

Instructors

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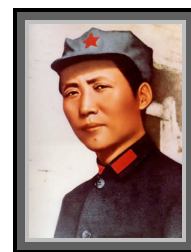
HSTR 140D Modern East Asia

This course explores the histories of China, Japan and, to a lesser extent Korea, from about 1800 to familiarize you swept East Asia at empires and well as of intricacies. It is my basic assumptions by illustrating its



a samurai on the losing side of the Meiji Restoration; the autobiographer of a Japanese modernizer; the memoir of an Ainu ethnic minority; a Chinese woman confronting imperialism; Koreans under Japanese military occupation; and a victim of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution – will encourage you to think more carefully about lumping “Asia,” or even worse the “Orient,” into one political or arena. These readings will also encourage you to think more about the legacies of colonialism and occupation. You will required to become a historian of East Asia in this class, and analyze primary texts and then write about them. History is, put, the rendering of the past – to impose narrative order on stew of traditions, convictions, abstract realities, institutional records, and human memories – into a rational, often than not, narrative form, stressing the causal relations thought, culture, environment, and human events. This is a highly creative task, to be sure, but one which is bolstered by the authority inherent in basing historical observations in the sources. I look forward to reading the histories of modern East Asia that you craft in the class.

present. The main goal of the course is to with the cultural, social, and political changes that the beginning of the modern age. It is a tale of revolutions, of colonialisms and occupations, as competing visions of modern life, with all its hope that this course will force you to question and confront stereotypes about modern life in Asia many forms. The reading topics – the reflections of



cultural carefully also be read and simply a chaotic

and more between

Required readings

Ebrey, Walthall, Palais, *Modern East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History, Vol. 2: From 1600.*

Shiba, *Remembering Aizu: The Testament of Shiba Goro*.
Fukuzawa, *The Autobiography of Yukichi Fukuzawa*.
Pruitt, *A Daughter of Han*.
Kayano, *Our Land Was a Forest*.
Kang, *Under the Black Umbrella*.
Liang, *Son of the Revolution*.

Course requirements (all assignments must be completed on time to pass course):

First Paper Assignment: 25%
Second Paper Assignment: 25%
Third Paper Assignment: 25%
Final Examination: 25%

Student Conduct

For the Montana State student conduct code, see:

http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/. Any cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of student misconduct in this course will earn an F in the class and a reprimand on the student record.

Course Format

The duration of this online course is Wednesday, January 9 through Friday, May 3, 2013. Broadly speaking, this course is divided into three thematic sections. Each section has a corresponding paper assignment (see separate Paper Assignments and the appropriate drop boxes on the D2L site). You can work on these at your own pace, but you must have the paper assignments in the D2L drop box by their specified due dates. The final examination must be completed during the final week of class, April 29-May 3, and turned in by no later than 5:00PM on Friday, May 3, 2013.

The online course format, with its electronic exchange of papers, is excellent for working on analytical writings skills. For this reason, the first and second paper assignments will be due in stages so that you can revise and resubmit them. *Please pay special attention to these instructions.*

Paper Assignment 1

1. A complete draft of Paper Assignment 1 is due in the drop box by no later than 5:00PM on Wednesday, January 30. It is to be in MS Word format.
2. This draft will be returned to you by no later than 5:00PM on Wednesday, February 13. The paper will have suggested substantive and stylistic revisions, which you are to incorporate into the paper in order to improve it.
3. The final version of Paper Assignment 1 is due in the drop box by 5:00PM on Wednesday, February 20.

Paper Assignment 2

1. A draft of the introductory paragraph, including the thesis statement, for Paper Assignment 2 is due in the drop box by no later than 5:00PM on Friday, March 8. It is to be in MS Word format.
2. This draft paragraph will be returned to you no later than 5:00PM on Monday, March 18. The paragraph will have suggested substantive and stylistic revisions, which you are to incorporate into the paper in order to improve it.
3. The final version of the entire Paper Assignment 2 is due in the drop box by 5:00PM on Monday, March 25.

