This course is a survey of social and cultural patterns in the East Asian societies of China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Emphasis is on the shared traditions that define East Asia as a culture area, on the growing involvement of East Asia and its component societies with the forces associated with cultural, social and political “globalization” historically and during recent decades, and on the particular characteristics of each society. Among the topics we consider with reference to these societies are local-level social organization and social change, the relationship between local communities and the nation as a whole, and globalization’s impact at the local level.

Course Requirements: There will be an in-class midterm and a take-home final examination. Both will cover classroom lectures and the assigned readings.

Required Readings.

All of the following required books are on reserve at the Starr East Asian Library in Kent Hall; they also are available for purchase at Labyrinth Bookstore.


**LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

September 6, 8: Introduction: The Societies of East Asia

September 13, 15: China: Overview
Reading: Cohen, chs. 1-3

September 20, 22: China: Family and kinship
Reading: Cohen, chs. 4-7; Ikels, chs 1-4

September 27, 29: China: Rural Society
Reading: Cohen, chs. 8-9; Huang

October 4: China: Urban Society
Reading: Zhang; Ikels, chs. 5-6

October 6, 11: China: Religion and Ideology

October 13: The “Other Chinas”: Taiwan and Hong Kong
Reading: Adrian

October 18: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

October 20, 25: Japan: Overview
Reading: Hendry

October 27: Japan: Family and Kinship
Reading: Ikels, chs. 9-11.

November 1: Japan: Rural Society
Reading: Bernstein

November 3: Japan: Urban Society
Reading: Bestor

November 10: Japan: Religion

November 15: Korea: Overview

November 17: Korea: Family, Kinship, Religion
Reading: Janelli & Janelli; Ikels, ch. 7.
November 22: Korea: Rural Society

November 29: Korea: Urban Society
Reading: Kendall; Ikels, ch. 8.

December 1, 6: Vietnam: Culture, Society and State
Reading: Malarney

December 8: East Asian Societies: Unity and Diversity in Traditional Cultures and in Modern Social Change.
Reading: Watson