

## Far Eastern History II

Spring 2016

21:510:298

Monday, 10–11:20 am

Wednesday, 10–11:20 am

Smith Hall 246

Instructor: Daniel Asen

Office hours: Mondays 4–5 pm and by appointment, Conklin Hall 328

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### **1. Course Description**

This course is a survey of East Asian history (China, Japan, and Korea) from ca. 1600 AD to the present. While our approach will be chronological, we will also examine thematic issues that include political institutions and ideology, intellectual thought, education, gender, family, everyday life, and popular culture. We will also look at the political, economic, cultural, and other historical developments that have defined regional and global interactions within East Asia during this period and in the present. Students will gain the factual knowledge necessary to understand contemporary East Asia within its recent and long-term historical contexts and will apply their knowledge to analyze a range of primary documents, images, and other media.

### **2. Learning Goals**

1. Develop an understanding of the events, institutions, ideas, and figures that have shaped the course of modern East Asian history. We will approach this history comparatively by exploring the histories of China, Japan, and Korea in dialogue with each other and over time. Students will leave the course with an understanding of the historical dynamics that have defined East Asia in the early modern period as well as those which continue to inform its trajectory in the present.

2. Understand East Asian history in global context. In the period that this class covers (ca. 1600 AD - present) East Asia shifted from being a central node in early modern networks of long-distance trade to inhabiting a subordinate position in a new global system dominated by European industrial powers, a situation which has once again changed drastically with the rapid industrialization of the region during the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In order to understand this history it will be necessary to explore those historical changes that have defined the modern period for all societies across the globe, including our own. These include colonialism, imperialism, industrialization, and the rise of modern nation-states. We will think about the unprecedented economic and social forces that these changes have unleashed as well as the human costs and consequences. In short, we will think hard about how our own globalized world came to be.

3. Read and critically analyze a range of historical documents. Over the course of the semester, we will read and analyze a range of historical sources, including memoirs, philosophical texts, propaganda posters, cartoons, and films. When analyzing these sources we will think about questions of historical context (i.e. when and where was it written?), intended audience (i.e. for whom was it written?), and the politics of the text (i.e. which social or political interests is it serving?). In sum, we will think about how we interpret the raw material of history and how we can use it as evidence when making historical claims.

### **3. Assignments and Grading**

Class participation – 15%

Writing assignments (2) – 40%

Midterm – 20%

Final – 25%

1. Class participation (15%). To receive full credit for participation, you must arrive on time, contribute to class discussion, and be respectful of your classmates. If you cannot come to class because of an emergency, please try to contact me in advance. I will record attendance in each class and this will form an important part of your participation grade.

2. Writing assignments (40% total). This course has two writings assignments. I will give you a handout for each which includes a detailed explanation of the topic. Papers should be written in 12 point type and double spaced (Note: Please observe the maximum page limits listed below!). We will discuss paper writing in class as well as how I will grade them. If you have any questions at all about the papers or writing in general, feel free to raise them in class, send me an email, or meet with me during my office hours.

1. Paper #1 (3-4 pages, 20%). For this paper you will read *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World*, by Timothy Brook. This book examines the patterns of trade and exchange that developed between China, Europe, and the rest of the world during the early modern period (1500-1800). For the paper, you will be given a choice of essay topics that ask you to analyze the cases of early modern "globalization" discussed in the book.

2. Paper #2 (4-5 pages, 20%). For this assignment you will be asked to do a close reading and analysis of several primary source documents drawn from important events and themes in East Asia's turbulent 20<sup>th</sup> century. There will be a choice of topics. In writing the paper you will be expected to put the sources into dialogue with our other class readings and lectures.

3. Midterm (20%). The midterm and final will include the following kinds of questions:

a. Map question: For the midterm you will be asked to identify important places and geographical features of East Asia on a blank map. You will be provided with a list of the places/features in advance as well as a map with the places filled in. The map on the test will be a blank version of this same map.

b. Identifications: You will be asked to identify several persons / things / events / concepts that we have discussed in class. You will be asked to identify the person/thing/concept and

its general time period in a couple of sentences and then discuss its larger historical significance for our class. Your response should be about 4-5 sentences for each identification question. Anything that we cover during the lecture is fair game, especially names/terms that are written on the board.

c. Document identification: Over the course of the semester you will read many primary source documents for homework, identified on the syllabus with the word "Document." For the midterm and final you will be presented with short excerpts from documents that you have read over the course of the semester. You will be asked to identify the general time period of the document, the probable author (i.e. Ming official, Japanese reformer during the Meiji Restoration, Chinese communist revolutionary), and the historical significance of the document. Your response should be about 4-5 sentences for each document identification question.

d. Short essay: Short essay questions on the midterm and final will ask you to make broad connections and comparisons and think about the bigger themes of the class. We will discuss the kinds of questions/themes that will appear in the essay questions in class.

