This course introduces Asia to students through some of the great books about Asia, specifically the continent's particular places, peoples, and aspects of their lives and cultures. The course is team-taught and divided into four segments, with each segment being taught by a different faculty and using a single book on Asia.

The books selected for the class include a memoir, a cartoon book, two scholarly studies, and a non-fiction books for general readers. The readings introduce students to the victims of atomic bombs in Japan, post-genocide Cambodian refugees in America, young Chinese who live in a dynamic and complex society, and romantic couples as portrayed in Hindi movies.