



Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Beijing

Course Code / Title: (BJ/EAST 352) The Making of Modern East Asia

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: East Asian Studies / History, International Relations, Political Science

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course uses a blend of approaches from the humanities and social sciences to introduce the histories, societies, and cultures of East Asia. Its goal is to build a broad understanding of the modern historical development of China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam. Students first study the pre-modern legacies that shaped each of these civilizations and intertwined their societies. Then the course will turn to the crises of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the quests for resolution, and the pursuit of national identities in a rapidly emerging and often violent modern world order.

Sources for study are primary historical sources, fiction, and memoirs along with academic readings. Historical themes include imperial domination and revolutionary resistance, nationalism, communism, democracy, feminism, and the wars of the 20th century (WWI, WWII, and the Cold War). In addition, students analyze the role of historical memory in relation to topics such as comfort women, Nanjing, and Hiroshima. At least one field class allows students to interpret a course topic within the local context.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- distinguish unifying characteristics of the region's cultures and histories as a whole, as well as unique aspects of the individual societies;
- understand historical global processes linked to East Asia;
- relate historical events and socio-economic structures to cultural and political practices on national and regional levels; and
- advance or refine the following skills: reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources; collecting information, evaluating evidence, and formulating conclusions; and writing in a clear, concise, and cogent manner.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend each class and field-based course component, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Active participation is essential. Students are to read all assigned materials

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before each class session and come prepared to participate thoughtfully in class discussions. Reading assignments average about 50-80 pages per class.

Graded assignments include:

- Two midterm essay assignments; the first focuses on China and the second on Korea. These midterm assignments resemble parts of the final examination and thus aid in exam preparation.
- A short essay paper (1,250 words/5 pages) on a work of fiction or memoir from the several selections that are part of the assigned readings.
- A final in-class exam comprised of two essays and short answers to historical identification or "ID" terms.

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- Two take-home midterms: 15% each, totaling 30%
- A short essay paper: 20%
- Class discussion: 20%
- A final examination: 30%

Reading

Dower, John. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1987.

Ebrey, Patricia and Anne Walthall. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History, Volume II: From 1600*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth Publishing, 2014.

Frank, Andre Gunder. *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1998.

Goldman, Merle and Andrew Gordon, eds. *Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Hayslip, Le Ly. *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace*. New York: Anchor Books, 2017.

Hein, Laura Elizabeth and Mark Selden. *Censoring History: Perspectives on Nationalism and War in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2000.

Honda Katsuichi, *The Nanjing Massacre: A Japanese Journalist Confronts Japan's National Shame*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1999.

Kang, Hildi. *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001.

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Kanno Sugako. "Reflections on the Way to the Gallows." In *Reflections on the Way to the Gallows: Rebel Women in Prewar Japan*, edited by Mikiso Hane, 85-118. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1993.

Katsu Kokichi. *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*, translated and edited by Teruko Craig. University of Arizona Press, 1991.

Kim, Richard E. *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2nd ed., 2011.

Kim, Uchang. "The Agony of Cultural Construction: Politics and Culture in Modern Korea." In *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, edited by Hagen Koo, 163-195. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1993.

McDonald, Kate. *Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2017.

Mishima, Yukio. "Patriotism" in *Death in Midsummer and Other Stories*. Cambridge, MA: New Directions Press, 1966.

Pomeranz, Kenneth and Steven Topik. *The World that Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy, 1400 to the Present*, 4th ed. New York: Routledge, 2018.

Roden, Donald. "Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan." *The American Historical Review* 85, no. 3 (June 1980): 511-34.

Schmidt, Andre. "Colonialism and the 'Korea Problem' in the Historiography of Modern Japan: A Review Article." *Journal of Asian Studies* 59, no. 4 (Nov. 2000): 951-976.

Stalker, Nancy K. *Japan: History and Culture from Classical to Cool*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2018.

Tanizaki, Junichiro. *Naomi*. New York: Vintage, 2001.

Taya Cook, Haruko and Theodore F. Cook. *Japan at War: An Oral History*. New York: New Press, 1993.

Tokuda, Shusei. *Rough Living*. Translated by Richard Torrance. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2001.

Vu, Trong Phung. *Dumb Luck: A Novel*. Edited by Peter Zinoman and translated by Nguyen Nguyet Cam and Peter Zinoman. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2002.

White, Merry. *Coffee Life in Japan*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2012.

Whiting, Robert. "The Samurai Way of Baseball and the National Character Debate." *The Asia Pacific Journal* 4, no. 9 (Fall 2006). <https://apjjf.org/-Robert-Whiting/2235/article.pdf>

Zinoman, Peter. *Vietnamese Colonial Republican: The Political Vision of Vu Trong Phung*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2013.

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Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Basics of Chinese Civilization

Topic 2: China, to the Second World War (1600-1937)

Topic 3: Korea, Through the Japanese Occupation (1598-1945)

Topic 4: Japan, to the Second World War (1603-1931)

Topic 5: Vietnam: Dynastic and Colonial (1600-1954)

Topic 6: World War Two: History and Memory

Topic 7: Vietnam: The American War

Topic 8: East Asia in the Post-War World

Topic 9: Contemporary East Asia