

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
Department of Japanese Studies

GEK2042 – CULTURAL BORROWING: JAPAN AND CHINA

(Semester 1 : AY2014/15)

Nov – Dec 2014 - Time Allowed: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. Please write your student number only. **Do not write your name.**
2. This assessment paper contains **TWO (2)** questions and comprises **TWO (2)** printed pages.
3. Answer both questions.
4. Please start each question on a new page. Clearly identify which question you are answering.
5. This is an **OPEN BOOK** assessment. Students are allowed to bring in all materials, books, lecture notes, etc. Students are not allowed to bring in computer notebooks, iPads or any electronic devices unless otherwise permitted and specified by the examiner/module co-ordinator.*
Your cellular phone may not be kept on your desk during the examination.

*Note: Students must not communicate with other persons through these permitted electronic devices during the assessment. They are liable to disciplinary action if they breach this rule.

For both questions, briefly cite your sources in the following manner:

Readings: (author (or title), page number), e.g. (Fong, 12)

Lecture (simple title), e.g. (Missions)

Video (simple title), e.g. (Grandmaster)

For any other sources, please make sure the source is clear to your reader.

Answer both questions. Each is worth 50% of your examination grade.

I. You are a famous professor of cultural borrowing in the year 2055. You have been invited by the United Nations (relocated to sunny Singapore - haze no longer an issue!) to give a lecture on “Applying Bakhtin's ‘Response to a Question from the Novy Mir Editorial Staff’ to East Asia before 1920.” Pick one topic from the course that you took on cultural borrowing in 2014 (such as poetry or the *Water Margin* or any other major topic from the course) and write your speech. Discuss whether Bakhtin's work has any relevance to the topic that you have picked and show how Bakhtin is relevant or not.

II. Discuss either thesis A or thesis B. Provide examples from the course or your own studies to prove the thesis you choose.

Thesis A: Cultural borrowing is a creative process.

Thesis B: Cultural borrowing is NOT a creative process.

Clearly identify in your first paragraph which thesis you are arguing for.

END OF PAPER