As an introduction to Asian literature, this course guide explores the literatures of Japan, China, and India. Included are (1) a course description with a suggested time schedule of activities; (2) recommendations for necessary student achievement level; (3) course objectives; and (4) listings of materials (e.g., books, records, slides, films, and a teacher bibliography.) (JMC)
ASIAN LITERATURE

(Lowest One)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Through a study of Asian literature the student will become more aware of distinctive characteristics of Western civilization through the examination of a foreign culture through poetry, drama, and fiction. By studying another culture, the student can develop a new knowledge about his own cultural heritage. Japanese, Chinese, and Indian literature will be the three strands of the non-Western world which will be woven into the pattern of the course.

ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL

The student should be reading at or above grade level. In addition to recognizing the author's theme, tone, point of view, and the like, the student should be able to read critically and appraise the literary quality of a work. He should be highly motivated to read and read extensively.

OBJECTIVES

1. To develop in the student an awareness that one should be cautious about accepting stereotyped notions about foreign peoples.
2. To guide the student to see the common humanity of man amidst cultural diversities in the world.
3. To help student recognize a different scale of values in a non-Western society.
4. To develop the student's concern and empathy for other peoples.
5. To indicate the inter-relationships between language and culture.
6. To develop the student's concern and empathy for other people.

CHIEF EMPHASIS

To make the student aware of the rich fabric of non-Western literature in order to better understand and appreciate the Eastern culture.

Materials

- The Penguin Book of Japanese Verse
- Thousand Cranes—Yasunari Kawabata
- Snow Country—Yasunari Kawabata
- The Genius of the Oriental Theater
- A Treasury of Modern Asian Stories
- Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology
- Nectar in a Sack—Markandaya
- The Guide—Narayan
- The White Pony
- The Housewarming and Other Selected Writing—Rabindranath Tagore

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Course Description

Week Just as we must understand Greek gods in order to appreciate
1 Greek mythology so we must acquire some understanding of
Oriental religions in order to better appreciate Oriental litera-
ture. A few days of lecture and notetaking on the religions of
India, China and Japan should be followed by Mr. Ehman's tape
on Asian religions.

(The World's Living Religions by Bahm is an excellent resourc-
e for the teacher. This is not a theology book but rather a book
that provides excellent thumbnail sketches of all the religions of
the countries to be studied.)

Weeks Introduce A Passage to India. Forster's book is a passage to
2-3 more than India since it explores the relationships and the dis-
sonance between the ancient and enduring patterns of Indian
civilization and the more "advanced" patterns of the west. Stu-
dents should be assigned a paper during this time. (Some sug-
gestions: "The Indian landscape as an essential force in the
novel", "Social and Political elements in "A Passage to India".
"With man's limitations, can East and West meet?")

Weeks Continue study of novels, Nectar in a Sieve, The Guide, Bho-
5-7 wani Junction, Burmese Days, there will not be time to discuss
all of these in class. One or two may be assigned as outside
reading at the teacher's discretion.

Week Some readings from Indian Short Stories and drama, as time
8 allows.

Weeks Beginning with a review of Japanese religions, progress to the
9-15 poetry, the short story, drama and the novel. It might be expe-
dient to divide the class into groups and assign each group one
of three novels for a seminar presentation. Background material
for the Japanese Novel should be presented by the teacher as a
kick off lecture. An emphasis should be made on the choice of
literary form as a reflection of the culture.
Weeks 16–18  Again, a brief review of Chinese religions would be helpful. Follow this by a close reading of *Dream of the Red Chamber* with a discussion of the sentimental novel of the Manchu dynasty. Short stories and poetry will follow. (Dr. Chov's tape can be used to good advantage here.)

Weeks 19–20  Although students will have been writing papers all along, these two weeks should be devoted to seminar presentations of assigned term papers. These papers should be comparative studies, either between two countries or among three countries, concentrating on a single genre. (Drama, poetry, short story)

**Suggested Approaches and Teaching Aids**

Use film as a cultural background because this is a literature course. The emphasis should, of course, be on literature but clearly as tied to culture.

**Records**
- The Ragas of Indian
- Chinese Class
- Traditional Folk Songs of Japan

**Slides**
- Japan: A History in Art (Set 50 slides)

**Films**
- *Jkiru*
- *Japanese Village Life*
- *Japan—East is West*
- *China—The Old and the New*
- *Ganges River*
- *Tagore*
- *Anatahan*
- *The Good Earth*
- *Ugetsu*
- *Pather Panchali*
- *Munna*

**Teacher's Bibliography**

*The World's Living Religions*—Archie J. Bahm  
*Chinese Literature*—Odile Kaltenmark  
*Japanese Literature*—Louis Renou  
*Two tapes*—Dr. Chow and Dr. Ehinou  
*Indian Literature*—Louis Renov

This course, currently taught at Northampton High School, was developed by Ruth Cohen.
SELECTED NAL BOOKS IN ASIAN STUDIES

VIETNAM: History, Documents, and Opinions on a Major World Crisis
Marvin E. Gettleman, ed.
This book provides the historical background on Vietnam and her people.
MJ1059, $1.95

Shankara's CREST-JEWEL OF DISCRIMINATION
The unique Jnana Yoga teachings of India's beloved Shankara provide the Western reader with an ideal introduction to the mysteries and rewards of Hindu philosophy.
MQ1054, $95

THE MENTOR BOOK OF MODERN ASIAN LITERATURE
Dorothy Blair Shimer, ed.
A unique opportunity to become acquainted with the poetry, fiction and essays of India, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Korea, Japan and the Philippines.
Bibliography.
MW961, $1.50

A TREASURY OF ASIAN LITERATURE
John D. Youhannan, ed.
A collection of Asian classics spanning 2500 years and encompassing China, India, Arabia, Iran, and Japan. Bibliography. Chronology. (432 pp.)
MY1063, $1.50

ANATOMY OF CHINA: An Introduction to One Quarter of Mankind
Dick Wilson
A balanced, authoritative report on Red China considering social, cultural, economic and political policies followed by the government. Appendix. Notes. Index. (304 pp.)
MY929, $1.25

ASIA IN THE MODERN WORLD
Helen Matthew, ed.
Prominent authorities study the people, culture, and political history of Asia and provide the background needed to understand its decisive role in the shaping of world events today. Illustrated. Bibliography. Index. (288 pp.)
MO762, $.95

THE CHANGING SOCIETY OF CHINA (Rev. 1969)
Ch' u Chai and Winberg Chai
A complete revision of the authors' important survey of China from its remote past to the present day including an analysis of the Nationalist Chinese regime on Taiwan. (215 pp.)
MY938, $1.25

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