

F200 Foreign Study in Asian Culture—Summer I 2006  
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Study the past if you would define the future.

Confucius

**Required texts:** *Becoming Madame Mao*, Anchee Min  
*No-No Boy*, John Okada  
*Everything You Need to Know about Asian American History*, Novas and Cao

**Additional materials:** Selections by Amy Tan, Chuang Chou, Chang Rae-Lee, Sylvia Watanabe, Garrett Hongo, etc. (provided in class)

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*Purpose*

The purpose of this course is to give you the opportunity to learn a bit about Asian culture, history, literature, customs, and language first hand. It is hoped you will discover that the largest population in the world is much more than its stereotypes and that our culture owes much to Asian influences. It is also hoped that this introduction to foreign travel will encourage you to want to learn more and to seek additional foreign learning opportunities.

*Class Activities and Assignments*

Prior to our departure, you will work as part of a group to research and present a cultural overview about a particular Asian country. In Hawaii, our focus will be twofold: to learn more about Hawaiian/Polynesian culture and to research the experiences of Asian Americans and Hawaiians who served during World War II and the experiences of Japanese Americans who were interned. We will participate in several events, including visits to Pearl Harbor, Punchbowl Cemetery, the Japanese Cultural Center, the East-West Center, the Bishop Museum, the Byodo-In Temple, and various archaeological sites. These events are mandatory and will involve reflective writing as well as discussion. You will also research a topic of interest regarding some aspect of Asian culture. Upon our return, we will meet for final presentations. The final class goal is to develop a design for a Peace Garden that will honor those who served in WWII and those who were interned.

Reflective writings 10 @ 10 points each (these can't be made up if you miss class)	100 points
Group country research/ presentation	100 points
Presentation	200 points
Final	50 points

**Grading: 90-100% = A range  
80-89% = B range  
70-79% = C range  
60-69% = D range**

**(The top two percent of each range will receive a + grade ; the bottom two percent will receive a - grade.)**

### *Respect*

**Every Asian culture we are studying has as its core value the concept of respect. Therefore, we will do all we can to practice that value at all times during our class and during our trip to Hawaii. Included in that is the expectation that we will all behave honorably and ethically. Any material borrowed for our research will be cited properly. Any individuals we interview will receive our thanks and our polite attention. Any person in our class will receive that respect as well, especially when he or she is asking a question or presenting. Our actions will at all times reflect our understanding that *it is all about respect.***

### *One More Course Requirement*

**It is a fair assumption that you are taking this course because you have an appreciation for diversity and because you want to learn more about a culture different from your own. With that in mind, please keep an open mind. This course isn't designed to preach a political or religious platform; it is designed to provide you with lots of information about how different from and how similar to our culture Asian culture can be. You will read and see things that might not fit with your view of the world—and that is to be expected. Enjoy the differences and marvel at the similarities. And open yourself up to learn a lot.**

Ua mau ke ea o ka `aina i ka pono.

*The life of the land is preserved in righteousness.*

Motto of Hawai`i.

## What Happens When

Thursday, May 11

Course goals, defining “Asian Culture” in terms of “The Global Effects of One Person’s Choice”; a look at China; how *Becoming Madame Mao* tells a lot about our theme and about China; video on Qin and the Terracotta Soldiers; In-class Writing #1; Peace Garden assignments; Hawaiian site assignments

**DUE:** Read *Becoming Madame Mao*

Tuesday, May 16

Asian stereotypes; *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *The Joy Luck Club*; more *Madame Mao*; Chinese American history; Amy Tan bridges the gap (*The Hundred Secret Senses*); Mahjongg; Chinese chops; tea and rice

**DUE:** Bring your slippers; skim the Chinese sections of *Everything You Need to Know* looking for surprising facts; go to

<http://www.terebess.hu/english/chuangtzu2.html#19> and read Section 19 of *The Complete Works of Chuang Tzu*, translated by Burton Watson—I will ask you whether you agree and why

Thursday, May 18

In-class Writing #2; Korean culture, as presented by Group 1; discussion of individual research projects

**DUE:** Read Chang-Rae Lee excerpt; skim the Korean sections of *Everything You Need to Know* looking for surprising facts; bring potential topic for your individual research

Tuesday, May 23

In-class Writing #3; Polynesian/Hawaiian culture, as presented by Group 2

**DUE:** Go to <http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15873> and read Garrett Hongo’s “Something Whispered in the Shakuhachi”; read Sylvia Watanabe story (I’ll distribute) ; find a myth about Pele and bring it to class

Thursday, May 25

In-class Writing #4; Japanese culture, as presented by Group 3

**DUE: Bring in three haiku; skim the Japanese sections of *Everything You Need to Know* looking for surprising facts**

**Tuesday, May 30**

**In-class Writing #5; discuss *No-No Boy*, Japanese internment, and the aftermath**

**DUE: Finish *No-No Boy*; bring Hawaiian site info**

**June 3-10**

**HAWAII !!!!!!!!!**

**Tuesday, June 13**

**Reviewing the week abroad and “The Global Effect of One Person’s Choice”; discussing the Peace Garden; take-home final**

**Thursday, June 15**

**Presentations**

**Friday, June 16**

**(if necessary for remaining presentations)**

**Monday, June 19**

**Take-home final due by NOON (email to Oncourse)**

Fall seven times, stand up eight.

**Japanese Proverb**

Even if the sky falls on you, there is a hole that you can escape from.

**Korean Proverb**