Hist. 670-401
Prof. F. Dickinson
Fall 2009
Thurs., 1:30-4:30
E. Asia Reading Room, Van Pelt
Office: 317C College Hall
Office hrs: Mon., 1-2, Wed., 10-11 & apptmnt
e-mail: frdickin@sas.upenn.edu

This seminar aims to reconceptualize conventional notions of East Asia and restore the region to a central place in the history of the early modern and modern worlds. It will do so, first, by introducing a handful of recent scholarly works on East Asia that attempt to rethink orthodox themes of historical inquiry, such as geography, nation, industrialization, women, trade, empire, etc. Second, it will look at how East Asianists have, over the last decade, contributed to one of the most exciting new scholarly trends, transnational history—the study of political, economic, social and cultural developments across national boundaries. We will discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this trend and attempt to determine what, in fact, constitutes a “transnational” perspective.

Readings
All of our readings will either be distributed in class or available on our course website.

Requirements
There are three components of your grade, which break down as follows.

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Course itinerary
Week I
9/10 Intro

Part I: East Asia in World History

Week II
9/17 Visions of Asia/Transnationalism, Old and New
Stephen Kotkin, “Mongol Commonwealth?: Exchange and Governance across the Post-Mongol Space” Kritika 8, 3 (Summer 2007), pp. 487–531

Week III
9/24 Rethinking European Centrality
Peter Perdue, China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia (2005), chp. 15
Andre Gunder Frank, “No Civilization/s: Unity and Continuity in Diversity; or, Multilateral and Entropic Paradigms for the World Today and Tomorrow,” positions: east asia cultures critique, Volume 15, Number 2, Fall 2007, pp. 225-249
Week IV  
10/1  Rethinking National Histories  

Part II “Transnationalism” in East Asia  
Week V  
10/8  Trade and Tribute  

Week VI  
10/15  Ethnicity  
Erica Brindley, “Barbarians or not? Ethnicity and Changing Conceptions of the Ancient Yue (Viet) Peoples (~400-50 B. C.),” *Asia Major* 16.1 (2003), 1-32  

4:30 p.m.  Public Talk  Erica Brindley, “Representations and Uses of Yue Identity Along the Southern Frontier of the Han, ~200- 111 BCE”

Week VII  
10/22  Migration  

Week VIII  
10/29  Disease and Medicine  

4:30 p.m. **Public Talk** Shigehisa Kuriyama
"On the strange convergence of fears: money and the body in E. Asian & Western medicine"

**Week IX**
11/5 Borderlands
Peter Perdue, *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia* (2005), chp. 1
Seonmin Kim, “Ginseng and Border Trespassing Between Qing China and Chosŏn Korea,” *Late Imperial China*, Volume 28, Number 1, June 2007, pp. 33-61

**Week X**
11/12 Religion

**Week XI**
11/19 Empire
**Special guest** Eiichiro Azuma, Dept. of History
Eiichiro Azuma, *Between Two Empires* (2005), intro, chps. 2, 4, 8, epilogue

**Week XII**
11/23 4:30 p.m. Public Talk Eric Tagliacozzo
“A Sino-Southeast Asian Circuit: Ethnohistories of the Marine Goods Trade between China and Southeast Asia”

**11/26 Thanksgiving Break**

**Week XIII**
12/3 History 670 symposium
**Presentation of panels/papers**

**Week XIV**
12/10 Transnational in the present
Leo Ching, “Globalizing the Regional, Regionalizing the Global: Mass Culture and Asianism in the Age of Late Capital,” *Public Culture*, Volume 12, Number 1, Winter 2000, pp. 233-257

**Week XIV**
12/17 **Final paper due**