

"Social Transformations in East Asia"

Fall, 2022

Class Times: M, W 1:30-3:20

Office: Thomson Hall 423

Office Hours: M, W 3:30-4:30 in person or on zoom

Email: araia2@uw.edu

Instructor: Andrea Gevurtz Arai

<https://jsis.washington.edu/people/andrea-arai/>

Course Description:

This course focuses on contemporary moments and forms of social transformation in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, including examples from Vietnam and the Philippines. Our approach will be interdisciplinary. We will bring cultural anthropology together with environmental studies, architecture, literature, film, social media and popular culture. We will read, think about and discuss some of the historical and economic contexts of recent social transformation. We will explore the meanings of transformation, change and the social, as well as look in depth at current social change projects.

The focus of the Fall 2022 course will be on gender, low birth, reproductive labor, new forms of work, the natural and built environments and the socio-cultural and political responses to over two decades of "neoliberal" reforms and following the 3.11 (triple disasters of Fukushima in Japan). We will also explore the significance of center-periphery divides and new connections among the young in East Asia.

This fall, along with other shorter readings, we will read and discuss a new edited volume based on papers from a cross-East Asia regional workshop of scholars and scholar activists at UW in 2021. The volume, *Spaces of Creative Resistance: Social Change Projects in East Asia*, has been produced by UW faculty, contributed to by these workshop members and by UW seminar students.

Along with a short midterm and final exam, students will carry out their own small group research projects based on our readings, discussions, and films.

Requirements and Evaluation:

Weekly postings, In-class Discussion, Discussion Leader: 20%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Pair or Individual Ethnographic Research Projects and Presentation: 30%

Discussion Leader (DL), Readings Response Postings, (Participation and Attendance)

1: Discussion Leader (DL): Every student is asked to help lead discussion for one of our readings. Please look over the syllabus this first week and email me with your first and second choices by 10/3. DL's will have 5-10 minutes in which to provide a short discussion of the context and argument of the reading and to raise 2 questions (*one specific and one integrated*).

2: Reading Responses: Beginning on 10/3, students are responsible for posting "reading responses" (short specific commentary) on one day's readings for the week. (There is only one meeting in Week 2-see weekly schedule-so everyone will post on Anagnost Reading for 10/3)

On some days this may mean one longer reading, on others 2-3 shorter ones. These commentaries should include the context, short summary of argument, indicate ideas or terms that the student would like explained, make a connection with an earlier reading and (importantly) raise *specific* questions for discussion. Please pay close attention to the academic approach of the authors and note how this affects the method and writing. *In order to receive credit for these postings, students must be in class and prepared to participate in class discussion based on their postings.*

Midterm Exam:

There will be a short (90min) midterm exam in this class. It will focus on the key terms and ideas in our readings up to this point. *The exam will be open book, pdfs and open note.*

Final Exam:

The final exam will also be 90 minutes in length. It will focus on the final 3 weeks of conceptual readings.

Small Group Research Project

Students will choose a specific topic area of our class readings and discussion on which to focus for a small group research project. The project will proceed in 3 stages: Choice of topic, group members and narrowing of topic; meeting with instructor to discuss process, method and additional readings; presentation and feedback.

Readings for the class are available as e-books in the UW library or are posted to our Canvas Files as pdfs. Please check ahead for these so you are prepared for class discussion.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1:

Wed. 9/28:

Syllabus and Introductions. First reading preview.

