



Norman J. Radow College Humanities and Social Sciences

Spring Semester 2026

ASIA 1102: Intro to Asian Cultures

Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Yujia Xie

Email: yxie10@kennesaw.edu

Office Location: Pilcher 209

Office Phone: 4705786366

Office Hours

by appointment

Preferred Method of Communication: Email

Course Description:

3 credit hours

This course provides an overview of key concepts, themes, strategies, and methods in Asian Studies. This course focuses on traditional and contemporary cultures of East and South Asia, especially those of Greater China, Japan, Korea, and India. The cultural investigation of Asia is infused with the historical, geographical, economic, political, and religious study of this region. This course also explores the identities of people in Asia and Asian Americans.

Course Information:

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Core IMPACTS:

Core IMPACTS Area: Institutional Priority

Core IMPACTS Statement: This course is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Institutional Priority area. Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

Orienting Question: How does my institution help me to navigate the world? :

Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate the ability to think critically and solve problems.:

Career-Ready Competencies: Critical Thinking, Teamwork, and Time Management:

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students demonstrate the ability to think critically and solve problems related to priorities at Kennesaw State University by identifying the strengths and weaknesses of alternative approaches to global issues and analyzing the implications of those approaches;
2. Students identify salient features of traditional and contemporary Asian cultures;
3. Students describe, explain, and interpret a variety of Asian cultural phenomena;
4. Students identify, describe, and analyze the underlying rationales of Asian cultural values and practices;
5. Students identify and analyze cultural differences between Asia and the U.S.;
6. Students develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes that are helpful for problem solving and conflict resolution in Asian contexts;
7. Students develop teamwork skills in the Asian culture context by building and maintaining collaborative relationships, identifying divergent viewpoints, and negotiating an effective and respectful resolution to differences of opinion, approach, or vision.
8. Students demonstrate time management skills by organizing projects, prioritizing tasks, and reporting on their progress at regular intervals. They also identify the cultural value of time management across different cultures.

Course Meeting Information:

Class meeting time: **T** 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, Academic Learning Center | Room 2110; **R** [D2L Brightspace](#);

Modality and Location: *Hybrid – 50% Online*; Academic Learning Center | Room 2110

Syllabus is posted in D2L

Course Materials:

Required Texts: The reading package will be available online at D2L

Course Requirements and Assignments:

PART ONE: ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (15%)

A maximum of three absences are allowed during the semester, after which each absence will drop **one point** from your final grade.

PART TWO: CLASS-RELATED TASKS (25%)

Completion of class-related tasks is expected occasionally before or after the class via the weekly Discussion Board. For each discussion topic, please **a) post** to the discussion thread before our class meeting, **b) then read and comment** on at least one of your classmate's posts by the end of each week.

PART THREE: GROUP PROJECTS (30%)

There will be three group projects. The finished product should reflect group members' collective efforts and all members will receive the same grade. There is no make-up for these class activities, so if you are absent that day, you will not receive any points for the group work. More detailed instructions will be ready about each project later.

1. **Video Project (10%):** You will work in groups and produce a 5-minute video focusing on an Asian social topic or phenomenon (e.g., philosophy & religion, education, gender roles in families, ethnic identities of Asian Americans, etc). You can deliver your project by conducting an interview, performing a dramatic skit, or even recording a field trip to an Asian restaurant or market. The video should include your own interpretation of this topic. You will record a video, upload it to YouTube, and then submit a link to your video. In the class, we will watch the videos and discuss them.
2. **Poster Project (10%):** You will work in groups and produce a poster related to a cultural topic (art, language, food, tea, traditional medicine, etc). In the class, you will display the posters in groups. You will also need to prepare an introduction about your poster's content and be ready to answer your audience's questions.
3. **Final Group Presentation (10%):** This is a team project. Each group should consist of no more than five individuals. Each group needs to discuss to determine a topic that is agreed upon by all members. The subject is regarding certain aspects (s) of Asian cultures. The group will need to do some research on the topic and turn their findings into

a PowerPoint presentation, which they will give in class (10 minutes) during the last week. Acceptable reference materials include printed books, online references from experts with credentials in that field, articles from reputable magazines, and professional journals. You can search for relevant books from the KSU library. A more detailed instruction sheet and grading rubrics for this assignment will be posted on D2L.

