This course studies ideals and practices of friendship in the cultures of East Asia and the West. How have two great civilizations understood exemplary friendship in changing historical settings?

I. Modern Friendship Ideals, Money, Sex, Sociology [AS]

C. S. Lewis, “Friendship”, in The Four Loves, 1960, pp. 87-105

A. Silver (ed), Documents on Friendship
- John Stuart Mill and Thomas Carlyle, correspondence, March 7-27, 1835
- Charles Dickens, Great Expectations, 1860, ch. 36, passage on money and friendship
- “Friendship”, greeting card, n.d.
- "Heretoforeplay,” Consensual Sex Contract, National Center for Men, 1993


II. An Asian Experience of “Modern Western” Friendship [RC]

Natsume Soseki, Kokoro, 1914 [novel], trans. McClelland (Dover)

III. Friendship, Gift, Loan, Money and Gratitude in Renaissance England [AS]

Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice [1599], Penguin

Allan Silver, (ed.), Documents on The Merchant of Venice
- A. Silver, “Notes and questions on the play”
- Genesis 30:25-43 (King James Version)
IV. Friendship Ideal in Context of the Fifth Moral Relation  [RC]
Analects, selected excerpts (reading the entire book, if possible, is highly recommended)

Mencius, selected excerpts

The Three Kingdoms, attrib. Luo Guanzhong, trans. Moss Roberts (University of California Press), excerpts

V. Friendship and the Philosophical Bases of the East Asian Communitarian Ideal  [RC]


VI. Friendship’s Aspirations and Limits, Global and Personal  [RC/AS]
E.M. Forster, Passage to India, 1924 (Harvest/Harcourt Brace)