Modern Asia

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a provisionary syllabus. This class is an introduction to modern East Asian history, with a specific focus on the nations of China, Korea, and Japan. Our goal is not to comprehensively cover the modern history of the region; sixteen weeks is just not enough. Rather, we want to provide you with the conceptual tools and basic literacy needed for an historical informed awareness of the region.

The course includes three modules: China, Korea, and Japan. Each module covers the long twentieth century from 1894 to the 1990s. The lectures are organized according to three themes: Colonialism, Revolution, and Modernity.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will: 1) demonstrate an understanding of major internal, regional, and global historical developments that shaped modern East Asian history; 2) develop the ability to assess and critically evaluate historical interpretations; 3) demonstrate critical and analytical thinking, reading, and writing skills by working creatively with complex textual and visual sources; and 4) develop effective communication and leadership skills through class discussions.

REQUIRED READINGS

There are four required books for the course, one document collection for each module, plus one short book. The books are available at the University Bookstore.

- Pei-kai Cheng, Michael Lestz, and Jonathan D. Spence, eds., The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection
- Bruce Cumings, North Korea: Another Country
In addition, there will be supplementary reading assignments at the Blackboard course website.

**RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

If you are new to East Asian history and would like additional resources that can help you familiarize yourself with the history of each of the three nations, consult these recommended books:


**GRADED EVENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Map Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>In-class Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>3 Analytical Papers (15%, 15%, and 20%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

**DESCRIPTION OF GRADED EVENTS**

**Mindful Reading, Wakeful Attendance, and Active Participation.** Class attendance is required. Students are allowed to miss up to six class meetings throughout the semester to deal with emergencies, illness, personal matters, etc. However, you will not pass the course if you miss more than six class meetings without advanced permission or evidence of a severe emergency. Students should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any absences for participation in intercollegiate sports or University-sponsored travel. Please complete the assigned readings before each class session and come prepared to share your observations, reflections, and questions. We will consider material in class that enhances but does not duplicate the course reading; therefore, attendance and selective (not compulsive) note-taking are essential.

**Map Quiz.** This quiz is designed to help you acquire the knowledge of geographical features of East Asia, including major terrains, human settlements, and bodies of water.
In-class Quizzes (Weekly). To help you stay current on the class reading, there periodically will be unannounced quizzes on course readings. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Writing Assignments. In addition to close reading and active participation in class discussions, each student must complete all of the writing assignments in order to pass the course. Three times during the semester, you will submit a short analytical paper (roughly four typed and double-spaced pages). Paper topics and detailed instructions will be provided separately.

Exam. There will be an in-class final exam. Exam questions and instructions will be provided separately.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Integrity
By enrolling in the university, students are automatically agreeing to abide by its policies, including those on academic misconduct. Academic integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the TAMU-CC community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are serious academic offenses. Penalties include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow citation practices. For more information, consult the current Undergraduate Bulletin.

Classroom Etiquette
We expect you to conduct yourself with respect for your fellow students, respect for your instructors, and respect for the money you (and your fellows) are paying for your education. That means arriving on time and staying until the end of class (if you have to leave early, please let the instructor know before class begins). That means staying focused on the lecture presentation and questions from other students. Disruptive behavior, such as talking during the lecture, texting, sleeping, arriving late, leaving early, and abusive language will not be tolerated. Please refer to the TAMU-CC Student Code of Conduct for a more complete treatment of your rights and responsibilities while in class.

Electronic Devices
Students may use laptops or tablet computers in class to access assigned readings that have been previously downloaded. Students may also use laptops to take notes. Other electronic devices (smart phones, iPods, etc.) must be turned off and put away during class time. Also, access to the Internet during class time is strictly prohibited. While I believe that technology is a great tool for learning and students are better served learning how to use their devices productively, I will ban electronic devices outright if I find even one student abusing the privilege.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be
approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Disability Services**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Grade Appeal Process**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**PROVISIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE**
This is a tentative schedule. The class schedule and reading assignments may be modified at the instructor’s discretion depending on events that occur throughout the semester. Be sure to complete the assigned readings before each class meeting.

August 27 (R): Opening business
September 1 (T): East Asia: Historical Overview Map Quiz

China Module

September 3 (R): Qing China: Troubles Within, Worries Without

September 8 (T): Principles of the People: The Nationalist Revolution

September 10 (R): “The Sick Man of Asia?”: China Under the Carving Knife
September 15 (T): Meet Mr. Science and Mr. Democracy: The May 4th Movement  
September 24 (R): Careful Steps and Great Leaps: How to Build Socialism in a Feudal Society  
September 28 (T): The Four (or is it Five?) Modernizations: The Legacy of Deng Xiaoping  

**China Module Paper Due on October 1!**

**Japan Module**

October 1 (R): Tokugawa/Meiji Japan: Revere the Emperor! Expel the Barbarian!  
October 6 (T): The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: Japan’s Manifest Destiny?  
October 8 (R): Japan as the Universal: Taishō Cosmopolitanism  
	October 13 (T): The Shōwa Restoration: The Shape of Japanese Fascism  
October 15 (R): The Asia-Pacific War  
October 20 (T): Living Under an American Nuclear Umbrella  
October 22 (R): “The Emptiness of Affluence?”: The Triumph and Tragedy of “Economics First”  

**Japan Module Paper Due on October 27!**

**Korea Module**

October 27 (T): Choson Korea: The Upheavals of Unexceptional Men  
October 29 (R): November Thirty-Five Years in the Wilderness: Korea as a Colony of Japan  
November 3 (T): Modernization and the Truncheon: The Problems of Colonial Modernity  
November 5 (R): Close Focus: Division and Civil War: The Korean War  
November 10 (T): The Juche Ideal: Anti-Colonial Revolution and Modernity in North Korea  
November 12 (R): Politics in a National Security State: Authoritarianism in South Korea  
November 17 (T): Generations Rasied on Tear Gas: Democracy in South Korea  

**Korea Module Paper Due November 19!**
November 19 (R): East Asia and the World

November 24 (T): Revising the Long Twentieth Century in East Asian History

November 26 (R): No Class (Thanksgiving)

December 1 (T): East Asia in the Twentieth-First Century

Final Exam: TBA