



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Society and Environment in East Asia - 46021

Last update 18-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Asian Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Gideon Shelach-Lavi

Coordinator Email: Gideon.Shelach@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday 11:00-12:00

Teaching Staff:

Course/Module description:

The relationship between human societies and the physical and ecological environment in which they developed and continue to evolve is a topic that engages researchers from various fields in the humanities and social sciences (such as anthropology, archaeology, history, literature, economics, and more) as well as in the natural sciences (ecology, earth and climate sciences, geology, etc.). Alongside cross-cultural questions, such as the impact of climate change on human society, one can also raise questions that are specific to particular cultures, concerning customs, beliefs, cultural traits, food, and so on. In this course, we focus on a geographically broad and culturally and ecologically diverse area of East Asia: from the grasslands and deserts of Mongolia in the northwest to the rainforests of Vietnam in the southeast, from the cold loess plains of northern China to the tropical regions of southern China and Southeast Asia in the south. The goal of the course is not to provide a comprehensive overview of all the different cultures and ecological areas included in this space, but to use case studies from East Asian cultures, both past and present, to examine and discuss questions of universal significance that are also relevant to other regions of the world and cultures outside East Asia.

Course/Module aims:

- To discuss issues related to the relationship between humans and the environment in Asia.
- To present case studies from various countries in East Asia and from different periods.
- To raise and clarify issues unique to this region and place them in a broader comparative perspective.
- To open questions on additional broader topics that will not be covered in class.
- To discuss the various methodologies that can be used to study human-environment relationships in East Asia and globally.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Students will become familiar with various theories regarding human-environment relationships.
- Students will be able to analyze case studies from East Asia based on different theories.
- Students will be able to critically analyze new case studies from East Asia or other regions of the world.
- Students will write a short research paper on a focused topic (specific case study) related to human-environment relationships in Asia.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, discussions in class, students' questions, presentations of case studies by the students

Course/Module Content:

See details in the Moodle site of the course: <https://moodle.huji.ac.il/2024-25/>

Required Reading:

See details in the Moodle site of the course: <https://moodle.huji.ac.il/2024-25/>

Additional Reading Material:

See details in the Moodle site of the course: <https://moodle.huji.ac.il/2024-25/>

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 30 %

Additional information: