Asian Modernities Reading List (Special Topic: Of Theories and Applications)

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Class time and location: Thursday 4-7 pm; GAR 2.124
Office Hour and location: 11 am to 2 pm Tuesdays (Or by appointment); WCH 5.104B

In this course we will look at the place of theory and criticism in the study of “Asia” in the academy today—or simply put, “Asia as method”—with particular attention to the origins and rise of modern comparative literary and cultural studies. We will engage in topics such as the construction of “literature,” literary traditions, and national cultures in a comparative context; articulations of internationalism and cosmopolitanism as counter-discourses; recent debates on nationalism and modernity, cultural studies, gender studies, translation and travel, imperialism and subalternity, and the proliferation of “post” studies (postmodern, postcolonial, postnational) as they pertain to our research and writing. We will aim to strike up a dialogue between current topics in Asian studies and a larger body of theoretical and historical work from which it draws.

Requirements
Students are required to attend all seminars, complete the assigned reading, and present a short introduction to one or more of the readings in class. Students will “adopt” a week of his/her choice and facilitate class discussion during the week. Designed as an intensive reading and discussion course, this course is to familiarize you with a wide body of contemporary critical texts and concerns. It is imperative that you prepare the readings for discussion every week.

A full-length research paper (20-25 pages) is due on December 12 (sbj to change). A detailed prospectus (5 pages) and preliminary bibliography is be due November 20. You are expected to present your final project in an end-of-term workshop on December 5.

Grading
Seminar paper (35%); class participation (35%); Prospectus and peer critique (15%), final presentation (15%)

Week One August 29
Logistics
Frederick Cooper, “Modernity”

Week Two September 5
Paul Cohen, Between Tradition and Modernity
Sabina Knight, Chinese Literature: A Very Short Introduction

Week Three September 12
David Wang, Fin-de-siecle Splendor
Week Four  September 19
Lydia Liu, *Translingual Practice*

Week Five  September 26
Hardt and Negri, *The Empire*

Week Six  October 3
Foucault, *The Order of Things*
Chow, *World Target*, selected chapters (Optional)

Week Seven  October 10
Dung, *The Atlas*
Chu, *The Old Capitol* (Optional)

Week Eight  October 17
Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, Vol. 1
Purr, *Homonationalism*, select chapters

Week Nine  October 24
Class will meet with Dr. Kirsten and Dr. Hindman and attend a talk on Natsume Soseki and modern Japanese literature

Week Ten  October 31
Chu, *The Notes of A Desolate Man*

Week Eleven  November 7
Judith Farquhar, *Appetites*

Week Twelve  November 14
Shih, *Sinophone Studies: A Critical Reader* (Select chapters)
Wu Zhuoliu, *The Orphan of Asia*

Week Thirteen  November 21
Prospectus workshop

Week Fourteen  November 28
Thanksgiving, NO CLASS

Week Fifteen  December 5
Presentation