Memoirs and Travelogues in East Asia
History 150
Spring, 2001
MW 2:00-4:00

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Office Hours:
Monday 1:00-2:00
Tuesday 1:00-4:00
Wednesday 1:00-2:00

Required Books
Frey, Nancy, Pilgrim Stories
Haboush, JaHyun Kim, The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong
Hearn, Lafcadio, Writings From Japan
Keene, Donald, Travelers of a Hundred Ages
McCullough, Helen Craig, Classical Japanese Prose: An Anthology
Mehta, Ved, Vedi
Mungello, Donald, The Great Encounter of China and the West, 1500-1800
Spence, Jonathan, The Chan’s Great Continent
Strassberg, Richard, Inscribed Landscapes: Travel Writing From Imperial China

Overview
This seminar centers on Asian and European reflections upon the self, culture, and the “other” as portrayed in original writings from the last two millennia. Although it may seem odd to structure an “introduction to historical thought” course such as History 150 around memoirs and travelogues, we will quickly see how these genres developed into tools for reflection on individuals and their relationships to a broader culture.

The course will have three major divisions. During the first three weeks we will read two recent works that deal with autobiography and travel that will get us started in our discussions of personal experience and narrative form. During the middle of the course (Weeks 4-10) we will focus on East Asian writings. We will quickly see how these genres developed in China, Japan, and Korea into tools for reflection on individuals and their relationships to a broader culture. The texts that we will read will give us an opportunity to gain a broad overview of East Asian cultural history and the analytical tools to deeply examine the way personality and culture were constructed in China, Japan, and Korea. Finally, the last five weeks of the course will focus on European and Asian perspectives on cultural contact over the last five centuries. Students will use the Beloit College archives to round out their studies with original letters and essays written by Western missionaries, traders, and travelers to Asia.

Coursework
All students will do forty to fifty pages of writing during the semester, broken up into segments that will allow them to develop their thinking and writing skills as they build toward the final project, which will incorporate the skills developed during the term.

• Eight sets of “research reports” designed to polish initial insights into a paragraph or two of quality writing. Students will receive a separate assignment that clarifies the expectations in this assignment.
• Four “rewrites” designed to help students move from draft reports to finished writing.
• A series of sketches, outlines, and “leads” that will help to create the final essay draft.
• A 5,000 word (approximately fifteen to twenty page) essay that encourages students to rework many of their response paper ideas into a coherent final reflection on the nature of East Asian memoirs and travelogues.
• A group panel presentation during the final week that is meant to sum up the semester’s work.


**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Draft reports</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rewrites</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sketches, outlines, leads</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essays</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Daily attendance and class participation are expected; more than two absences during the semester will affect your grade. Late assignments will be penalized 10% without exception.

All work for the semester must be submitted by Wednesday, April 25, 2001.

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**History 150**

**Memoirs and Travelogues in East Asia**

**Spring, 2001**

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**Week One** *(January 17)*

*Introduction*

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**Week Two** *(January 22, 24)*

Mehta, *Vedi*: 3-120

Frey, *Pilgrim Stories*: 1-136

Short “travel reflections” due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

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**Week Three** *(January 29, 31)*

Mehta, *Vedi*: 121-258

Frey, *Pilgrim Stories*: 137-231

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**Week Four** *(February 5, 7)*

Strassberg, *Inscribed Landscapes*: 57-132

Haboush, *The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong*: 1-15


Keene, *Travelers of a Hundred Ages*: 15-61

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

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**Week Five** *(February 12, 14)*


McCullough, *Classical Japanese Prose*: 71-72; 102-155

Keene, *Travelers of a Hundred Ages*: 62-91

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

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**Week Six** *(February 19, 21)*

Strassberg, *Inscribed Landscapes*: 133-212

McCullough, *Classical Japanese Prose*: 156-199

Keene, *Travelers of a Hundred Ages*: 93-154

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.
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Week Seven  (February 26, 28)
Strassberg, Inscribed Landscapes: 213-244
Haboush, The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong: 19-24; 137-196

Keene, Travelers of a Hundred Ages: 155-203

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Week Eight  (March 5, 7)
Spring Break—No Classes

Week Nine  (March 12, 14)
Strassberg, Inscribed Landscapes: 245-288
Haboush, The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong: 24-27; 197-240

Keene, Travelers of a Hundred Ages: 204-233

All Rewrites Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Week Ten  (March 19, 21)
Strassberg, Inscribed Landscapes: 289-334

McCullough, Classical Japanese Prose: 379; 421-446; 510-555
Keene, Travelers of a Hundred Ages: 234-260

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Week Eleven  (March 26, 28)
Spence, The Chan’s Great Continent: 1-61
Mungello, The Great Encounter of China and the West: 1-33

Hearn, Writings From Japan: 19-87
Beloit College archives (preparatory work to be announced in class)

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Week Twelve  (April 2, 4)
Spence, The Chan’s Great Continent: 62-121
Mungello, The Great Encounter of China and the West: 37-55

Hearn, Writings From Japan: 88-163
Beloit College archives (preparatory work to be announced in class)

Research Reports Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Week Thirteen  (April 9, 11)
Spence, The Chan’s Great Continent: 122-186
Mungello, The Great Encounter of China and the West: 59-80

Hearn, Writings From Japan: 187-252
Beloit College archives (preparatory work to be announced in class)

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General Paper Notes and Sketches Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.
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Week Fourteen  (April 16, 18)
Spence, The Chan’s Great Continent: 187-241  

Hearn, Writings From Japan: 253-318  
Beloit College archives (preparatory work to be announced in class)

Paper Outline and One-Page “Lead” Due in my Office by Monday, 2:00 p.m.

Week Fifteen  (April 23, 25)
Hearn, Writings From Japan: 319-365

Beloit College archives (preparatory work to be announced in class)

Finished Papers Due in my Office by Wednesday, April 25th, 5:00 p.m.

Week Sixteen  (April 30, May 2)
Group Presentations—Panel Format

Final Paper Due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2001.  
No exceptions (see my “late paper” policy)