

**Common Course Outline**  
**ANTH 104**  
**Cultures of East Asia**  
**3 Credits**  
**Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**ANTH 104 – 3 credits – Cultures of East Asia** explores the cultures and societies of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea focusing on family, religion, education, work, personal identity and cultural change. This course examines Chinese, Japanese and Korean cultural perspectives and assesses the relationship between these countries and the United States.

**3 credits**

**Prerequisite: ACLT052 or ACLT 053**

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe the theoretical approaches to the study of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea in the discipline of anthropology;
2. explain the major features of the cultural and political history of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea and the historical connections between these societies from the 19th century to the present;
3. analyze aspects of Chinese, Japanese and Korean cultural beliefs and social institutions including forms of family life, religion, the educational system, and the organization of work;
4. explain how the features of personal identity, including gender, age, marital status and occupation affect individual life experiences;
5. analyze the distinctive features of ethnic minority communities in China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea and the relationship between ethnic groups, both majority and minority in contemporary society;
6. evaluate the extent to which rapid economic change has affected daily life and cultural continuity;
7. appraise the current political aspirations of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea as members of the global community, including their relationship with the United States;
8. interpret mass media, Internet sites or texts produced in China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea as first-person expressions of cultural perspectives;
9. contrast Chinese, Japanese and Korean perspectives about modernity and globalization with American viewpoints; and
10. formulate conclusions about the future direction of cultural change in China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Anthropological theories of East Asian cultures
- II. History of China, Japan, North Korea and South Korea from 19<sup>th</sup> century to present
- III. Family
- IV. Religion
- V. Education
- VI. Work
- VII. Personal Identity
- VIII. Minority Communities
- IX. Cultural Change
- X. Modernity
- XI. Globalization
- XII. Research methodologies

## **Course Requirements**

Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

**Grading/exams:** Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

- At least one exam with a writing component (short-answer or essay)
- Written assignments equivalent to 10 pages of writing to include original research and analysis of East Asian issues, response(s) to non-American media, and other papers on designated subjects.
- At least one assignment evaluating Internet publications (blog, wiki, online discussion).
- Collaborative work such as electronic discussion boards, group film analysis, or group case study exercises