



## EAST ASIAN SOCIETIES

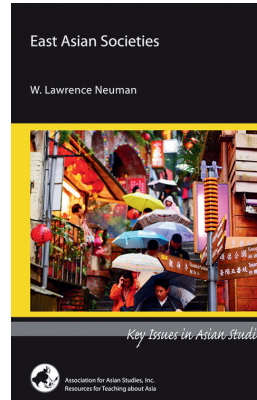
BY W. LAWRENCE NEUMAN — KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES BOOK SERIES

### SUGGESTED COURSES:

- Introduction to Asian Studies
- Anthropology
- Geography

### KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Three Cultural Traits are Fluidity, Layers, and Diversity.
- An Ideal Family can differ from a Real Family in that one is promoted in a culture, in media, and/or in historical mythology while the other reflects the actual experiences of most families today.
- Filial Piety is a cultural message stating that children have a moral duty to obey, respect, and care for their parents and elders.
- A cram school is after-school (i.e., weekends, evenings) enrichment that includes a review of regular class work, tutoring, or academic test preparation that occurs outside established schooling buildings and hours, usually to prepare for entrance exams.
- School-to-work-linkages refer to a country's system of either tightly or loosely connecting academic classroom learning/academic and paid employment in an after-school career.



Paperback (\$17.00):  
9780924304743

E-Book (\$16.99):  
9781952636028

140 pages

**For desk and examination copies, visit:**  
<https://cup.columbia.edu/for-instructors>

**Purchase copies:**  
<https://www.asianstudies.org/store/neuman/>

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Is there a unified, single East Asian culture, or are there multiple distinct cultures across East Asia?
2. How much influence does the dominant religious tradition and beliefs of a nation influence the customs and everyday practices of most people in the country?
3. How has the multi-generational family, with three generations living in the same dwelling changed in East Asia over the past 50 years, and what caused the changes?
4. In what ways do the parental expectations of most East Asian schoolchildren differ from the parental expectations of most students in the United States?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED:

5. How does gender inequality, in terms of schooling, pay, and authority differences by gender, compare among different East Asian countries, and between East Asia as a whole and most advanced Western countries?

## EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- “Pacific Century” Video Series <https://www.pacificcentury.org/>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EAST ASIAN HISTORY
2. EAST ASIAN CULTURE
3. FAMILY LIFE IN EAST ASIA
4. SCHOOL AND THE TRANSITION TO WORK
5. INEQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IN EAST ASIA
6. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

*“So very many of us teach introductions to East Asia under different disciplines, including the Humanities, Sociology, Economics, History, and Religious Studies, but what makes this work so promising is its transferability across these lines of demarcation for the student engaged in her first serious study of the region. Neuman’s fine overview addresses the recurring cultural tasks across East Asia from family, to school and work, and socio-economic stratification.”*

— **RONNIE LITTLEJOHN, Belmont University**

*“I cannot imagine a better volume to introduce East Asian societies to teachers and students who might be approaching the topic for the first time. Neuman has written an ideal introductory text with a sociologist’s clarity, a humanist’s learning, a researcher’s sharp eye, and a teacher’s fine sense of proportion. This is the only intellectual guidebook you will need to take with you for your voyage to East Asia.”*

— **ANNA SUN, Kenyon College**

**EXPLORE THE WHOLE RANGE  
OF AAS PUBLICATIONS AT:**



[www.asianstudies.org/store/](http://www.asianstudies.org/store/)