Week 2:

Mon. 10/3:

Ann Anagnost, "Life Making in Neoliberal Times" in *Global Futures in East Asia* (*UW Ebook- and in our Canvas Files as pdf.*)

Wed. 10/5:

No class, instructor away at conference

Prepare ahead for 10/10

Week 3:

Mon. 10/10:

*Andrea Arai, "The Recessionary Generations: Times and Spaces" in A. Arai, *The Strange Child: Education and the Psychology of Patriotism in Recessionary Japan*. (*UW Ebook-Chapter 6*)

*Gabriella Lukacs Introduction, "Labor Games: Youth, Work and Politics in East Asia" -pdf *Canvas*

(Optional: A. Arai: "Notes to the Heart: New Lessons in Sentiment and Sacrifice in Recessionary Japan" in *UW Ebook, Global Futures in East Asia*)

Wed. 10/12:

*Haejong Cho, "The Spec Generation Who Can't Say No"-pdf Canvas

*Pun Ngai and Anita Koo, "A World Class Labor Camp/us: Foxconn and China's New Generation of Labor Migrants-pdf Canvas

Week 4:

Mon. 10/17

*Ashley Esarey (et al) Introduction: "The Evolution of the East Asian Eco-Development State",

in *The Greening East Asia- UW E-book*

*Noriko Sakamoto, "Local Energy Initiatives in Japan" in *Greening of East Asia*

*Jingyun Dai and Anthony Spires, "Grassroots NGO and Environmental Advocacy in China in *Greening of East Asia*

Wed. 10/19

*H. Kamanaka, "Fukushima, Media, Democracy"-pdf Canvas

*A. Arai: "Nuclear Visuality and Public Resistance in Hitomi Kamanaka's Eco-Disaster Docu Films (manuscript under review)

(Optional: See her two films: "Ashes to Honey" & "Little Voices from Fukushima")

Week 5:

Mon. 10/24

Spaces of Creative Resistance: Social Change Projects in East Asia

Section 1: Creative Acts of Resistance:

Introduction: Shifting Contexts, Creative Responses

Arai, DiY Sensibilities, Eco-Aesthetics, and Women's Projects in Post 3.11 Japan

Chae, *Ma-eul Sal-i* of Korean Young People: Making Spaces for a Different Lifestyle

Chan, "Regaining Autonomy at Work in Hong Kong's "Alternative Communities"

Wed. 10/26

Spaces of Creative Resistance

Section 2: Cultural Spaces and Community Places

Ishibashi, "I Refuse to Live in a Town Without a Cinema!": Rebuilding a Cultural Space and Social Infrastructure in Toyooka, Japan

Sugano, Rebuilding a Vacant Space and Regaining My Place in Kanazawa Japan

Matsubara, Creative Resistance and Social Isolation in Japan

Week 6:

Mon. 10/31

Spaces of Creative Resistance

Section 3: Environments of Creative Resistance

Lin and Liu, The Case of the Yuanli Hi Home: Revitalizing Community and Spaces in Taiwan

Ahn, The Tale of a Transitional Site for Self-Organized Civic Life in South Korea (Bibil Base)

Huang and Hou, Urban Poverty and Spaces of Community Action in Wan-hua, Taipei

Wed. 11/3

"Waging Piece in Vietnam" exhibit and reading

Additional Vietnam reading-TBD

Discuss Project Topics and Midterm Review

Week 7:

Mon. 11/7

Leo Ching, "Youth Protest in East Asia" pdf in Canvas Files

Nancy Fraser, "Climates of Capital" pdf in Canvas files

Wed. 11/9

Midterm

Choose Project Topics and Groups

Set up Meetings with Instructor

Week 8:

Mon. 11/14

Ben Anderson, *Imagined Communities* Chapter 1 & preface (UW Ebook)

Rogers, "Uses and Abuses of Neoliberalism" in Canvas files

Wed. 11/16

S. Kohso, *Radiation and Revolution-Introduction-pdf Canvas*

Yu Ling: Feminist Biopolitics of Low Birth

Week 9:

Mon. 11/21

Final Exam

Wed. 11/23

Day off for Research

Week 10:

Mon. 11/28

Presentation meetings with Instructor

Wed. 11/30

Presentation meetings with Instructor

Week 11:

Mon 12/5

Group Presentations (12 minutes each)

Wed. 12/7

Group Presentations (12 minutes each)