

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 19th-20th 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	10%
Four Quizzes	20%
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) ISBN-13: 978-0231143233 (recommended)

All other 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 one third** of the entire 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
Pax Manjurica and Price of Glory

DAY 2

Encounter with the West
Discussion on Macartney mission

DAY 3

The Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion
Reforms and Revolution

DAY 4

The May Fourth Movement
Discussion on *The True Story of Ah-Q*

DAY 5

Nationalist Rule and War with Japan
The Rise of CCP

DAY 6

China under Mao: The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution
Film Screening: “To Live”

DAY 7

Reform and the Re-opening of China
Society and Culture in the Tokugawa Period

DAY 8

Midterm Exam
Film Screening: “Tasogare Seibeï”

DAY 9

The Meiji Restoration
Japan Transformed

DAY 10

Japan at War
“Embracing Defeat”

DAY 11

Economic Miracle and Cultural Struggles
Korea Turning Inward in Late Chos ŏn

DAY 12

Coming to Terms with Imperial Powers
Dilemma of Colonial Rule

DAY 13

Korea Divided
Industrialization and Democratization of Korean Society

DAY 14

Film Screening: "Ode to My Father"
Wrap-up

DAY 15

Field Trip
Final Exam