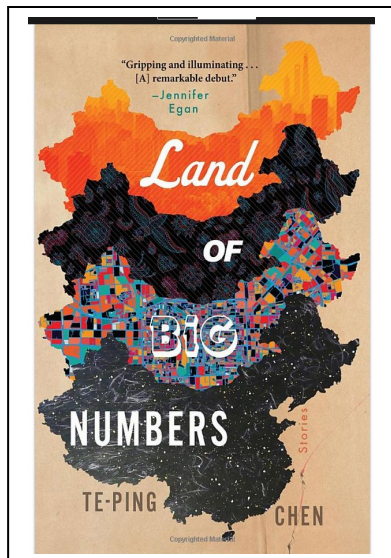


# THE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR TEACHING ABOUT ASIA AT THE PROGRAM FOR TEACHING EAST ASIA

FALL 2021

## Land of Big Numbers: Linking Literature & Current Issues

Open to Secondary Teachers Nationwide  
Funded by the Freeman Foundation



The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) at the Program for Teaching East Asia, University of Colorado Boulder, invites applications for this new online course tying the 2021 book collection of short stories, *Land of Big Numbers* to contemporary social issues and changes in China.

**Overview:** *The New Yorker* described Te-Ping Chen's *Land of Big Numbers* as containing "the unadorned clarity of the very best newspaper writing and the inspired, weird, poetic inventions of fiction." Chen, a Chinese-American journalist turned author, created short stories that examine the lives of individuals navigating the complexities of life in contemporary China. In this four-week, 12-hour NCTA book group, participants will read four stories in the critically acclaimed *Land of Big Numbers*. The stories explore issues of opposing the state, examining historical memory, and the inequalities within China's booming economy. Each story will be accompanied by non-fiction background reading to establish context.

**Online Format and Expectations:** The course will be conducted through four asynchronous online modules plus an optional live discussion at the conclusion of the course. The short story collection is available on Amazon in multiple formats; additional readings will be provided within the course website. Teachers who wish to receive full benefits must contribute substantively to all module discussions and submit an evaluation and a four-page Classroom Implementation Plan (CIP) describing ways to use the course content in their teaching.

**Eligibility and Selection:** This course is open to secondary school literature, social studies, history, and Chinese language teachers. Admission is selective, with priority given to grade 9-12 contract teachers whose required curriculum in one of these subject areas includes 21st-century China and who are not enrolling in multiple concurrent NCTA programs during the dates of this course.

**Book Group Dates:** The course begins with online introductions October 2 and continues with four one-week modules: October 10-16; Oct. 17-23; October 24-30, and October 31-November 6, 2021. Curriculum Implementation Plans are due November 22, 2021.

**Participation is free, with the following benefits for full participation, as outlined above:**

- Certificate of Completion for 12 professional development contact hours.
- \$60 Amazon gift card as completion stipend.

Apply online at <http://www.colorado.edu/ptea/ChinaNumbers> beginning August 10, 2021.  
Registration is limited to 20 eligible teachers and closes September 21, or when the course fills.  
For more information, e-mail [parisi@colorado.edu](mailto:parisi@colorado.edu).