4. Final exam (25%). The final exam will include the same kinds of questions as the midterm. There will be no map question.

#### **4. Course Readings**

Weekly reading assignments will usually include two parts – a selection from our textbook ("East Asia") and a couple of short historical documents ("Documents"). Unless otherwise noted, these documents are available on Blackboard.

You will be required to read significant portions of the following two books for weekly homework readings and class writing assignments. They will be made available on library reserve, at the Campus Bookstore, and can be purchased from other sources as well (i.e. Amazon.com):

1. Patricia Ebrey et al.. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*. Second Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2009. ISBN 13: 978-0-547-00534-8. ("East Asia"). Note: This book has several editions. You can use either the Second (ISBN: 9780547005348) or Third edition (ISBN: 9781133606475).

2. Timothy Brook. *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World*. New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2008. ISBN 10: 1-59691-444-0; ISBN 13: 978-1-59691-444-5.

#### **5. Course Policies**

1. Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate that reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may

require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact the Paul Robeson Campus Center, which administers disability services for Rutgers University-Newark. For more information, please see the following link: <http://robeson.rutgers.edu/>

2. If you disagree with a grade on a test or other assignment I will be happy to discuss it, but will not discuss changing it until 24 hours have passed. At that time, please email me a short paragraph explaining why the grade should be changed and then we can talk about it.

3. Academic dishonesty in this class will not be tolerated. Period. This includes plagiarism, cheating, and any other behavior described in the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy. **For this reason it is absolutely crucial that you familiarize yourself with this document, which describes the actions that will be counted as violations of academic integrity:**  
<http://policies.rutgers.edu/10213-currentpdf>

You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge statement on every assignment which you turn in: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment. (Print your name) (Signature) (Date)".

If anyone has any questions at all about this policy, what counts as a violation of academic integrity, or even simply how to cite sources on a paper, I am always willing to discuss these issues with you. Students who plagiarize assignments or otherwise violate academic integrity will receive serious penalties, ranging from a failing grade in the class to suspension.

## **6. Schedule**

### **Jan. 20 Welcome to Far Eastern History II!**

- Introduction and orientation

### **Jan. 25 Confucianism in Early Modern East Asia**

- Document: "Confucian Teachings" (10 pages)
- Francesca Bray, *Technology and Society in Ming China*, 56-61 ("The Ancestral Altar" and "Women's Quarters")
- Begin to read *Vermeer's Hat* in preparation for Paper #1 (due 2/22)

### **Jan. 27 Ming China I: Politics and Society**

- *East Asia* Ch. 14: The Ming Empire in China
- Timothy Brook, *Confusions of Pleasure* 17-27
- Documents: "A Censor Accuses a Eunuch" (3 pages) and "Widows Loyal Unto Death" (4 pages)

### **Feb. 1 Ming China II: Diplomacy and Trade**

- Continue to read *Vermeer's Hat*

### **Feb. 3 Rise of the Manchus**

- *East Asia* Ch. 16: The Creation of the Manchu Empire
- Document: “‘Horrid Beyond Description’: The Massacre of Yangzhou” (21 pages)
- We will spend some time discussing strategies for writing academic papers as well as my expectations for Paper #1

### **Feb. 8 The Qing Empire**

- Documents: “Village lectures and the Sacred Edict” (3 pages) and “Lan Dingyuan’s Casebook” (5 pages)
- Continue working on Paper #1

### **Feb. 10 Choson Korea I: Kingship and Aristocracy**

- *East Asia* Ch. 15: Choson Korea
- Document: “Etiquette and Household Management” (5 pages)

### **Feb. 15 Choson Korea II: Gender, Family, and Society**

- Martina Deuchler, “Propagating Female Virtues in Chosŏn Korea” in *Women and Confucian Cultures in Premodern China, Korea, and Japan*, edited by Dorothy Ko, JaHyun Kim Haboush and Joan R. Piggott (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003), 142-169. (Available on Blackboard)

### **Feb. 17 Tokugawa Unification**

- *East Asia* Ch. 17: Edo Japan
- Document: “*Hagakure* and the Way of the Samurai” (3 pages)

### **Feb. 22 Society and Culture in Edo Japan**

- Documents: “Closing of the Country” (8 pages, stop at “Growth of Commerce”) and “Sugita Genpaku” (5 pages)
- **Paper #1 Due**

### **Feb. 24 Opium War**

- *East Asia* Ch. 18: China in Decline (stop at “The Failures of Reform”)
- Document: “Qianlong’s Edict to King George III of England (September 23, 1793)” (3 pages)
- Document: “Placards Posted in Guangzhou” (2 pages)
- Glance through “The First Opium War: The Anglo-Chinese War of 1839-1842,” Essay by Peter C. Perdue, *Visualizing Cultures*. ([http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/opium\\_wars\\_01/ow1\\_essay01.html](http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/opium_wars_01/ow1_essay01.html))

