

## Culture and Society of Modern East Asia

History of the East Asian countries – China, Korea, and Japan – has been deeply intertwined with one another, whether politically or culturally. It goes without saying that the close connection among the three countries continues today. Each country's modern fate in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, however, was anything but similar. China, which had long been the center of the East Asian world, had to experience a century long “humiliation” of foreign interventions before it finally became a socialist country; Japan swiftly transformed itself from a loosely united feudal society into a modern industrial nation-state and eventually imperialistic superpower, colonized Korea, and invaded China; and Korea's road to modernity was informed as well as thwarted by Japanese colonial rule. What accounts for these markedly different paths the three countries walked?

This course aims to introduce students to the historical backgrounds of modern trajectories of the three East Asian countries. Besides basic political histories of each country, issues of their social structures, traditional thoughts and beliefs, and indigenous efforts to modernize themselves will be examined as well.

### **Assessment (still tentative):**

Attendance and participation	15%
Three Quizzes	15%
TWO one-page response papers	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

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**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Textbooks**

Charles Holcombe, *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

William Theodore de Bary et al., *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, volume 2 (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008)

All readings will be provided electronically in pdf file.

### **On academic integrity**

Plagiarized paper or cheating in exams will result in, at least, an “F” for the assignment. In addition, the cases will be reported to the university administration for sanctions. So, be honest and be prudent.

### **Other Class Policies**

\*Lecture and section attendance is your most basic responsibility. I will take attendance at every

lecture and section. If you are absent from **more than 3** classes and sections, you will automatically get an “F.”

\*Late paper will be penalized by subtracting FIVE points for every day past the due date for the first FIVE days. **No paper will be accepted after TWO days past the due.**

\*As a courtesy to others, please turn off your cell phones.

## Daily Schedule

- DAY 1      Course Introduction  
                 Holcombe, pp. 187-190 (read this part first), pp. 183-184
- Pax Manjurica and Price of Glory  
                 Holcombe, pp. 174-183  
                 de Bary, pp. 85-89 (Hong Liangji: On Imperial Malfeasance and China's Population Problem)
- DAY 2      Encounter with the West  
                 de Bary, pp. 64-76 (Chinese Responses to Early Christian Contacts)  
                 \*George Macartney, “Audience with Ch’ien-lung [= Qianlong],” *An Embassy to China: Being the journal kept by Lord Macartney during his embassy to the Emperor Ch’ien-lung, 1793-1794*, edited by J.L. Cranmer-Byng, 122-124.  
                 \*Henry Dundas, “Instructions to Lord Macartney, Sept. 8, 1792,” *The Chronicles of the East India Company Trading to China, 1635-1834*, (vol. 11): 232-242.  
                 \*George III, King of England, “Letter to the Emperor of China,” *The Chronicles of the East India Company Trading to China, 1635-1834*, (vol. 11): 244-247.  
                 \*“Two Edicts from the Ch’ien-lung Emperor to King George III,” *Changing China: Readings in the History of China from the Opium War to the Present*, edited by J. Mason Gentzler, 23-28.
- The Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion  
                 Holcombe, pp. 217-227  
                 de Bary, pp. 96-105 (Lin Zexu and Wei Yuan), pp. 110-118 (The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom).
- DAY 3      Reforms and Revolution  
                 Holcombe, pp. 227-235, pp. 259-264  
                 de Bary, pp. 631-647, pp. 657-660, pp. 666-674, pp. 680-688
- The May Fourth Movement  
                 Holcombe, pp. 264-273  
                 de Bary, pp.703-720 (May Fourth Movement).  
                 \*Lu Xun, *The True Story of Ah-Q*, available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1921/12/ah-q/index.htm>
- DAY 4      Nationalist Rule and War with Japan (1<sup>st</sup> Quiz)  
                 Holcombe, pp. 295-297, pp. 299-304

de Bary, pp. 688-698 (Democracy and Nationalist Rule)  
\*Yang Daqing, "Convergence or Divergence? Recent Historical Writings on the Rape of Nanjing," *The American Historical Review* 104.3 (June 1999), 842-865.

The Rise of CCP

Holcombe, pp. 297-299, pp. 359-360.  
de Bary, pp. 730-739 (Mao)  
\*Joseph Esherick, "Ten Theses on the Chinese Revolution," *Modern China* 21.1 (1995): 45-76.

DAY 5 China under Mao: The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution

Holcombe, pp. 360-369  
de Bary, pp. 755-761.  
\*\*The Cultural Revolution Website: [www.morningsun.org](http://www.morningsun.org)

Reform and the Re-opening of China

Holcombe, pp. 369-376, pp. 390-396  
de Bary, pp. 764-773

DAY 6 Film Screening: "To Live" (One-page response paper)

DAY 7 Midterm Exam  
Society and Culture in the Tokugawa Period

Holcombe, pp. 190-197  
de Bary, pp. 231-241

DAY 8 Film Screening: "Twilight Samurai" (One-page response paper)

DAY 9 The Meiji Restoration

Holcombe, pp. 240-251  
de Bary, 488-491, (The Meiji Constitution) 511-514, (The Imperial Rescript on Education) 530-532.  
\*Richard Devine, "The Way of the King: An Early Meiji Essay on Government," *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Spring, 1979), pp. 49-72.

Japan Transformed

Holcombe, pp. 252-255, pp. 278-283  
\*Donald Roden, "Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan," *The American Historical Review* 85.3 (June 1980): 511-34

DAY 10 Japan at War

Holcombe, pp. 288-295, pp. 304-309  
de Bary, pp. 596-624.

"Embracing Defeat" (2<sup>nd</sup> Quiz)

Holcombe, pp. 311-317  
de Bary, pp. 954-964  
\*John Dower, "The Useful War," *Daedalus* 199.3 (Summer, 1990)

- DAY 11      Economic Miracle and Cultural Struggles  
                 Holcombe, pp. 317-329  
                 de Bary, pp. 957-964
- Korea Turning Inward in Late Chosŏn  
                 Holcombe, pp. 183-186.  
                 de Bary, pp. 374-383, pp. 404-411
- DAY 12      Coming to Terms with Imperial Powers  
                 Holcombe, pp. 235-240  
                 de Bary, pp. 975-977, pp. 989-991, pp. 1011-1013
- Dilemma of Colonial Rule  
                 Holcombe, pp. 273-278 (“Japanese Colonial Rule” before “Remaking  
                 China”).  
                 de Bary, pp. 1031-1037.  
                 \*Andre Schmidt, “Colonialism and the ‘Korea Problem’ in the  
                 Historiography of Modern Japan: A Review Article,” *Journal of Asian  
                 Studies*, 59.4, pp. 951-976.
- DAY 13      Korea Divided  
                 Holcombe, pp. 335-340  
                 de Bary, pp. 1052-1055, pp. 1062-1064
- Industrialization and Democratization of Korean Society (3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz)  
                 Holcombe, pp. 330-335, pp. 340-349  
                 de Bary, pp. 1056-1059, pp.1067-1080
- DAY 14      Film Screening: “Ode to My Father”
- DAY 15      Wrap Up  
                 Final Exam