### I. ASCRC General Education Form

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>VI (Historical and Cultural Studies)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dept/Program</td>
<td>Liberal Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course #</td>
<td>161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Introduction to Asian Humanities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>3</td>
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### II. Endorsement/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Bradley Clough</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone / Email</td>
<td>243-2837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Chair</td>
<td>Stewart Justman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>Jon Tompkins</td>
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Please type / print name

Signature

Date

Bradley Clagh

Stewart Justman

Jon Tompkins

4/17/08

4/22/08

### III. Description and purpose of the course:

General Education courses must be introductory and foundational. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness, and relate course content to students’ future lives. See Preamble:

http://www.umn.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm

Selective survey of South and East Asian perspectives on the humanities. Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism are the primary traditions considered. In Fall 2008 students will read Buddha’s sermons, Gandhi’s autobiography, sayings by Confucian and Taoist sages, and Japanese haiku, among other works. The course is introductory (has no prerequisite) and foundational in that it ranges wide in chronology, geography, and topical focus, as a glance at the readings will confirm. The Preamble to UM’s Gen Ed Requirements states that students should “examine the history of different global cultures.” Self-evidently, Introduction to the Asian Humanities serves this goal. Students who take this course are well positioned to become “informed, ethical, literate, and engaged citizens of global communities.” Asia is the largest continent, after all.

### IV. Criteria:

Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See:

http://www.umn.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE-Criteria5-1-08.htm

LS 161 enables students to evaluate texts within their historical and/or cultural contexts. As noted above, the texts include such works as Buddha’ sermons and the sayings of Confucian sages. Clearly these works are to be understood within the traditions in which they have come down to us. The geographical dimension of the course—its concentration on Asia—is apparent in the course’s title, conception, and reading list. The course is intended as a complement to LS 151/152, which concentrate on the Western humanities.

### V. Student Learning Goals:

Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. See: http://www.umn.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE-Criteria5-1-08.htm

Through lecture, discussion, paper-writing, and examinations, students in LS 161 will learn to understand and appreciate works like haiku or Confucian sayings within the traditions in which they occur. It is through these traditions that we have access to these works in the first place. The principle of cultural difference or specificity is built into the course both in theory and practice.
LS 161
Asian Humanities
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:40-11:00
SS 356

Bradley Clough  
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Office: LA 158  
bradley.clough@mso.umt.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-4:30

This course examines selected great works from three major Asian cultures: India, China, and Japan. While these texts, of course, cannot be regarded as fully representative of these cultures, they all could be considered “classics” which have exerted profound influence on these cultures and are both reflective of and productive of their cultures’ social mores, moral norms, philosophies, and ways of life at various key points in their histories. Thus, while reading, reflecting on, and writing about these works will not lead to full introductions to these cultures, through them we will learn much about what has been most valued in them.

Required Readings (all are available for purchase at the campus bookstore):

Bhikkhu Bodhi (translator), In the Buddha’s Words: An Anthology of Discourses from the Pali Canon

Victor Mair (translator), Wandering on the Way: Early Taoist Tales and Parables of Chuang Tzu
Daniel K. Gardner (translator), Learning to Be a Sage: Selections from the Conversations of Master Chu
Tsao Hsuch-Chin (Chi-Chen Wang, translator), Dream of the Red Chamber

Sei Shonagon (Arthur Waley, translator), The Pillow Book
Matsuo Basho (Nobuyuki Yuasa, translator), The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches
Natsume Soseki (Edwin McClellan, translator), Kokoro

Grading
1. Class Participation: Class Preparation and Participation: completion of and reflection upon the reading assignment for the day, as well as consistent attendance and oral participation in regular discussions. No more than two absences will be accepted without written authorization from the Health Service or an advisor, counselor, or administrator. (25% of the final grade)

2. Three 6-page Papers. A choice of topics will be assigned for each paper (each paper is 25% of the final grade; thus the papers are worth 75% of the final grade in total)
Class Meetings and Assignments

I. INDIA

Tues. 8/26  Introduction to the Course
Thurs. 8/28  Selections from the Buddha’s sermons
Tues. 9/2  Selections from the Buddha’s sermons
Thurs. 9/4  Selections from the Buddha’s sermons
Tues. 9/9  *Ramayana*: Introductions by Mishra and Narayan; pp. 3-73
Thurs. 9/11  *Ramayana*: pp. 74-120.
Tues. 9/16  *Ramayana*: pp. 75-157
Thurs. 9/18  Gandhi, Introduction and Part I, Chapters I-XIX
Tues. 9/23  Gandhi, Part I, Chapters XX-XXV and Part II, entire
Thurs. 9/25  Gandhi, Part III, entire
Tues. 9/30  Gandhi, Part IV, entire
Thurs. 10/2  Gandhi Part V, Chapters I-XVIII
Tues. 10/7  Gandhi, Part IV, Chapters XIX-End

II. China

Thurs 10/9  Selections from Chuang Tzu
Tues. 10/14  Selections from Chuang Tzu
Thurs. 10/16  Chu Hsi, Part Two, Chapters 1-3
Tues. 10/21  Chu Hsi, Part Two Chapters 4-7

**Wed. 10/22: First Papers Due by 5 PM**

Thurs. 10/23  *Dream of the Red Chamber*, Introduction and Part I, Chapters 1-6
Tues. 10/28  *Dream...*, Part I, Chapters 7-18
Thurs. 10/30  *Dream*..., Part I, Chapters 19-25

Thurs. 11/6  *Dream*..., Part I, Chapters 26-33 and Part II, Chapters 34-40

**III. Japan**

Thurs 11/13  Selections from *The Pillow Book*

Tues. 11/18  Selections from *The Pillow Book*

**Wed. 11/19: Second Papers Due by 5 PM**

Thurs. 11/20  Basho’s *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*

Tues. 11/25  *Kokoro*, Foreword and pp. 1-80

Tues. 12/2  *Kokoro*, pp. 81-201

Thurs. 12/4  *Kokoro*, pp. 201-248

**Friday 12/12: Third Paper Due by 5 PM**

*Please note: As an instructor of a general education course, you will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.