attend the post-seminar follow-up event, within one year following our seminar. You will be notified of the time/place of this event.
- Submit to the Asia Center-University of Kentucky office an evaluation of how your TIP was used in class.

Attendance Policy: This is a compressed seminar. A normal seminar might consist of weekly 3 hour sessions spread over 10 weeks. As a compressed seminar, it is imperative that you attend daily. If you need to be absent for part of any day, please contact me and we will determine if a substitute assignment is necessary. Appropriate substitutions include submitting a short response paper on the recommended readings for the missed session or a similar assignment that you and I will negotiate directly.

Structure: We will be covering a number of topics for each of our five days. Each day will generally begin with a presentation from the Instructor on the major themes, issues, and topics for the day. This may include visual material, such as maps or a Power-Point outline. Some days will include a guest presentation. We will often divide into smaller groups for discussion of specific issues and have groups present their views to the class. We will also share developments in the local and national news that are Asia-related. We will take short scheduled break at some point during the three-hour session. Please keep your cell phone off during class, and use the break to make or receive any necessary personal calls.

Teaching Materials: In addition to the list of books that you will each be furnished, we will provide you with a CD of teaching resources on Japan. We will make time for participants to share their own ideas about resources and suggestions and ideas for developing their TIPs.

Our Seminar Room: Room 302, University Center, MSU Campus

Books:


DAILY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

**Day 1 – Monday July 30**

**Morning Session: 9:00-12:00**
- Introductions from Participants: As you introduce yourselves, please share your main questions, impressions, and needs, with respect to teaching about Asia.
- How do we comprehend Asia as “different” from “the West”?
- Legacies of Orientalism, and its impact on teaching about Asia.
Exercise: Analyses of “An Importer,” “Japanese Novelty Store,” “China Looming,”
- Geographical Overview of Asia

**Afternoon Session: 1:00-5:00**
- Geographical Overview, continued
- Early Dynasties – history and geography
Short film: China’s Cosmopolitan Age: The Tang
Short film: The Forbidden City

Day 2 – July 31

Morning Session – 9:00-12:00

- Sources of religious and philosophical traditions in East Asia
  o Buddhism
  o Confucianism
  o Tao
  o Shinto
  o Shamanism

Short Film: Eastern Philosophy – Confucianism and Shinto
Short Film: A Confucian Life

Afternoon Session – 1:00-4:00

Chinese Worldview: The Tributary System
Early encounters between China and the West
Artistic Traditions in China

Short Film: China: The Mandate of Heaven

Day 3 – August 1

Morning Session: 9:00-12:00

Japan – Geography and Early History
Sources of Social and Cultural Traditions in Japan
Early political and military patterns – “Giving up the Gun”

Short Film: Buddhism in the Land of the Kami

Afternoon Session: 1:00-4:00

TIP – Preliminary Discussion and Ideas
China: Modern History and Political Change
(Tiananmen Square Discussion)
Guest Speaker - Rural Culture and Religion in China
Day 4 – August 2

Morning Session:  9:00-12:00
Korea  – Historical Geography
- Religious Traditions
- Encounter with Christianity
- Colonialism and the Rise of Japan

Afternoon Session:  1:00-4:00
- Korean Division
- Nationhood in North and South Korea
- Revolutionary Culture in North Korea
- Korean Folk Songs (Listening Activity)

Day 5 – August 3

Morning Session:  9:00-11:30
Environmental History of China
Modern Environmental Challenges
Modern Japan – Investment in Kentucky

Concluding Session:  12:30-1:30
Final Discussion of TIPs
Course Evaluations
Dismissal