

CIS 160: Introduction to East Asian Studies
Fall 2003 M,W,F 9:30—10:20, Chambers 305

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Review Essay 2

**Due: 10 November 2003, in class or by email before class
(note, change in date)**

This review essay will be a critical examination of a contemporary phenomenon or event that you will choose for yourself, based on collecting at least **three articles** from the popular media (newspapers, television/movies, magazines). Examples include recent current events (such as China's recent launch of an astronaut into space, the legalization of Japanese popular culture in Korea, the North Korea crisis, or the Japan/Korea hosting of the last Men's World Cup Soccer tournament) or contemporary phenomena such as the spread of Starbucks in China, mail-order brides in Japan/Korea, art exhibits, Chinese students studying in the United States, Japanese factories in the United States, etc. By contemporary I mean at least within the past five years, but that time-period is flexible. Lexus-Nexus should be the starting point for your search for material, but I do not **expect or require** research on your part for academic writings on the subject (i.e., anthropological studies of the last Men's World Cup Soccer tournament).

By "critical examination," I mean applying some of the material that we have examined in class to understand the historical, social, economic, and/or political context behind this contemporary phenomenon or event. For example, the North Korea crisis is clearly related to many of the issues that we have discussed in class (such as the impact of the Cold War on East Asia, the colonial experience of Korea); similarly, China's recent launch of an astronaut into space is connected with China's reaction to contact with the west and the importance of nationalism and science in contemporary Chinese ideology.

The paper will be evaluated according to the class handout "How to Make an Argument." Please also refer to the class handout "Writing a Thesis Statement" for an example of what I look for in a focused thesis statement. The key to a well-argued expository essay will be developing a focus thesis statement, supporting that thesis statement with points and examples from the reading, and crafting a coherent narrative. A focused argument is always better than a broad, loosely-structured one in expository writing; an essay that uses evidence in more depth is more convincing than one that uses more examples in a cursory, superficial manner. The paper should be no more than **5 pages** double-spaced.

As in the first review essay, there is essentially no specific question for this essay – you are to formulate your own detailed argument, and extensively use the readings, films, and lectures for this class (there is no need to cite me or specific lectures if you use such material). If you do use quotations, please make sure you cite the source correctly according to the citation guidelines as spelled out in the class "Citing Sources" handout. Proper citation and use of evidence demonstrates the attention to detail that is a hallmark of a good expository paper.

Please do not hesitate to come see me well-before the paper is due (at least one week) if you want to discuss the suitability of a particular argument or if you are unclear about a particular passage in the reading or lecture. You may also email me your ideas and concerns.