

Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Shanghai

Course Code / Title: (SH/EAST 252) The Making of Modern East Asia

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings: East Asian Studies / History, International Relations, Political Science

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

This course uses a blend of approaches from the humanities and social sciences to introduce the histories, societies, and cultures of East Asia. Its goal is to build a broad understanding of the modern historical development of China, Korea, and Japan. Materials on Vietnam may also be included. Students first study the pre-modern legacies that shaped each of these civilizations and intertwined their societies. Then the course will turn to the crises of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the quests for resolution, and the pursuit of national identities in a rapidly emerging and often violent modern world order.

Students work to understand how nations create their identities by separating an “us” from “them.” One theme explored is how a sense of nationalism built during the process of creating national identities contributed to imperialism, the outbreak of wars, and even the perpetration of atrocities. Additional course themes include revolutionary resistance, communism and democracy, feminism, and wars of the 20th century (WWI, WWII, and the Cold War). The class also analyzes the role of historical memory in relation to World War Two through topics such as “comfort women,” the Nanjing Massacre, and the bombing of Hiroshima and how they impact regional relations to this day. At least one field class allows students to interpret a course topic within the local context.

Content warning:

At times, this course intentionally invites students to engage with readings and content that are controversial. Students might find this disturbing. The intention is not to endorse perspectives but rigorously engage with them. If certain material is emotionally challenging, students can discuss it with the professor before or after class. Students may also leave the classroom without academic penalty if the discussion becomes too emotionally challenging. Students are, however, responsible for all missed material and should arrange to get notes from another student or see the professor individually.

Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

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- distinguish unifying characteristics of the region's cultures and histories as a whole, as well as unique aspects of the individual societies;
- understand historical global processes linked to East Asia;
- relate historical events and socio-economic structures to cultural and political practices on national and regional levels; and
- advance or refine the following skills: reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources; gathering research, evaluating evidence, and formulating conclusions; and communicating in a clear, concise, and cogent manner.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend each class as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Active participation is essential. Students are required to read all assigned materials before each class session. In classroom discussions students should display an understanding of the assigned materials, thoughtful analysis, creative and fresh insights, and the ability to ask questions that advance group comprehension of class themes. Reading assignments average about 50-80 pages per week.

In addition to preparation for and participation in class, graded assignments include:

- Three quizzes. These tests of less than one-hour that cover the readings, lectures, field classes, and discussions for specific parts of the course. They may include Identification questions (IDs) that will require you to explain the significance of an event, concept, or term; or have short essays that ask about the thesis and your analysis of an assigned reading, for instance.
- A collaborative museum exhibition project called "The History of X as told by X," which requires the group to present ideas for a museum exhibit that reveals a history you want to tell. The project work is staggered throughout the semester and culminates in a research paper and then a final group "exhibition" presentation. Detailed directions are shared in class and on Canvas for each step of the project,

Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

- 20% Three tests 7, 7, and 6% each
- 20% Class preparation and discussion
- 60% A "museum exhibit" collaborative project – The History of X as Told by X
 - 5% Topic statement and preliminary bibliography
 - 10% The exhibition proposal
 - 20% Research paper introducing the objects/evidence the exhibition and their relevance
 - 20% Final group exhibit presentation
 - 5% Assessment, self and peer

Class preparation and participation is assessed according to the following guidelines:

Grade	Discussion	Reading/Preparation
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A	Excellent: consistent contributor; offers original analysis and comments; always has ideas on readings and class topics and easily connects them to larger ideas. Takes care not to dominate discussion.	Demonstrates fluency with all readings; thoughtfully and critically uses resultant understanding to formulate comments and advance the class discussion.
B	Good: frequent, willing, and able contributor; offers thoughtful and critical comments and makes connections between class themes and readings. Comments tend to advance class learning through discussion.	Demonstrates knowledge of most readings; sometimes provides a competent analysis of them or makes meaningful connections to the class discussion.
C	Can Improve: sporadic contributor; comments and questions often show a lack of understanding of key concepts; comments are often of a general nature; may digress or contribute in unhelpful ways.	Displays familiarity with few readings; rarely demonstrates analytical thought.
D	Subpar: rarely contributes; tends to quote text or repeats own comments or those of others. Comments are disconnected from topics and do not advance class learning.	Little apparent familiarity with the assigned material or application to relevant topics.
F	Failing: Absent from or does not participate in class. Online or using phone during class.	No familiarity with readings and not able to apply their content in class discussion.