PART FOUR: FINAL EXAM (30%)

The final exam will be a take-home assessment comprising short answers and essay-type questions, all based on the course materials we've covered. Further details about the exam will be provided at the end of this semester.

Evaluation and Grading Information:

All required graded work is due on the specified times and dates indicated (mostly by Friday 11:59 pm). Late submissions within the grace period (the weekend) will receive a 10 %-point deduction. The final exam must be submitted by the deadline. Late exams will NOT be accepted.

GRADING SCALE:

90% - 100% A

80% - 89% B

70% - 79% C

60% - 69% D

0% - 59% F

I will round up the grades if they are $>$ or $= .5$ or above, for example, 89.6 is an A, but 79.2 is a C.

Extra Credit

BONUS CREDIT: One extra point will be added to your final grade if you submit a brief account of your experience (approximately 200 words per event) after participating in a cultural event related to Asian cultures (up to FIVE points to be added). Extra contributions to the cultural events will add 2 points to your final grade.

Statement on Feedback Expectations and Turnaround Time

Early Alert / Progress Reports

This class is participating in Early Alerts, which faculty will submit during the first few weeks of class. These reports notify advisors and student success coaches to a range of things like missing class, missing assignments, if you might need to visit tutoring, or could benefit from help with time management or study skills. These are not recorded as grades and are meant to provide you with some additional resources to ensure you can be successful in your class. If you receive notification of an early alert, please take advantage of these resources.

Midterm Grades

A midterm grade may be assigned by the midterm grade due date identified on the academic calendar. This midterm grade is for assessing mid-semester performance at least one week prior to the last day to withdraw without academic penalty. You may view your midterm grade in Owl Express. Note that only your final grade will be officially recorded on your academic transcript.

Course Calendar:

Tentative Semester Schedule (Subject to Change as Necessary)

Week	Content Covered	Assignments	Exams
Week 1: 01/13 Class Meeting 01/15 D2L Checklist	Course Introduction What is Culture?	Self-Introduction Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 2: 01/20 Class Meeting 01/22 D2L Checklist	What is Asia? Geography, demography, and various ethnicities	Hanzi Name Project Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 3: 01/27 Class Meeting 01/29 D2L Checklist	Languages: Chinese, Hangul, and Japanese	Asian Languages Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59	

		pm	
Week 4: 02/03 Class Meeting 02/05 D2L Checklist	Tradition and Custom	Taboos Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 5: 02/10 Class Meeting 02/12 D2L Checklist	Philosophy and Religion	Confucianism and Taoism Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 6: 02/17 Group Presentation 02/19 Group Reflection	Video group project presentation	Video Project Under Assignments Tab Due at 02/17 noon	
Week 7: 02/24 Class Meeting 02/26 D2L Checklist	Family and Gender Roles	Reflection Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 8: 03/03 Class Meeting 03/05 D2L Checklist	Education	Education in Asia Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
<i>Spring Break! Mar 9 (M) – 15 (Su) No classes! ☺</i>			
Week 9: 03/17 Class Meeting 03/19 D2L Checklist	The Arts	Asian Art and Architecture Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 10: 03/24 Class Meeting 03/26 D2L Checklist	Popular Cultures	Popular Culture Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 11: 03/31 Group Presentation 04/02 Group	Poster and display Presentation	Poster Project Under Assignments Tab Due at 03/31 noon	

Reflection			
Week 12: 04/07 Class Meeting 04/09 D2L Checklist	Asian Americans	Asian Americans Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 13: 04/14 Class Meeting 04/16 D2L Checklist	Food and Healthy Living	Asian Cuisine and Food Culture Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 14: 04/21 Class Meeting 04/23 D2L Checklist	Business and Communication	Doing Business Under Discussions Tab Due on Friday 11:59 pm	
Week 15: 04/28 Group Presentation 04/30 Group Reflection	Final Cultural Presentation <i>(Slides submission by noon!)</i>	Final Presentation Under Assignments Tab Due at 04/28 noon	
Final Exam Week:	Take home Final Exam	Final Exam Under Assignments Tab Due at 05/05 noon	05/05 Final Exam due at noon

Course Policies:

Attendance Policy:

A maximum of three absences are allowed with during the semester, after which each absence will drop one point from your final grade. Please contact the instructor if you have special reasons (e.g. long-term medical problems) that will cause more than three times of absences and support documents may be requested for these reasons.

