



A Course Proposal

78 1-6-81

I. Title of the Course: Ethnology of Asia

Department: Geography/Anthropology

Sponsor: Dr. Han G. Kim  
Associate Professor of Anthropology

II. Essence

1. Course level: Although this course is primarily designed to be taken by undergraduate students as an elective it can be offered to the graduate students who are interested in anthropology of Asia.
2. Semester hours credit: 3 credit hours
3. Prerequisites: no prerequisites
4. Position of the course in the current Departmental Curricular structure: This course can be classified as an elective.
5. Suggested Time and Scale of Implementation: This course will be normally offered once each academic year. Hopefully the course will be scheduled on Monday and Wednesday of the week, 11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

III. Other Details

1. Adequacy of Course Offering: The present staff, library resources, and space are quite adequate to offer this course. There is no demand for purchasing equipment or spatial rearrangement for this course.
2. Uniqueness of this course: Ethnology of Asia can be defined as a comparative study of the cultures of Asian peoples with an anthropological perspective and methods. The uniqueness of this course lies in the following emphases in the study:
  - a) Cultural diversity and uniformity among the contemporary Asians
  - b) Anthropological models of social organization in Asia
  - c) Culture and personality of the Asians.
  - d) The dynamics of cultural changes in Asia through the analysis of the events of cultural contact, diffusion, and acculturation in terms of evolution of culture in Asia
3. Specific Objectives of the Course:
  - a) To explore cultural configuration of Asia through analysis of the dominant cultural traits and/or themes found among the Asian societies.

- b) To introduce the students to the basic rules and skills of a cross-cultural survey used for an ethnological study of Asia.
- c) To familiarize the students with an anthropological method of structural-functionalism and with cognizance of the basic elements of social organization of Asia.
- d) Since cultural anthropology is a major branch of social and behavioral sciences here it is attempted to analyze the dominant traits of basic or modal personality of Asians in reference to their patterns of culture.

4. The Contents of the Course:

- a) Family and social organization
- b) Modes of subsistence economy and ecological systems
- c) Authority and Leadership
- d) World View
- e) Rites de passage: life of an individual
- f) Belief system
- g) Dynamics of Culture Change: Acculturation and Revitalization

5. Teaching Methods: Lectures, discussion, and research assignments.

6. Methods of Evaluation: Written tests, oral presentation of research paper in the class, and participation in class discussion.

IV. Rationale

Since World War II, particularly for military, political, and economic reasons, the cultural contact between U.S.A. and Asian nations (including East and Southeast Asian Nations) has been ever intensified. In the contact situation, understanding of the Asian peoples' ways of life would help us promote our human relations with the Asians. It is my understanding that in our school Asian studies have been pursued mainly by the Departments of Political Science and History. However, an anthropological study of the Asian peoples and their cultures has not hitherto been proposed. Therefore, the present attempt to develop the course, Ethnology of Asia is to contribute to the betterment in comprehending the National character of Asian peoples, promoting the growth of our human relations with these peoples, and finally adding an augment to the body of accumulated knowledge of Asia at Glassboro State College.