



# CHINESE & JAPANESE STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Valparaiso University

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CHINESE & JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAM

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## REPORT FROM JAPAN:

My first impressions of Japan as of right now are filled with amazement and a bit of confusion. This truly is the most efficient country on the globe. Course information in Japanese class is taught in a speedy and effective manner, lessons are shot at us like rapid fire. Without really noticing I've acquired more knowledge of Japanese than I did the whole year at Valpo. As for the people, they've got to be the most polite in the world. It seems the general population is looking for practice in English conversation, so it's not uncommon to have Japanese folks come up to you and ask, "Are you free now?" (to talk). They are always very thankful for your time. Two hours after the English interaction, you will most likely receive two or three emails thanking you for your email address and for your time in English practice. Life moves like wildfire here, I've met so many people and done numerous things I couldn't have in America. Although I have learned a lot, there is still plenty I don't understand here. I look forward to the immersion process in the coming months. Bring on the experiences! ([Adam Raynor](#), Geography/CJS double major)



## Highlights of Spring 2010 Courses

### EAST390BX: Media & Culture in East Asia (Prof. Prough)

This course will explore the relationship between culture and mass media, focusing on the particular cases of modern Japan and China. From an anthropological vantage point we will examine the ways that media are influenced by the culture in which they are produced, as well as the ways that media in turn affect culture. Inherent in these questions are issues of cultural production, representation, and power. Examining film, television, cartoons, and music, experientially as well as through pertinent scholarly texts, we will address topics such as the role of the state in structuring media, representations of gender and tradition in contemporary media, new media and social movements, and the implications of the global spread of media texts. Both in class and through written assignments students will try their hand at critical media analysis. Requirements: Students will write a research paper for this class. Additionally, a course on media requires time to watch films; students will be required to watch 7 films outside of class time in preparation for discussion. All films will be shown Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (CC Cinema).

### EAST390AX: A Cultural History of China's Cities Through Literature and Film (Prof. Ridgway)

Following China's recent rapid economic growth and the accompanying large scale migration of people from the countryside to the cities, the city and urbanization have become the foci of much debate in both mainstream media and in the university. Yet what has often been overlooked is how the current growth of China's cities relates to the complex cultural history of China's cities in the past. In this class we will explore the cultural history of a few of China's most iconic cities, both ancient and modern. Our main goal will be to examine how the city has shaped everyday life over the long duration and how certain cities have been imagined and represented in literature and film during three key historical moments. Readings and class discussion in the first half of the class will focus on the three premodern cities of Chang'an, Kaifeng, and Hangzhou, during China's medieval and late imperial periods. In the second half of the class we will turn to examine the three cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Taipei, whose images in Chinese literature and film are directly connected with China's transition to modernity from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Throughout this course, primary materials, from classical poetry and vernacular fiction to modern fiction and film, will be paired with secondary readings on the historical context of China's urban centers and critical readings from the field of geography as well as those by theorists of space, place, and the city.

### CHST590OL: Buddhism in China (Prof. Geiman)

Much of what we know of as Buddhism today owes its form to the transformations it underwent after hitting the Chinese soil. Further, much of what we know of as Chinese culture has distinctively Buddhist underpinnings. In this course we will get a short overview of the history of Buddhism in China and then focus on three distinctively Chinese Buddhist phenomena: first, the transformation of the Bodhisattva Avolekiteshvara, an essentially androgynous/male personage, into Guānyīn, a decidedly female one (and a Daoist immortal!); second, the introduction of the *gōng-àn* (jp. *kōan*) as a form of Buddhist practice; and third, the establishment of a monastic tradition with its cultural, social, political and economic implications.

### GEO301A: Regional Geography of Asia (Prof. Longan)

A comparative study of physical, cultural, social, political, and economic geography of China and Japan.

## SPRING 2010 COURSE OFFERINGS

(\* indicates approval by the Chair is required)

### Chinese Language

FLC 102A: *Beginning Chinese II*

MTRF 2:00 PM – 2:50 PM, 4cr, Prof. Meng

FLC 204A: *Intermediate Chinese II*

MTRF 12:55 PM – 1:45 PM, 4cr, Prof. Meng

FLC 306EV: *Advanced Chinese II*

MTR 6:30 PM – 7:40PM, 4cr, Prof. Meng

FLC 495V: *Supervised Reading & Research in Chinese\**

TBA TBA, 1-4cr, Staff

FLC 532X/CHST 532X: *Cont Chinese in Mass Media II*  
MTR 4:10 PM – 5:20PM, 4cr, Prof. Ridgway

FLC 608X/CHST 608X: *Intensive Fourth Year Chinese II*  
MTRF 10:05 AM – 11:10 AM, 5cr, Prof. Ridgway

### Japanese Language

FLJ 102A: *Beginning Japanese II*  
MTWR 11:50 AM – 12:40 PM, 4cr, Prof. Kavanagh

FLJ 204A: *Intermediate Japanese II*  
MTWR 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM, 4cr, Prof. Kavanagh

FLJ 250A: *Japanese Lit and the Fine Arts*  
TR 2:50 PM – 4:05 PM, 3cr, Prof. Kavanagh

FLJ 306A: *Advanced Japanese II*  
MTWR 12:55 PM – 1:45 PM, 4cr, Prof. Kavanagh

FLJ 495V: *Supervised Reading & Research in Japanese\**  
TBA TBA, 1-4cr, Prof. Kavanagh

### East Asia

EAST 386A: *Internship in china/Japanese Studies\**  
TBA TBA, 3cr, Prof. Lin

EAST 390AX/CC 325DX: *China's Cities in Lit & Film*  
TR 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, 3cr, Prof. Ridgway  
(Cross-listed w/CHST 590AX & CC 300EX)

EAST 390BX/CC 325DX: *Media & Culture in East Asia*  
MWF 12:55PM – 1:45 PM, 3cr, Prof. Prough

EAST 390OL/CHST 590 OL: *Buddhism in China*  
TBA TBA, 3cr, Prof. Geiman

EAST 493A: *East Asian Senior Seminar\**  
TBA TBA, 3cr, Prof. Lin

EAST 495V: *Supervised Reading & Research\**  
TBA TBA, 1-3cr, Prof. Lin

EAST 499A: *Coll in Chinese & Japanese Studies*  
F 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM, 0.5cr, Prof. Prough\*

### Economics

ECON 336A/ECON 536A: *Economics of Developing Nations*  
TR 11:50 AM – 1:05 PM, 3cr, Prof. Raman

### Geography

GEO 301A: *Regional Geography of Asia*  
MWF 9:05 AM – 9:55 AM, 3cr, Prof. Longan

### History

HIST 210A: *World in the Twentieth Century*  
MWF 2:00PM – 2:50PM, 3cr, Prof. Whitefield

HIST 342EV/542EV: *Traj & Triumph: Making Mod Japan*  
TR 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM, 3cr, Prof. Whitefield

HIST 393EV/593EV: *History through Film: Asia*  
M 6:30 PM – 9:15 PM, 3cr, Prof. Whitefield

### Master of Arts in Chinese Studies (MACS)

CHST 532X/FLC 532X: *Cont Chinese in Mass Media II*  
MTR 4:10 PM – 5:20 PM, 4cr, Prof. Ridgway

CHST 590AX: *China's Cities in Lit & Film*  
TR 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM, 3cr, Prof. Ridgway  
(Cross-listed w/ EAST 390AX & CC 300EX)

CHST 590BX: *Media & Culture in E Asia*  
MWF 12:55 PM – 1:45 PM, 3cr, Prof. Prough  
(Cross-listed w/ EAST 39BX & CC 325 DX)

CHST 590OL/EAST 390OL: *Buddhism in China*  
TBA TBA, 3cr, Prof. Geiman

CHST 608X/FLC 608X: *Intensive Fourth Year Chinese II*  
MTRF 10:05 AM – 11:10 AM, 5cr, Prof. Ridgway

CHST 695V: *Supv Rdg/Res Chinese Studies\**  
TBA TBA, 1-3cr, Staff

CHST 697A: *Graduate Seminar in Chinese Studies II\**  
W 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, 0.5cr, Prof. Lin

### Philosophy

PHIL 220EV: *Asian Philosophy*  
W 6:15 PM – 9:00 PM, 3cr, Prof. Geiman

### Political Science

POLS 490AX/ICP661X: *International Political Economy*  
TR 1:20 PM – 2:35PM, 3cr, Prof. Lin

### Theology

THEO 361A/THEO 561A: *Indian Religions & Culture*  
TR 11:50 AM-1:05PM, 3 cr. Prof. Pati

THEO 361B/THEO 561B: *Indian Religions & Culture*  
TR 1:20 PM-2:35 PM, 3 cr. Prof. Pati

### Forum on East-West Connection

The CJSP and Confucius Institute at VU are cosponsoring a forum on East-West Connection: Living it Personally and Professionally on Friday (11/6, 3:30-5:00 PM, Neils Science Center). The forum is part of the Colloquium in CJS and lecture series of CIVU. Featured speakers include Mr. Ping Huang, the Consul General of the Consulate General of China in Chicago. The forum is open to the public. **Please join us!!!**

### Chinese and Japanese Studies Administrative Committee

Frederick Kavanagh (Japanese, x5311)

Zhimin Lin (Political Science, x5749)

Michael Longan (Geography, x 6874)

Jianyun Meng (Chinese, x6771)

James Nelson (Psychology, x5443)

George Pati (Theology, x6110)

Jennifer Prough (Christ College, x5492)

Jaishankar Raman (Economics, x6814)

Benjamin Ridgway (MACS, x5069)

Jonathan Schoer (Chemistry, x5374)

Brent Whitefield (History, x6965)

**Office assistants for Fall 2009**

Jessica Moy, Fang Wang, Jiajia Wu, Xia Zhang