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Modern East Asian History

Spring 2011, HILD 12

Class Meetings:
Peterson Hall, Rm. 110
M-W-F, 12:00pm-12:50pm

Office Hours:
Humanities & Social Sciences, 3073
M-W, 1:00pm-2:00pm

When people speak of “East Asia” today, what do they mean exactly? Is East Asia merely a geographical construct? Is it a cultural unit made up of nations that share roots in a common premodern civilization? Or can we identify a certain historical experience that defines an East Asia that is distinctly modern? In this course, we will explore these questions by studying the histories of Japan, Korea and China from 1600 to the present. We will ask what we can learn by not only comparing the individual pasts of these countries but also by seeing them as parts of a larger, structurally linked whole. We will begin by looking at how, during the age of modern imperialism, these countries each differentiated themselves from the premodern East Asian world order according to their different yet overlapping experiences of empire, colonization and semi-colonization. We will then trace how these new identities have been subsequently reformulated within the global framework of the Cold War and specifically through these countries’ differing experiences of communism, the rise of American hegemony and (in the case of the Koreas) national partition. Finally, we will conclude the course by considering what “East Asia” has come to mean in the two decades since the years 1987-89, a pivotal turning point in the histories of Japan, South Korea and China as well as for the region at large.

Course Texts

A. Books for Purchase

Patricia Ebrey et al., East Asia: A Cultural, Political, and Social History, 2nd ed.
Houghton Mifflin (2009)
Lu Hsun, Selected Stories of Lu Hsun, Yang Hsien-yo and Lydia Yang, trs. W.W.
Norton & Co. (2010)
Natsume Sōseki, Kokoro, Meredith McKinney tr. Penguin Classics (2010)
Yi Kwangsu, Mujōng, Ann Sung-Hi Lee tr. CU East Asia Program (2005)

B. WebCT Readings

Most weeks of the course include primary and secondary source reading documents assignments. These documents will be posted to Web CT before the week in which they are assigned and are marked with a double asterisk (**) on this course syllabus.

C. Videos

Week 8 will feature two videos which will be viewable over WebCT. Please see Lecture Schedule below.

****Please note that this course syllabus is subject to change****

Lecture Schedule

Week 1

3/28 Course Intro

3/30 Encountering “the West”

Reading: Ebrey et. al, East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History (hereafter East Asia), Connections: Western Imperialism (1800-1900), pp. 296-303

4/1 The Sino-Japanese War
(guest lecturer: Jomo Smith)

Reading: Uchimura Kanzō, “Justification of the Korean War,” in The Complete Works of Kanzo Uchimura (Kyobunkwan, 1973)**

Week 1 Reading: East Asia, chs. 17, 18, pp. 304-308, and 21, pp. 353-61

Week 2

4/4 The Meiji Restoration

Reading: “The Charter Oath,” and “Imperial Rescript on the Abolition of the Han,” Wm. Theodore De Bary, et al, ed., Sources of Japanese Tradition, Wm. Theodore De Bary, et al, ed in SJT, pp.7-8 and p.12

4/6 The Meiji Period

Reading: Chiba Takusaburō, “The Way of the King,” Itō Hirobumi, “Reminiscences of the Drafting of the Constitution,” “The Meiji Constitution,” “The Imperial Rescript on Education,” in SJT, pp.62-64, 71-73, 76-79 and 108-09**

4/8 The End of Meiji and Taishō Japan

Reading: Yoshino Sakuzō, Democracy as Minponshugi, in SJT, pp. 163-69**

Week 2 Reading: East Asia, Chs. 20 and 22, pp. 370-76, Natsume Sōseki, Kokoro

Week 3

4/11 The Self-Strengthening Period

Reading: Moderate Reform and the Self-Strengthening Movement, Wm. Theodore De Bary, et al, ed., Sources of Chinese Tradition (hereafter SCT), vol. 2, pp. 240-49**

4/13 The Boxer Rebellion

Reading: Paul Cohen, "Boxers, Christians, and the Gods," in China Unbound**

4/15 The 1911 Revolution

Week 3 Reading: East Asia, Chs. 18, pp. 312-323 and 24, 402-07; Ha Jin's Introduction, "Preface to the First Collection of Stories," "Diary of a Madman," pp. vii-19, and "The True Story of Ah Q," "Village Opera," and "The New Year's Sacrifice," pp.65-124 in Selected Stories of Lu Hsun

Week 4

4/18 Korea Between Empires

Reading: "Leaders of the 1884 Coup" in Wm.Theodore De Bary, et al, ed., Sources of Korean Tradition, vol. 2 (hereafter SKT), pp. 254-61**

4/20 The Independence Club

Reading: The Independence Club and the People's Assembly and Syngman Rhee, "The Spirit of Independence" in SKT, pp. 277-289 and 299-301**