Paper Assignment 3

1. The completed version of Paper Assignment 3 is due in the drop box by no later than 5:00PM on Friday, April 19. There is no revise and resubmit exercise for the final paper.

Final Examination

1. The final examination is a comprehensive, written examination that is due no later than Friday, May 3. It will be primarily short answers and essays.

In-person Discussion

I will send out emails once or twice a month for meetings on the Montana State University, Bozeman, campus for group discussions of the course material. This will usually correspond to the paper assignments. Please watch for these dates, as they will be an opportunity for us to meet one another and discuss the themes of the course.

Course Sections

The first section, SEARCH FOR MODERN CHINA, includes the following lectures:

1. "Chinese Traditions and Modernity"
2. "Imperial China and the Great Divergence"
3. "European Empire and the Opium War"
4. "The Taiping Rebellion"
5. "Self-Strengthening"
6. "The Boxer Rebellion and the Fall of the Qing Dynasty"
7. "Chinese Nationalism"

In this section, we begin our search for modern China. To explain, the traditional scholarship on China has created an overly simplified juxtaposition between so-called "Traditional China" and "Modern China." The former is a timeless, essentialized period of stagnant traditional culture, best represented by conservative Confucian thought, and the latter represented by China's encounter with Western Europe, usually starting sometime around the Opium War (1839-42). According to this historiography, China only began to break the shackles of its traditional cultural stagnation after the introduction of Western ideas such as progress, international diplomacy, capitalism, republicanism and, finally, Marxism. For this reason, many historians begin "Modern China" after the Opium War, when China was forced to abandon its bankrupt traditional ways and embrace Western

modernity or be carved up by rapacious Western powers. As we shall see, however, “Traditional China” was not as stagnant as most portray it. Confucianism, for example, created a system of shared beliefs that paved the way for the birth of nationalism in China. We will search for some of the pillars of Modern China, ones that were firmly cemented in China’s “traditional” past.

The second section, SEARCH FOR MODERN JAPAN, includes the following lectures:

1. “Overspread the Realm with Military Might”
2. “Hideyoshi”
3. “Japan’s Early Modern State”
4. “Troubles at Home, Dangers from Abroad”
5. “Restorationism and the Emergence of Imperial Nationalism”
6. “Collapse of the Tokugawa Bakufu”
7. “Meiji Restoration”
8. “Meiji Nationalism”
9. “Japanese Empire Building”

Historians of Japan often date the beginning of the modern period with the Meiji Restoration (1868), when Japan undertook sustained engagement with Western institutions, economies, and culture. But as we shall see in this section, Japan had started to modernize far earlier than its engagement with the West, experiencing widespread political centralization, the emergence of a proto-capitalism economy, and other forces that shaped the modern Japanese experience. In Japanese history, this period is commonly referred to as “early modern Japan,” when Japan demonstrated the nascent traces of its later full-blown modernity. The notion of “early modernity” challenges the idea that Japan only modernized after its encounter with the West.

The third section, THE WESTERN CHALLENGE, WAR AND RECOVERY includes the following lectures:

1. “Republican Revolution and the Rise of Warlordism”
2. “May Fourth Movement and the Culture of Revolution”
3. “Northern Expedition and the Nanjing Decade”
4. “Japanese Imperialism and the Pacific War”
5. “Occupying Japan”
6. “Communist Victory in China”

This section of the course explores East Asia’s experience with Western imperialism, colonialism, the Pacific war, and the immediate postwar recovery, particularly the Chinese Communist Party’s victory over the nationalist Guomindang. The Modern East Asia that was born from the crucible of imperialism, war, revolution, and recovery.

In sum, these three sections trace East Asia’s historical development prior to the Western challenge in order to explore the diverse ways that Japan and China tackled the threat posed by the West. Following the rupture of the Pacific War (1937-45), revolution and recovery characterized region, making it one of the most culturally, politically, and economically formidable regions on the planet.

