

WHAT IS ASIA?

CHENXI TANG
COLLEEN LYE
ALAN TANSMAN



HUM 10 COMPASS COURSE

Spring 2022
M/W 11:00am-12:00pm
4 units

Compass Courses are especially designed for lower division students and serve as a gateway to the rich study of the Arts and Humanities at Berkeley. Through each course, students have a chance to study with three professors, experience a range of approaches to an engaging theme, and learn the methods of different humanistic disciplines.

Fills the Arts & Literature Breadth Requirement

New
Strategies

AS THE LARGEST and the most populous geographical and cultural entity, Asia has played a dominant role in the world's politics, economy, and culture. But what is Asia?

This course approaches this question from three perspectives: the construction of Asia as a cultural space by Europeans from Greek antiquity to modern times; Asia's own exploration of its identity as a cultural and political sphere; and the imagining of Asia by Americans in the age of Asia's global economic rise. Linking these perspectives is an investigation of Asianness itself, through which we will explore urgent cultural and political issues in today's world: race and identity, migration and belonging, cosmopolitanism and geopolitics, and responses to environmental crisis.

We will explore these themes, and many others, through a wide variety of materials, including the first extant Greek tragedy *The Persians*, East Asian film, literature, and other art forms, and contemporary Asian-American writings and activist documentary. We will engage thinkers, writers, and artists ranging from Hegel and Max Weber in Europe to the novelist Tanizaki Jun'ichirô in Japan, the filmmaker Jia Zhangke in China, and the imaginative writers Amitava Kumar, Mia Alvar and Cathy Park Hong in the U.S.

What is Asia?

Prof. Colleen Lye

English

Prof. Chenxi Tang

German

Prof. Alan Tansman

East Asian Languages + Cultures

Students must enroll in one of three sections listed below. It does not matter in which section you enroll; you will study with all three professors over the course of the semester.

<https://classes.berkeley.edu/content/2022-spring-hum-10-004-lec-004/>

<https://classes.berkeley.edu/content/2022-spring-hum-10-005-lec-005/>

<https://classes.berkeley.edu/content/2022-spring-hum-10-005-lec-006/>

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