4/22 The Fall of the Chosŏn Dynasty and the Colonization of Korea

Week 4 Reading: East Asia, Chs. 21, pp. 361-68 and 23, pp. 387-91 and Yi Kwangsu, Mujŏng

Week 5

4/25 The Internationalist Interlude in 1920s Japan

Reading: "Peaceful Cooperation Abroad" and "Marxist History Writing," in SJT, pp.208-212 and 515-19**

4/27 Korean Nationalism within Colonial Rule

Reading: The March First Movement and Radical Political Organizations in SKT, pp. 334-340 and 352-360**

4/29 The May Fourth Movement and Nationalist Unification in China

Reading: Chen Duxiu, "The Way of Confucius and Modern Life," and The Seedbed of the Communist Revolution: The Peasantry and the Anarcho-Communist Movement, in SCT, pp. 352-56 and 399-406**

Week 5 Reading: East Asia, chs. 22, pp. 376-86, 23 and 24, pp. 407-16

Week 6

5/2 MIDTERM

5/4 The Asia-Pacific War

Reading: Selections from Japan at War,** TBA and Generalissimo Jiang on National Identity in Patricia Ebrey Ed., Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook (hereafter Chinese Civilization), pp. 401-10**

5/6 The U.S. Occupation of Japan
Reading: The Occupation Years, in SJT, pp. 330-50**

Week 6 Reading: East Asia, Connections, pp. 417-25, and Chs. 25, pp. 426-39 and 26, pp. 442-44

Week 7

5/9 The Partition of Korea
Primary Source Reading: Korea since 1945 in SKT, pp. 367-395**

5/11 The Communist Revolution
Reading: Mao's Revolutionary Doctrine in SCT, pp. 406-426** and Land Reform in Chinese Civilization, pp. 416-21**

5/13 1960
Reading: Two Views of the Security Treaty Crisis of 1960, in SJT, pp. 393-400**

Week 7 Reading: East Asia, Chs. 25, pp.439-440, 26, pp. 445-56, 27, 457-68 and 29, pp. 49-95

Week 8

5/16 The Cultural Revolution
Watching: Video: *China, A Century of Revolution: The Mao Years*

5/18 A Nation Divided: North and South Korea
Watching: Video: *The Game of Their Lives*

5/20 Japan Inc.
Reading: Democracy and High Growth in SJT, pp.400-410

Week 8 Reading: East Asia, Chs., 27, pp. 468-73, 29, pp. 495-510, and 30, 511-18

Week 9

5/23 The Emergence of Development Regimes

5/25 1989

5/27 The 1990s in East Asia

Week 9 Reading: East Asia, Chs, 28 and 30 518-24; Takashi Fujitani, Electronic Pageantry and Japan's "Symbolic Emperor" in *The Journal of Asian Studies* 51, no. 4: 824-50**, Posters Calling for Democracy in Chinese Civilization, pp. 519-524** and Kim Daejung, Presidential Inaugural Address, 1998, in SKT, pp. 445-453**

Week 10

5/30 Holiday

6/1 The 2000s in East Asia

6/3 Final Review

Week 10 Reading: TBA

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such in this course. The History Department's statement on plagiarism explains, the "most obvious form of plagiarism is the verbatim copying of words, sentences, paragraphs or entire sections or chapter without quotation and proper attribution... You must use quotation marks even if you only borrow several words in sequence from a source." Students should reference the History Department's statement on plagiarism at:

<http://history.ucsd.edu/ugrad/current/academic-integrity.html> .

Any questions concerning plagiarism and academic honesty should be addressed before assignments are submitted.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Weekly Written Assignments**—15 percent of overall grade

Weekly Response Papers: For each week of this course, you will compose a paper of 2-3 pages (at least 600 words) in response to the assigned reading. Papers should develop and clearly explain a thesis in response to a particular theme or argument raised in each week's reading. A reading guide for each week's reading will be posted to WebCT. Papers will be submitted in hard copy to your section instructor and electronically to Turnitin.com. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

- **Discussion Section**-15 percent of overall grade

Consistent attendance in section is assumed and required to receive credit for section participation *and* weekly written assignments. Students with three or more unexcused absences shall receive no credit for discussion section. Please attend each section prepared with something to contribute to discussion: *quality participation* in section is necessary to secure a high percentage for this part of your grade.

- **Midterm Examination**— 30 percent of overall grade

A midterm examination for this course will be given in class on May 2 and will cover Weeks 1-4 of the course syllabus.

- **Final Examination** – 40 percent of overall grade

The final examination will be administered on June 8, 11:30am-2:30pm, and will cover the entire course, but with particular emphasis on Weeks 5-10 of the syllabus. Location TBA.