Late work policy

All required graded work is due on the specified times and dates indicated. Late submissions will receive a 10%-point deduction. The final exam must be submitted by the deadline. Late exams will NOT be accepted.

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement

<https://facultyweb.kennesaw.edu/rpaul/policy.php>

Modified Operations Policy:

Kennesaw State University is committed to remaining open and continuing full operations, including class schedules, whenever possible. The Office of the President, in consultation with the KSU Office of Emergency Management and other officials, will determine when an emergency impacts KSU's normal operations. When the University is closed due to an emergency, all classes will be canceled, and non-essential personnel will not be expected to work.

When the University shifts to modified operations, Cabinet members, in consultation with the Office of the President or designee and the Office of Emergency Management, will be responsible for determining appropriate operational continuity for their divisions. This may include remote work. During modified operations, each faculty member will be responsible for instructional continuity for their classes. To ensure instructional continuity, all Academic Colleges and Departments are expected to maintain and regularly update instructional continuity plans. All syllabi should also include an instructional continuity plan statement specific to that course.

During a weather event or other emergency, those commuting to campus should exercise their best judgment when determining travel options. If the University remains open and an employee elects not to report to work, the employee will be required to use their accrued vacation time.

The University will announce campus closures and delayed schedules in several ways. The cell phone number on file with the university will automatically receive KSU Alerts, so make sure your information in OwlExpress is accurate at all times. An email will also be sent to your university account.

In addition, announcements will be made by a notice on the Kennesaw State University home page.

Our class continuity plan includes:

Communication: Please check D2I Brightspace or e-mail for necessary instructions.

Virtual Classes: If in-person classes are not possible, we may transition to virtual classes using MS Teams.

Assignments and Assessments: Deadlines for assignments and assessments may be adjusted to accommodate the emergency situation.

We understand that emergencies create unique challenges. If you need additional support during an emergency, reach out via Brightspace or e-mail. The university also offers resources such as counseling and academic support, which can be accessed remotely.

AI Statements

AI Use Allowed, but Not Required:

In this class, you are welcome to use AI for any purpose. However, you should note that all AI generative tools still tend to make up incorrect facts and fake citations, code generation models tend to produce inaccurate outputs, and image/art generation tools can produce copied work or offensive products. You will be responsible for any inaccurate, biased, offensive, or otherwise unethical content you submit regardless of whether it originally comes from you or an AI tool. If you use an AI tool, its contribution must be credited in your submission. The use of an AI tool without acknowledgement is cheating and constitutes a violation of the KSU Code of Academic Integrity.

Institutional Policies:

Academic Integrity Statement:

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the [Student Code of Conduct](#), as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section 5c of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

KSU Disruption of Campus Life policy:

All students are responsible for knowing the information, policies and procedures outlined in the Kennesaw State University Codes of Conduct. [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity \(SCAI\)](#) includes: the general Student Code of Conduct, the Residential Code of Conduct, and the Code of Academic Integrity.

KSU Web Accessibility:

Federal law Section 508 Subsection 1194.22 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia (USG) Web Accessibility Guidelines require that all web content meet the federal government's accessibility guidelines. As such, KSU complies with USG guidelines.

University accessibility assistance is provided by several offices as noted below. Staff in these offices work to accommodate requests for access or assistance with access as soon as possible in order to either accommodate the request or identify an effective alternative for the requester.

Request for Office Contact Number Contact Email

- Student Support Services Student Disability Services 470-578-2666 sds@kennesaw.edu
- Student Technology Assistance Student Technology Assistance
- University Information Technology Services 470-578-3555
studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu
- Third Party Technology Assistance University Information Technology Services 470-578-6999 service@kennesaw.edu

KSU Reasonable Accommodations:

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require “reasonable accommodation(s)” to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University's Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services

is located in Kennesaw Hall, Room 1205 on the Kennesaw campus and Building A in Suite 160G on the Marietta campus. Please visit the [Student Disability Services \(SDS\) website](#) for more information, or call the office at 470-578-2666 (Kennesaw campus) or 470-578-7361 (Marietta campus).

KSU Enrollment Management/Course Attendance:

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Copyright Law:

It is the responsibility of KSU faculty and students to respect the rights of copyright holders and complying with copyright law. The University System of Georgia recognizes that the exclusive rights of copyright holders are balanced by limitations on those rights under federal copyright law, including the right to make a fair use of copyrighted materials and the right to perform or display works in the course of face-to-face teaching activities.

