

CET Syllabus of Record



Program: CET Taiwan

Course Code / Title: (TP/EAST 330) Taiwanese History, Culture, and National Identity

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: East Asian Studies / History, Political Science

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This class takes history as a starting point to explore the current cultural and political identities present in Taiwan. First the class surveys Taiwan's five canonical historical periods: the Indigenous Taiwanese period, the southern Chinese immigration period, the Japanese Colonial Period, the KMT Martial-Law period, and the current democratization period. This class interrogates these shifting national narratives and uses them as a critical lens to explore major topics throughout the course, including: the geopolitics of Taiwan's contested status, the cultural significance of night markets and dancing in public spaces, the conservation efforts behind Taiwan's garbage and recycling policies, the political evolution of Taiwanese opera and Chinese orchestra in Taiwan, the political significance of Japanese, Hokkien, Hakka, and Mandarin over time, the reception of Mandopop and Taiwanese cinema on the international stage, and Taiwanese culture's adaptation to new media in YouTubers, Facebook Live hawkers, and Instagram celebrities.

The class is a discussion-based seminar with weekly reading assignments. Students must also bring in relevant examples relating to their readings and take turns leading discussion. Guest speakers lend their expertise and field student questions. The class culminates in a research paper that uses secondary sources to explore a topic related to the readings and a final project which uses primary sources and fieldwork conducted in Taiwan.

Objectives

More specifically, from their participation in this course, students are expected to:

- Gain a broad historical and cultural context to their language classes in Taiwan
- Develop a familiarity with the literature on Taiwan Studies and more specifically with a selected topic of their choosing
- Make use of their time in Taiwan to collect data and create a project that could not be completed from their home country

Course Requirements

Weekly seminar

- Students are expected to abide by the CET Attendance Policy, and to have read and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings

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- Preparation and participation are factored into the final grade
- Students are assigned one class to lead discussion
- Students must present the subjects of their final papers and final projects to the class for discussion and critique

Field-based course components

- Students are expected to participate in three field-based excursions that explore and provide context to the readings and themes of the class

Periodic 1:1 check-ins with instructor

- Students meet with the instructor individually twice per term to discuss the topic selection of the final paper and final project

Readings, general and topic-specific

- Readings of 20-50 pages from the bibliography below and other sources are assigned for each class meeting

Weekly responses

- Prior to each class students submit a 300-word response to the readings, drawing connections to their experiences in Taiwan.

Final paper

- 8-12 pages in length
- A research paper utilizing secondary sources that are related to or build off of the readings for the course

Final project

- Multiple types of media are acceptable but the project should be comparable to the effort of at least an 8-12 page paper. All projects must be pre-approved by the instructor.
- Utilizes primary sources--fieldwork, interviews, and/or surveys to delve into a question on contemporary Taiwanese culture

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

30%	Preparation, participation in class, leading class discussion
10%	In-class presentations for the final paper and final project
30%	Weekly reflections
15%	Final paper
15%	Final project

Readings

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections of the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*.

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London: Verson, 1983.

Chen, Echo. *Stories of the Sahara*. Crown Culture. Taipei. 1976.

Chuang, Tzu-i. "The Power of Cuteness: female infantilization in urban Taiwan." *Stanford Journal of East Asian Affairs* 5, no. 2 (2005): 21–28.

Dittmer, Lowell. "Taiwan and the Issue of National Identity." *Asian Survey* 44(4): 475-483. 2004.

Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Cultures: Selected Essays*. New York: Basic Books. 1973.

Guy, Nancy. "'Republic of China National Anthem' on Taiwan: One Anthem, One Performance, Multiple Realities." *Ethnomusicology* 46, no. 1 (2002): 96-119.

Hobsbawm, Eric. & Ranger, Terry. *Invented Traditions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Hong, Guo-Juin. *Taiwan Cinema: A Contested Nation on Screen*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2011.

Hsu, Wendy. "Troubling Genre, Ethnicity and Geopolitics in Taiwanese Independent Rock Music." *Popular Music* 32(1): 91-109. 2013.

Mason, Katherine. A. "To Your Health! Toasting, Intoxication and Gendered Critique among Banqueting Women." *The China Journal* 69 (2013): 108-33.

Morris, Andrew. D. *Taiwan's History: An Introduction*. in *The Minor Arts of Daily Life: Popular Culture in Taiwan*, ed. David. K. Jordan, Andrew. D. Morris and Marc. L. Moskowitz (Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press, 2004), 3–31.

Moskowitz, Marc. L. "Mandopop under Siege: Culturally Bound Criticisms of Taiwan's Pop Music." *Popular Music* 28(1): 69–83. 2009.

Rowen, Ian. "Inside Taiwan's Sunflower Movement: Twenty-four days in a student-occupied parliament, and the future of the region." *Journal of Asian Studies* 74, no. 1 (2015): 5–21.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Pantheon. 1978.

Terwilliger, Andrew. "How the Accordion Usurped the Erhu in Taipei: The Sonic Construction of Place in the Formosan Cosmopolis." *Malaysian Music Journal*, 4(2), 2016.

Titon, J. Todd. "Textual Analysis or Thick Description?" in *The Cultural Study of Music: A Critical Introduction*. ed. Martin Clayton, Trevor Herbert and Richard Middleton (New York & London: Routledge, 2003), 171-180.

Tu, Weiming. "Cultural Identity and the Politics of Recognition in Contemporary Taiwan." *The China Quarterly* 148: 1115-1140. 1996.

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Tuan, Iris Hsin-chun. *Alternative Theater in Taiwan: Feminist and Intercultural Approaches*. Youngstown, NY: Cambria Press. 2007.

Yip, June. *Envisioning Taiwan: Fiction, Cinema and the Nation in the Cultural Imaginary*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 2004.

Yu, Shuenn-Der. Hot and Noisy: Taiwan's Night Market Culture. in *The Minor Arts of Daily Life: Popular Culture in Taiwan*. ed. David. K. Jordan, Andrew. D. Morris and Marc. L. Moskowitz (Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawai'i Press, 2004), 129–149.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1 – The Taiwanese Context: History, Culture, National Narrative:
Before Colonialism: Indigenous, Hokkien, and Hakka Influences
Japanese Colonial and KMT Regimes in the 20th Century

Topic 2 – The Republic of China on the International Stage
Free China
Pariah
Taiwan

Topic 3 – The New Taiwanese Identity
Literature
Cinema
Mandopop

Topic 4 Urban Geography and the Government's Social Programming
Night markets: Gangsters to University Love
Dancing in Parks: Ballroom to Hip hop
The Metro: Chopin to Mario Bros

Topic 5 – Going Green – DPP Politics and Conservation
Student Protests
Environmentalism and Recycling Programs

Topic 6 – Taiwanese Identity in New Media
"YouTubers & Instacelebs"
Facebook Live Hawkers