Summer 2008 – “Teaching About Asia” – For Grades 6-12 Teachers

**Time/Place:** Monday July 28, 7 pm – Saturday August 2, 1 pm
Somerset, Kentucky, Center for Rural Development

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

**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 33 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. You will receive instructions and suggestions.
- Attend the post-seminar follow-up event within one year of the seminar. For this group, our follow-up event is scheduled for Saturday February 28, 2009.
- Submit to the Asia Center-University of Kentucky office an evaluation of how your TIP was used in class. You will receive instructions about the required format for this report.

Attendance Policy: This is a compressed seminar. A normal seminar might consist of weekly 3 hour sessions spread over 11 or 12 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 is 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 six days. Each full 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 breaks throughout the day, in addition to our lunch break. Please keep your cell phone off during class, and use the breaks 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 thumb-drive pre-loaded with teaching resources on Japan. We will make time to share ideas about resources, as well as suggestions and ideas for developing TIPs.

Books:


DAILY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:  

(Circumstances may force changes as the week unfolds!)

Day 1 – Monday July 28

Evening Session: 7:00-9:00

- 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”?
- Geographical Overview of Asia

Day 2 – Tuesday July 29

Morning Session: 9:00-12:00

Legacies of Orientalism, and its impact on teaching about Asia.
(Handouts will be provided)

Break

Guest Speaker: NCTA Coordinator from UK Asia Center
Day 3 – Wednesday July 30

Morning Session – 9:00-12:00

Chinese Worldview: The Tributary System
Early encounters between China and the West
   Handouts: “Sinify the Western Barbarians”

Break

Short Film: Forbidden City: Heart Within
   Viewing and Discussion

Afternoon Session – 1:00-4:00

Mao and Revolutionary China
Short Film: Mao: Peasant Emperor
   (Handout – Mao’s poetry and the Three Gorges Dam)

Break

Guest Speaker – Revolutionary Culture in China

Day 4 – Thursday July 31

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”

Break

Japan – Cultural Traditions, continued.

Afternoon Session: 1:00-4:00

Japan and the West: Tracing the Encounter. (Short film, tba)
Break

Guest Speaker: Costume and Performance in Japanese Kabuki.

Day 5 – August 1

Morning Session: 9:00-12:00

Korea – Historical Geography
- Religious Traditions
- Encounter with Christianity
- Colonialism and the Rise of Japan

Break

Korean Folk Songs (Listening Activity)
(Handouts – Korean Folksongs, North Korean Culture)

DURING LUNCH: A State of Mind – Viewing

Afternoon Session: 1:00-4:00

- Korean Division
- Nationhood in North and South Korea
- Revolutionary Culture in North Korea

Break

Guest Speaker – Understanding Vietnam in Confucian East Asia

Day 6 – August 2

Morning Session: 9:00-11:00

Guest Speaker – Security & Terrorism Issues in East Asia

Break

Concluding Session: 11:30-1:00

Discussion of TIPs
Course Evaluations
Dismissal