



HE355, Topics in Multiethnic Literature: *Eastern Visions*
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This course explores the web of cultural connections and contrasts between Asia and the West, drawing together glimpses of the East in 20th-century literary *visions*, in that word's manifold meanings: landscapes, dreams, and revelations, in addition to modes of seeing and representing. To focus student learning on cross-cultural awareness, we'll read texts related to three major regions of current U.S. strategic interest, and clustered around themes of self-creation, ethnic encounters, voyages into unfamiliar places, colonial heritages, and conflicting ideas about civilization, heroism, and social obligation. Regions and potential readings include:

East Asia – Yukio Mishima's *The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea*, Kazuo Ishiguro's *An Artist of the Floating World*, Ryunosuke Akutagawa's "Rashomon" and other stories, Gus Lee's *Honor and Duty*, and films by Akira Kurosawa

Southeast Asia / Pacific – Jack London's South Sea tales, Joseph Conrad's Pacific fictions, Timothy Mo's *The Redundancy of Courage*, and Keri Hulme's *The Bone People*

South Asia – Salman Rushdie's *East, West*, Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines* or *Sea of Poppies*, Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*, and Rudyard Kipling's *Kim*

Students will leave the course with a greater understanding of how literature both responds to and shapes interactions between radically diverse cultures in the modern world.