

History of East Asia II

21:510:298:01

Spring 2022

Meeting time: Tuesday 1-2:20pm, Friday 1-2:20pm

Meeting place: 110 Warren Street, room 410

Instructor: Harlan Chambers

Office Hours: virtual office hours in the spring

1. Course Description

This course interrogates the historical constitution of “East Asia” in the modern world through a chronologically organized survey. We begin with colonial encounters of the nineteenth century, proceed through divergent efforts at reform, revolution, and adaptation across the twentieth century, and conclude with certain contradictions of the present. As an introductory course, our readings and discussions will emphasize social, cultural, political, and economic history in its broad contours, particularly with respect to the formation of China and Japan as modern states. We will also attend to developments in Korea, Taiwan, and other regions of interest. Yet our interest goes beyond regions and states to critically examining the social lives of the people who made them. Modern East Asian history is rich with lively contestation over questions of politics, gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and how various social fields bear upon cultural and political expression. In this class, we will hone critical skills by engaging cultural texts and questioning their potential and limits for challenging the political imagination.

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 along with historical developments in Taiwan and other regions in dialogue with each other and over time. Students will leave the course with an understanding of the historical dynamics that have influenced East Asia from the 19th century to the present.

2. Understand East Asian history in global context. In the period that this class covers, 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 20th century. In order to understand this history it will be necessary to explore those historical developments 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.

3. Read and critically analyze a range of historical documents, also known as “primary sources.” Over the course of the semester, we will read and analyze a range of historical materials, including cultural texts. When analyzing these sources, we will think about questions of historical context (when and where was it written?), intended audience (for whom was it written?), and the politics of the text (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

Your semester grade will be based on the following:

- Attendance – 15%
- Exercises (4) – 16%
- Map Quiz (4) – 4%
- Short Paper – 10%
- Group Presentation – 5%
- Midterm – 20%
- Final– 30%

Attendance (15%). Students are permitted two excused absences, no questions asked. After that, all unexcused absences will incur a loss of 2% from your attendance grade. According to the Rutgers Newark Undergraduate Catalog: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” These are the situations in which an absence can be counted as excused – for all other situations, an absence is unexcused. If you do have to miss a Discussion Meeting for one of these reasons, please let me know in advance.

Given that we are in the midst of a pandemic, students who are experiencing any symptoms associated with transmittable disease – however mild they might be – **should not attend in-person meetings for this class.** This includes if you are simply not feeling well but can’t pinpoint the exact reason why. You do not have to provide documentation to me if you miss class for these reasons, but I ask that you email me to let me know that you can’t attend class. That way we can ensure that you make up any missed work. If I have any kind of symptoms, I will cancel that day’s in-person class meeting and see how the situation develops. If that happens, you will receive notification over email. The History Department has this attendance policy: “Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will automatically fail the class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.” This policy does not apply to absences that are due to health-related issues or if

you miss class because you are not feeling well. You will never be penalized in this class for taking care of your own health or looking out for the health of your classmates by not coming to class.

4 Exercises (16%) Over the course of the semester you will be asked to engage with primary materials through four short, written exercises. Late submissions will be accepted for reduced credit. I will post a rubric on Canvas showing how these are evaluated.

Map Quiz (4%) A practice quiz will be posted at the end of the first week of class

Short Paper (10%). You will write a short, 3-4 page comparative analysis for this class. The dates for distribution of paper topics and evaluation criteria are on the syllabus. Papers should be written in size 12 type and double spaced. If you have any questions at all about the papers or writing in general, feel free to contact me. I'm happy to give you comments on a first draft of your paper. If you'd like to do this, email me your draft at least one week before it is due.

If you would like general guidance on writing beyond this, you may also contact the Writing Center for tutoring and other support: <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>.

Group Presentation (5%) This project will be introduced following the midterm

3. **Grading scale.** This is the scale that I will use to determine your semester grade at the end of the semester:

90 - 100 A

87 - 89 B+

80 - 86 B

77 - 79 C+

70 - 76 C

60 - 69 D

59 or less F

4. Course Readings

All readings are available on Canvas. Go to our course's Canvas site (after logging in here: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>). You can find the readings for each week listed under that week's module.

Over the course of the semester, we will read the book *China's Revolutions in the Modern World: A Brief Interpretive History* by Rebecca Karl (Verso, 2020). You may wish to procure this book; though I will also provide electronic copies of assigned portions. It is available electronically here: <https://bit.ly/3GjrDN6>

As a textbook for reference, I propose Ebrey and Whitehall's *Modern East Asia from 1600*. I list it on the course schedule as optional reading and you are not required to purchase a copy.

All other course readings will be uploaded to Canvas.

5. Academic Integrity

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 policy, which describes the actions that will be counted as violations of academic integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge statement on every assignment that you turn in: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment. (Name) (Signature – typing your name is fine) (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 (a topic that we will cover in class), 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.

7. Accommodations and Support

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to

pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link:

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tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

Some other resources that might be useful during this period of remote instruction: • RU-N Technology LaunchPad: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/technology-launch-pad> • Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: “East Asia” as Challenge for Thinking

Tuesday, January 18 **LECTURE: ““East Asia’ in space...”**

Friday, January 21 **LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: “...and time”**

- “Slave’s Cry to Heaven” in Liu Siyuan, *Performing Hybridity in Colonial-Modern China*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. pp., 44-50.
- “On the Question of Women’s Liberation” by He-Yin Zhen in *The Birth of Chinese Feminism*. 53–71.

