

Prof. John Paden
HNRS 230.004
Spring 2017

T-Th: 1:30-2:45 PM
East 134

**Cross-Cultural Perspectives:
Understanding the giants of Asia and Africa
(China & Nigeria)**

	Topic	Readings
Part I. Introduction		
Week 1		
Jan. 24	Intro to cross-cultural perspectives	handouts (overview)
Jan. 26	Intro to cross-cultural perspectives	(open discussion)
Part II. Perspectives on Chinese Culture		
Week 2		
Jan. 31	Intro to Maoist China	DVD: <i>Morning Sun</i>
Feb. 2	Intro to contemporary China	<i>Yao Ming</i> (1 st half)
Week 3		
Feb. 7	Classical: Confucius	<i>Analects</i> (1 st half)
Feb. 9	Classical: Confucius	<i>Analects</i> (2 nd half)
Week 4		
Feb. 14	early 20 th century: social change	<i>Wild Swans</i> (1 st quarter)
Feb. 16	mid-20 th century: social change	<i>Wild Swans</i> (2 nd quarter)
Week 5		
Feb. 21	Post-1949: social change	<i>Wild Swans</i> (3 rd quarter)
Feb. 23	1966-76: the Cultural Revolution	<i>Wild Swans</i> (4 th quarter)
Week 6		
Feb. 28	Post-Cultural Revolution	<i>Soul Mountain</i> (1 st half)
Mar. 2	Post-Cultural Revolution	<i>Soul Mountain</i> (2 nd half)
Week 7		
Mar. 7	China in the 21 st century	<i>Yao Ming</i> (2 nd half)
Mar. 9	China in the 21 st century	(open discussion)
(First essay due) (Note: spring recess March 12-19)		
Part III. Perspectives on Nigerian Culture		
Week 8		
Mar. 21	Perspectives on Nigerian culture	Buhari, Intro & Part I
Mar. 23	Perspectives on Nigerian culture	“
Week 9		
Mar. 28	Northern Nigerian cultures	Video, <i>Africa</i> (Hausa/Kano)
Mar. 30	Northern Nigerian cultures	<i>Muslim Civic Cultures</i>
Week 10		
Apr. 4	Southwestern Nigerian cultures	<i>Death King's Horseman</i> (1 st)
Apr. 6	Southwestern Nigerian cultures	<i>Death King's Horseman</i> (2 nd)

Week 11

Apr. 11	Southeastern Nigerian cultures	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> (1 st half)
Apr. 13	Southeastern Nigerian cultures	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> (2 nd half)

Week 12

Apr. 18	The emergence of national culture	Buhari, Part II
Apr. 20	The emergence of national culture	Buhari, Part III & Concl.

Part IV. Comparisons & conclusions

Week 13

Apr. 25	Comparisons	handouts & review
Apr. 27	Comparisons	handouts & review

Week 14

May 2	Conclusions	handouts & review
May 4	Conclusions	(open discussion)

(2nd essay due)

Readings: Please read the introductory books for China (*-Yao Ming), and Nigeria (* -Paden, 2016). Plus, select two more books for China and one for Nigeria, for a total of five books.

China:

- *1) Yao Ming, Yao: A Life in Two Worlds, NY, Miramax books, 2004.
- 2) Confucius, Analects, (various editions; my preference is the translation by Chichung Huang, The Analects of Confucius: A literal translation with an introduction and notes, New York, Oxford University Press, 2000.) (paper)
- 3) Jung Chang, Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China, NY, Simon & Schuster, latest edition. (paper)
- 4) Gao Xingjian, Soul Mountain, NY, Harper Collins, 2000. Note: Mr. Gao was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, in October 2000, the first Chinese writer to be so honored. (Note: in 2012, Mo Yan was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He is living in China. For a sample of his work, see *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out*, Arcade, 2012.)

Nigeria:

- *1) John Paden, Muhammadu Buhari: The Challenges of Leadership in Nigeria, Berkeley, RFP, 2016.
- 2) John Paden, Muslim Civic Cultures and Conflict Resolution, Brookings Institution Press, 2005.
- 3) Wole Soyinka, Death and the King's Horseman, NY, Hill & Wang, 1975. (paper) (Note: Mr. Soyinka was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986, the first African writer to be so honored.) For an elaboration of Yoruba spirituality and religion, see Wole Soyinke, Of Africa, Yale University Press, 2012, esp. Part II, "Body and Soul."
- 4) Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart, Greenwich Conn., Fawcett

Publications, 1959. (paper.) Also, see Chinua Achebe, There Was a Country: A Personal History of Biafra, Penguin Press, 2012.

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Format & evaluation: The basic approach will be introductory lectures (by the instructor) and seminar discussion (led by student participants). Emphasis will be on development of analytical and communicative skills. Class attendance is strongly encouraged. There will be two required essays of about 10-12 pages (double spaced), due on March 9th, and May 4th, respectively.

Grades will be based on the following:

--class participation: 40%
--1st essay: 25%
--2nd essay: 35%

Focus of class: The purpose of the class will be gain insights into the cultures of the two largest countries in Asia and Africa: i.e. China and Nigeria. We will also explore the idea of comparative analysis. In addition to an overview text in each case, there will be several texts by “insiders” to each of the cultures.

Students should read the texts and be prepared to discuss the contents. In general, students will sign up to lead a discussion in both the China and Nigeria segments of the course.

Instructor: Professor John Paden is Clarence Robinson Professor of International Studies, and Professor of Public and International Affairs at GMU. He did his BA at Occidental College in Philosophy, his MA at Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, (as a Rhodes scholar), and his Ph.D. at Harvard in Politics, with a focus on Muslim Sufi networks in northern Nigeria.

Subsequently, Dr. Paden has done extensive research in the Hausa-speaking areas of northern Nigeria. He served as Director of African Studies at Northwestern University, Professor of Public Administration at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (Nigeria), and Dean of the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences at Bayero University, Kano (Nigeria). In February, 1999, April 2003, and April 2007, he served as a member of the international observation teams for the Nigerian Presidential elections. His recent books on Nigeria include: Muslim Civic Cultures and Conflict Resolution: the Challenge of Democratic Federalism in Nigeria, Brookings Institution Press (2005); Faith and Politics in Nigeria: Nigeria as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World, US Institute of Peace, (2008); Postelection Conflict Management in Nigeria: The Challenges of National Unity, George Mason University Press, (2013); Muhammadu Buhari: The Challenges of Leadership in Nigeria, RFP, (2016).

In December, 2012, Dr. Paden was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree by Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (Nigeria). In August, 2014, he

participated in a national conference in Abuja (Nigeria) on Muslim-Christian co-operation. In October, 2016, he participated in the Abuja launch of his book on President Muhammadu Buhari.

In addition, Dr. Paden has been involved in U.S.-China scholarly exchanges for the past 30 years. He has been Co-Director of the GMU Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (CAPEC) since 1996, and has served as Director of the GMU graduate summer program in China in economics and trade. In 2014, he was appointed a Visiting Professor at Osaka University (Japan).

Dr. Paden has traveled extensively in Nigeria and China.