### **Feb. 29 Unequal Treaties and Self-Strengthening**

- *East Asia*: Finish reading Ch. 18: China in Decline
- Document: Excerpts from “Treaty of Nanjing” (2 pages)
- Document: “Moderate Reform and the Self-Strengthening Movement” (7 pages)

### **Mar. 2 Meiji Restoration**

- *East Asia* Ch. 19: Japan in Turmoil
- Documents: “The Charter Oath and Constitution of 1868” (3 pages) and “Japanese Enlightenment and Saying Good-Bye to Asia” (8 pages)
- If you have time, glance through “Throwing Off Asia I: Woodblock Prints of Domestic ‘Westernization’ (1868-1912),” Essay by John W. Dower, *Visualizing Cultures*. ([http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/throwing\\_off\\_asia\\_01/toa\\_essay01.html](http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/throwing_off_asia_01/toa_essay01.html))

### **Mar. 7 Midterm Review Session (Mandatory)**

- Bring questions that you have about anything that we have covered so far
- We will spend the class session reviewing material and discussing larger themes and connections

### **Mar. 9 Midterm**

### **Spring Break**

### **Mar. 21 Revolution and Nationalism in China**

- *East Asia* Ch. 24: Remaking China and Ch. 25: War and Revolution, China
- Documents: “Liang Qichao on His Trip to America” (6 pages) and “The Twenty-One Demands” (5 pages)

### **Mar. 23 Japanese Imperialism and Occupied Korea**

- *East Asia* Ch. 21: Korea in the Turbulent Nineteenth Century and Ch. 23: Modernizing Korea and Colonial Rule
- Documents: “Cartoons: The ‘New Woman’ in Korea” (13 pages)

### **Mar. 28 The Pacific War I: Causes**

- *East Asia* Ch. 26: War and Aftermath in Japan
- Documents: “Diary of a Student Volunteer for Suicide Mission, 1945,” (3 pages) and “Imperial Rescript on Surrender” (2 pages)

### **Mar. 30 The Pacific War II: Aftermath**

- John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1999), 87-120. (Available on Blackboard)

### **Apr. 4 Communist Revolution and Civil War in China**

- *East Asia* Ch. 27: China under Mao
- Document: Mao Zedong, “In Memory of Norman Bethune” (1939) ([http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2\\_25.htm](http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-2/mswv2_25.htm))

#### **Apr. 6 Maoist China**

- Document: “Red Guards” (9 pages)
- Take a look at “Chinese posters.net” (<http://chinese posters.net/themes/index.php>). Find several collections of propaganda posters that interest you.

#### **Apr. 11 Reform and Opening in China**

- *East Asia* Ch. 28: China since Mao
- Document: Zhao Ziyang, “Advance Along the Road of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” (8 pages, stop at “Reforming the Political Structure”)
- Glance through “Tables and Figures on Trends and Developments in post-1978 China” (15 pages)

#### **Apr. 13 Divided Korea I: Dictatorship to Democracy in South Korea**

- *East Asia* Ch. 29: Korea (1945 to the Present)
- Document: “Declaration of the Seoul National University Students Association, April 1960” (2 pages)

#### **Apr. 18 Divided Korea II: Ideology and the State in North Korea**

- Document: “Kim Il-sung [Kim Il Sung] and Chuch’e Thought in North Korea” (3 pages)
- Take a look at the website of the Korean Central News Agency, the official state-run news agency of North Korea. Find some articles that interest you:  
<http://www.kcna.kp/kcna.user.home.retrieveHomeInfoList.kcmsf.jsessionid=4B46FB97E304C336AD2CEDC047836483?lang=eng>

#### **Apr. 20 Watch and Discuss Excerpts from the Documentary *A State of Mind* (2004) in Class**

#### **Apr. 25 Postwar Japan I: Politics and Society**

- *East Asia* Ch. 30: Contemporary Japan
- Document: 1947 Japanese Constitution (3 pages)

#### **Apr. 27 Postwar Japan II: Cultural Exports and Japan’s “Gross National Cool”**

- Theodore C. Bestor. “How Sushi Went Global.” *Foreign Policy* 121 (2000), 54-63.
- Douglas McGray, “Japan’s Gross National Cool.” *Foreign Policy* 130 (2002), 44-54.

#### **May 2 Final Exam Review Session (Mandatory)**

- We will spend the class reviewing material that will be on the final exam and thinking about the larger themes and questions of the course
- **Paper #2 Due**

**Final Exam: Date TBA**