



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 334 - Writing Women in Premodern East Asia

Kay Duffy

In this course, we will examine writings by women in premodern East Asia, as well as the social, political, intellectual, and literary contexts in which these women wrote. By reading and thinking through a diverse selection of works by and on women, we will gain perspective on the forces that have shaped discourses on gender and womanhood in a wide range of historical and cultural settings, and also on what it meant to write as a woman in those settings. In the process, we will reflect critically on the assumptions we bring to the texts and consider the role that changing norms and practices have played in shaping the reception of these works — and their authors — throughout history and up to the present day.

No knowledge of Chinese, Korean, or Japanese languages is required, and all readings, activities, and assessments in this course are in English.

Mode of Delivery: In Person

Sample Readings

Selections from *The Red Brush: Writing Women of Imperial China*, ed. Wilt Idema and Beata Grant.

Selections from *The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon*, tr. Ivan Morris.

Selections from *The Tale of Genji*, tr. Royall Tyler.

Assignments

Quizzes|10

In-class Writing|10

In-class Discussions|10

Mid-term Examination (1)|15

Mid-term Examination (2)|20

Final Project|35