



ML 2500 Intro Cross-Cult Studies: Language and Life in Asia
2026 Summer

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

Instructor

Hongchen Wu, Ph.D.

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Course Description and Objectives

This innovative course explores the linguistic intricacies of East and Southeast Asian languages within the broader context of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, in particular SDG 4, 10, 13, 16, 17). Through an immersive exploration of language families, dialectal variations, writing scripts, cultural

expressions, and sociopolitical implications, we will uncover the role of languages in shaping sustainable societies. Taught in English, this course equips students with a unique lens to examine the intricate relationship between languages and sustainable development in the dynamic Asian context.

This course, which fulfills an Institute-wide humanities requirement or a Linguistics Minor requirement¹, will give students an overview of language and life in Asia with linguistics and intercultural knowledge. Through the lecture sessions, invited talk series, case study and media analysis, podcast projects, cultural expression presentations, digital communication campaigns, and language policy proposals, students will be able to:

- Describe fundamental concepts and significant features in the main subfields of linguistics and intercultural studies pertaining to Asia.
- Recognize and appreciate the rich linguistic diversity in Asia, analyze cross-linguistic data, and engage in meta-linguistic and cultural reflections on one's own language(s) in relation/ comparison to Asian languages.
- Communicate effectively and concisely about technical topics in the field, employing precise vocabulary to articulate implicit knowledge of language, presenting claims clearly with relevant examples and supporting evidence, and situating ideas within a broader context.
- Further develop their critical thinking abilities, and their capacity to apply these concepts to promote sustainable development and achieve the SDGs in diverse linguistic and cultural Asian contexts.
- Synthesize and appreciate the value of both scientific and humanistic perspectives in understanding language and its role in Asian societies.
- Actively contribute to and derive benefits from a dynamic socio-intellectual community, recognizing that numerous questions in the field remain unanswered, and feeling empowered and encouraged to pursue junior research opportunities.

Grading

A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: below 59

(Note: final grades will be calculated based on this grading scheme at the end of the semester)

[Complete all modules 60%](#)

¹ The course cannot be counted for both the Humanities course and Linguistic Minor at the same time. According to the rules of a LING minor that at least 9 of the 15 credits need to be at the 3000 level or above, if your other three LING classes (except for LING 2100) are at the 3000/4000 level, then you can count this ML 2500 OL1 for a LING minor when you complete the course with a C or better. Please refer to Dr. Mirla A. González for any clarifications and policy changes related to DegreeWorks.

- At the beginning of each week, the modules for that week will be available on Canvas until the end of that week. Each module includes recorded videos, lecture slides, reading materials, weekly quizzes, reflection essays, group activities, and so on.
- Students are required to complete each module before a module is closed.

[Solo podcast project 10% + comments on other's podcast projects 5%](#)

[Two Group Projects 15% + comments on other's group projects 5%](#)

[End-of-term reflection essay 5%](#)

Policies and Links

- [Georgia Tech Honor Code](#)
 - Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university's Honor Code
 - The first instance of cheating on quizzes, tests, or exams will lead to an automatic zero for the assignment; the second cheating will immediately earn you a failing grade for the entire course. I will also pursue [further disciplinary actions](#) according to Georgia Tech's policies and procedures.
- [Georgia Tech's student-faculty expectations](#)
 - We all have a right to be treated with respect and professionalism, and a responsibility to treat others the way we want to be treated.
- [Resources and for student success](#), and [resources for student mental health](#)
 - Don't struggle alone with school; there are resources to help you!
- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity](#)
 - Every student in this class, regardless of personal history or identity categories, is a valued member of this group. Your experiences are welcome and important, and you should feel free to share them as they become relevant to our discussion. No student in this class is ever expected or believed to speak for all members of a group.
 - I am committed to maintaining a welcoming and inclusive class environment. If you find that there are aspects of the class instruction, course subject matter, or classroom environment that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact me privately without fear of reprisals.
- [Office of Disability Services](#)
 - Students with disabilities are very welcome in this class. Please contact ODS to make the class more accessible for you.