



RICE HUMANITIES

Department of  
Transnational Asian Studies

**Fall 2021**

**ASIA 382**

**RUTH BENEDICT  
AND JAPAN**

**NEW  
COURSE!**

**TTh**

**10:50 - 12:05 pm**

**Sonia Ryang**

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Written during WWII as part of enemy studies, Ruth Benedict's *Chrysanthemum and the Sword* guided the postwar US occupation of Japan. Since its 1948 translation into Japanese, the book has remained one of the longest-selling titles in Japan. This course examines the historical influence of this book in (re)building postwar Japanese cultural identity against the backdrop of the changing US-Japan relations, focusing on the dramatic shift in Japan's position from existential enemy of the US to staunch ally in the Cold War in East Asia.

**Open to all majors/ no prerequisite**