The University System of Georgia facilitates compliance with copyright law and, where appropriate, the exercise in good faith of full fair use rights by faculty and staff in teaching, research, and service activities. The University System of Georgia ensure compliance with copyright law in the following ways.

1. The USG informs and educates students, faculty, and staff about copyright law, including the limited exclusive rights of copyright holders as set forth in 17 U.S.C. § 106, the application of the four fair use factors in 17 U.S.C. § 107, and other copyright exceptions.
2. The USG develops and makes available tools and resources for faculty and staff to assist in determining copyright status and ownership and determining whether use of a work in a specific situation would be a fair use and, therefore, not an infringement under copyright law;
3. The USG facilitates use of materials currently licensed by the University System of Georgia and provides information on licensing of third-party materials by the University System; and
4. The USG identifies individuals at the University System and member institutions who can counsel faculty and staff regarding application of copyright law.

Protecting Students' Privacy (FERPA):

Students have certain rights to privacy. These rights are mandated by federal policy. [The Student Handbook](#) contains information regarding Rights Pertaining to Student Records, and FERPA specific details are available on the [KSU FERPA website](#).

A key requirement of the formal evaluation process is the protection of individual privacy rights concerning educational grading. The University's online learning system and email system is designed to prevent unauthorized individuals from gaining access to sensitive information or information protected by federal or state law. Consequently, faculty and students are strongly encouraged to only communicate regarding course matters through the University's designated technology learning system.

Information should not be made public in any way in which a student's grades, social security number, or other personal information may be identified. Grade information may be shared with members of the KSU community who also have a legitimate educational interest in student success (e.g. academic advisors or members of the Behavioral Response Team). Faculty may be asked to provide early alert information if there is a concern that a student is at risk, academically or otherwise.

KSU Sexual Misconduct:

In accordance with federal and state law including, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), the University System of Georgia (USG), including Kennesaw State University, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities or in employment. The USG is committed to ensuring the highest ethical conduct of the members of its community by promoting a safe learning and working environment. To that end, Kennesaw State University follows USG Board of Regents Policy Manual, Section 6.7. [Visit Title IX.](#)

Withdrawal from Classes:

A student who officially withdraws from a course by the end of the last day to withdraw without academic penalty will receive a grade of "W" and receive no credit.

A student will receive a refund only when the student withdraws from ALL courses for the applicable semester and only by the schedule outlined in the University refund policy found in the Tuition, Expenses, & Financial Aid section of the undergraduate and graduate university catalogs.

Students should be aware that a reduction in their hours might result in the loss of full-time student status and thus affect their financial aid, scholarships, athletic and ticket eligibility, University housing accommodations, use of University resources and access to University facilities, visa for international students, and Veterans Educational Benefits. Students should contact the appropriate office and their academic advisor with questions about the impact of their withdrawal from a course before initiating a withdrawal. Veterans and dependents of veterans who receive educational benefits must notify the Veterans Education Benefits Area in

the Office of the Registrar of any course load reductions.

Hardship Withdrawals

If a student experiences significant personal hardship (e.g., medical or family emergency, prolonged illness), the Dean of Students can approve a hardship withdrawal from all courses in the term for which the student is currently registered. In the case of an approved hardship withdrawal from all courses, the Registrar will assign grades of “W” for those classes. The deadline for final approval of a hardship withdrawal by the Dean of Students is the last day of class for which the hardship withdrawal is sought. If the hardship withdrawal process is not complete by the last day of class for which the hardship withdrawal is sought, a student must appeal for a retroactive hardship withdrawal from the Academic Standing Committee.

Appeals for retroactive hardship withdrawals must be directed to the Academic Standing Committee. Retroactive hardship withdrawals are rarely granted if it has been more than one year since the last day of class for which the withdrawal is sought. Extraordinary justification must be shown. In the case of approved retroactive hardship withdrawals, the Registrar will assign a grade of “W.”

University Initiated Withdrawals

If a student is suspended by the Office of Student Conduct following a violation of the University’s Code of Conduct not related to academic dishonesty, the Office of Student Conduct may facilitate a University-initiated withdrawal from courses for which a student is registered for the term. The Registrar will assign grades of “W” for those classes.