EXERCISE 1: Submitted electronically by the start of class on Friday, January 21

Map the times and spaces charted out by the authors of today’s assigned texts. How do these authors “map” time and space? On the basis of these texts, how do these authors understand “East Asia” in its relation to the world? Please address these questions through a concise (200–300 word) response.

WEEK 2:

Tuesday, January 25 **LECTURE: “Empires and Imperialism”**

- *Optional reference reading* — “East Asia” chapters 15, 16, 17

Friday, January 28 **LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: “Drugs, Slavery, and Weapon Cartels (or, what we mean when we talk about trade)”**

- Edict from the Qianlong Emperor, on the Occasion of Lord Macartney's Mission to China, 1793. Read "Introduction" on page 1 and "Edict I" on pages 3-4.
- Selections from Aizawa Seishisai "New Theses"

EXERCISE 2: Submitted electronically by the start of class on Friday, January 28

Compare the intended audience and form of the Qianlong Edict and the "New Theses". How are they similar and different? How do audience and inform shape the content of these documents? Please address these questions through a concise (approx. 100 word) response.

WEEK 3:

Tuesday, February 1 LECTURE: China's "Heavenly Kingdom"

- *China's Revolutions* chapter 1, pp. 8–24
- *Optional reference reading* — "East Asia" chapter 18

Friday, February 4 LECTURE and DISCUSSION: "Self-Strengthening and Struggles over Reform"

- "On the Relationship between Fiction and the Government of the People" by Liang Qichao in *Modern Chinese Literary Thought*, pp. 74–81.

MAP QUIZ: conducted in class

SHORT PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED

WEEK 4:

Tuesday, February 8 LECTURE: Japan's Meiji Transformation

- *Optional reference reading* — "East Asia" chapter 19, 20

Friday, February 11 LECTURE: Japan's Imperial Remapping— Taiwan, Russia, Korea, China...

- *Optional reference reading* — "East Asia" chapter 22

WEEK 5:

Tuesday, February 15 LECTURE: Colonialism and Contestation in Korea

- *Optional reference reading* — "East Asia" chapter 23

Friday, February 18 LECTURE and DISCUSSION: Korea's March First Movement

- *Rat Fire* by Yi Ki-yŏng, pp. 149–208

SHORT PAPERS DUE by the end of Saturday, February 19th

WEEK 6:

Tuesday, February 22 LECTURE: China's Republican Revolution

- *China's Revolutions* chapter 2, pp. 25–45

Friday, February 25 LECTURE and DISCUSSION: May Fourth

- Lu Xun, “The Real Story of Ah-Q”
- *China's Revolutions* chapter 3, pp. 46–65

EXERCISE 3: Annotate the use of narrative voice in a select passage from “The Real Story of Ah-Q” (due at the start of class on Friday, February 25).

MIDTERM REVIEW PACKET DISTRIBUTED

WEEK 7:

Tuesday, March 1 LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: “Red Power” in China

- Mao Zedong “Report on an Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan”
- *China's Revolutions*, pp. 67–100

Friday, March 4 REVIEW DAY

WEEK 8:

Tuesday, March 8 IN-CLASS MIDTERM

SPRING RECESS (March 12-20)

WEEK 9:

Tuesday, March 22 LECTURE: WORLD WAR II

- *Optional reference reading* — “East Asia” chapter 26

Friday, March 25 NO IN-CLASS MEETING — PRE-RECORDED LECTURE

WEEK 10:

- Tuesday, March 29** **LECTURE: Post-War Japan (from 1965)**
- *Optional reference reading* — “East Asia” chapter 26
 - “Hope” Medoruma Shun

GROUP PRESENTATIONS ORGANIZED

- Friday, April 1** **LECTURE: The Korean War**
- *Optional reference reading* — “East Asia” chapter 28

WEEK 11:

- Tuesday, April 5** **LECTURE: China’s Revolution and after**
- *China’s Revolutions*, pp. 101–138

- Friday, April 8** **GROUP PRESENTATIONS: Revolutionary China on film**

Groups will prepare a short (10 minute) presentation and analysis of a film for the class.

WEEK 12:

- Tuesday, April 12** **LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: Cultural Revolution**
- *China’s Revolutions*, pp. 139–164
 - CALL ME QINGNIAN BUT NOT FUNÜ: A Maoist Youth in Retrospect by Zheng Wang in Zhong, Xueping, et al. *Some of Us : Chinese Women Growing up in the Mao Era*. Pp. 27–51

- Friday, April 15** **LECTURE: China’s Reform and Historical Revision**
- *China’s Revolutions*, pp. 164–192

EXERCISE 4: **TBA**

WEEK 13:

- Tuesday, April 19** **LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: Xinjiang**
- *China’s Revolutions*, pp. 193–208
 - “Spirit Breaking: Capitalism and Terror in Northwest China” by Adam Hunerven

- Friday, April 22** **LECTURE: Taiwan—White Terror through the end of Martial Law**

WEEK 14:

Tuesday, April 26 **LECTURE: Contemporary Japan**

- *Optional reference reading* — “East Asia” chapter 29

Friday, April 29 **FINAL REVIEW**

FINAL EXAM – TBA