Military Withdrawals

A student will receive a “WM” symbol for all courses and a full refund of tuition and mandatory fees and a pro rata refund of other fees for military and other service, as defined by [BOR Policy Manual, Section 7.3.5.3](#) To request a military withdrawal, the student must submit a copy of official orders to the Office of the Registrar.

Academic Feedback:

Institutional Chief Academic Officers will encourage faculty to clarify for students, at the beginning of each course, the basis on which grades will be determined and to provide timely academic feedback as the course progresses ([BOR Academic and Student Handbook Policy 2.18](#))

Netiquette: Communication Courtesy:

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats (link forthcoming).

Course Delivery:

KSU may shift the method of course delivery at any time during the semester in compliance with University System of Georgia health and safety guidelines. In this case, alternate teaching modalities that may be adopted include hyflex, hybrid, synchronous online, or asynchronous online instruction. Please refer to the Instructional Continuity statement included in each course syllabus for specific plans.

University Sponsored Academic Resources:

University Academic Resources:

- [Academic Tutoring Services](#)
- [Disability Resources](#)
- [Library](#)
- [Supplemental Instruction](#)
- [The Writing Center](#)
- [Virtual Smart Center](#)
- [Academic Advising](#)

Student Resources:

- [Student Support Links for Online Learning](#)
- [Student Success Resources](#)
- [Scholarships and Financial Aid](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Office of the Bursar](#)

Grade Appeals and Student Complaints:

KSU desires to resolve student grievances, complaints and concerns in an expeditious, fair and amicable manner. The [complaints and concerns webpage](#) was developed to assist current and prospective students in submitting complaints and appeals, and to direct them to the most effective venue for accurate information and resolution. The resources on the page will direct students to the specific venue to appropriately address the related student complaint.

Complaints for online students are resolved following the same general procedures for students who attend classes on campus. However, for any process that requires a student appear in person, the university may make other arrangements. For processes that cannot be completed via telephone, email, or written correspondence, the university may set up a two-way video-conference site in place of a meeting on the KSU campus.

Technology Resources:

For issues with technical difficulties, please contact the Student Helpdesk:

[Fill out a service form](#)

Email: studenthelpdesk@kennesaw.edu

Call 470-578-3555

[New Students Technology Services](#)- Steps that will help you meet the technological requirements of the University.

Any request for make-ups due to technical issues **MUST** be accompanied by the ticket number received from UITs when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You **MUST** e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Additional Technology Resources:

- [1:1 Training Session](#)
- [Computer Labs](#)
- [Browser Checker](#)
- [My KSU Site for Accessing Online Tools](#)
- [USG Desire2Learn Help Center](#)
- [D2L Training Options & Resources for Students](#)
- [Owltrain Online Courses](#)
- [Check Service Outages](#)

Student Support and Wellness Resources:

YOU MATTER at KSU, and your well-being is a priority to us. College is exciting, but it can cause students to experience stress and feel overwhelmed. Through counseling, health education, addiction and recovery support, fitness and recreation activities, and access to basic needs, Wellbeing@KSU is here to help you do well and be well.

- [Department of Career Planning & Development](#)
- [Student Health Clinic](#)
- [Military and Veteran Services](#)

Faculty Profile (USG CV Requirement):

Directory Information:

Yujia Xie, Ph.D.

Part-Time Assistant Professor of Chinese

Department of World Language & Cultures

Mail Drop 1804

Degrees Earned:

Doctor of Arts, Chinese Modern and Contemporary Literature, Beijing Normal University, 2018

Research Doctorate, Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, 2017

Master of Education, Beijing Normal University, 2015

Bachelor of Arts, Chinese Language and Literature, Beijing Normal University, 2013

Teaching Interests:

I enjoy teaching courses that explore creativity, languages, and cultures. My most popular classes include “Elementary Chinese,” “Chinese for Professions,” and “Intro to Asian Cultures.”

Research Interests:

Modern Chinese literature, cinema, and theatre; gender representation and cultural identity in contemporary China; intercultural communication and applied language pedagogy.

Recent Scholarship:

Xie, Y. (2019, April). *The exhibitionism in contemporary Chinese films: A study of the female characters in Ju Dou and To Live*. Journal of China Women's University.

Xie, Y. (2017, May). *The evolution of the avant-garde of Chinese theatre in the 21st century*. Drama Literature.