Reading

Bergère, Marie-Claire. "The Revolutionary Center." In *Shanghai: China's Gateway to Modernity*, 177-212. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2009.

Brook, Timothy. *Documents on the Rape of Nanking*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1999.

Burns, Ken, and Lynn Novick, dir. "Déjà Vu, Episode 1." *The Vietnam War*. Florentine Films, WETA, and National Endowment for the Humanities. Documentary original release by PBS, 2017.

Demick, Barbara. *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*. New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau, 2009.

Dror, Olga. "Establishing Ho Chi Minh's Cult: Vietnamese Traditions and Their Transformations." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 75, no. 2 (2016): 433-466.

Du, Jesse. "The Crossfire of Memories and Identities: The East Asian Controversy over Hiroshima and Nagasaki." University of Washington, Jackson School of International Studies, *JSIS Journal* 8, no. 1 (2019): 1-17. <https://jsis.washington.edu/jsjournal/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2020/04/JSJ-ISSUE-SPRING-2019-V8N1-Crossfire-Jesse-Du.pdf>.

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley and Anne Walthall. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*,

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Volume II: From 1600. Third edition. Boston, MA: Cengage Group, 2013.

Fogel, Joshua. "China and Japan: Neighbors, Friends, Enemies." *Facing History & Ourselves*. Boston, MA, last updated October 27, 2014. Video. <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/china-and-japan-neighbors-friends-enemies>.

_____. "'Shanghai-Japan': The Japanese Residents' Association of Shanghai," *Journal of Asian Studies* 59, no. 4 (Nov. 2000): 927-50.

Hayslip, Le Ly. *When Heaven and Earth Changed Places: A Vietnamese Woman's Journey from War to Peace*. New York: Anchor Books, 2017.

Higuchi, Ichiyo. *The Shade of Spring Leaves: The Life of Higuchi Ichiyo, With Nine of Her Best Stories*, translated by Robert Lyons Danly. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 1992.

Honda Katsuichi, *The Nanjing Massacre: A Japanese Journalist Confronts Japan's National Shame*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1999.

Kang, Hildi. *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2001.

Kanno Sugako. "Reflections on the Way to the Gallows." In *Reflections on the Way to the Gallows: Rebel Women in Prewar Japan*, edited by Mikiso Hane, 85-118. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1993.

Katsu Kokichi. *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*, translated and edited by Teruko Craig. University of Arizona Press, 1991.

Kim, Richard E. *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2nd ed., 2011.

Kim, Uchang. "The Agony of Cultural Construction: Politics and Culture in Modern Korea." In *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, edited by Hagen Koo, 163-195. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1993.

Lee, Peter H., Yŏngho Ch'oe, and Wm. Theodore De Bary. *Sources of Korean Tradition*, vol. 2. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2000.

Lin Zexu. "Commissioner Lin Zexu's Letter to Queen Victoria, 1839." Adapted from *Chinese Repository* 8 (February 1840): 497-503; reprinted in William H. McNeil and Mitsuko Iriye, eds., *Modern Asia and Africa, Readings in World History* 9: 111-18. New York: Oxford University Press, 1971.

Louie, Kam. "Popular Culture and Masculinity Ideals in East Asia, with Special Reference to China." *Journal of Asian Studies* 71, no. 4 (2012): 929-943.

Lu, Hanchao. *Beyond the Neon Lights: Everyday Shanghai in the Early Twentieth Century*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2004.

Mitter, Rana. "Behind the Scenes at the Museum: Nationalism, History and Memory in the Beijing

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- War of Resistance Museum, 1987-1997." *The China Quarterly* 161 (Mar. 2000): 279-293.
- Reich, Pauline C., and Atsuko Fukuda. "Japan's Literary Feminists: The "Seito" Group." *Signs* 2, no. 1 (Autumn, 1976): 280-29.
- Richey, Jeffrey L. *Confucius in East Asia*. Ann Arbor, MI: Association for Asian Studies, 2013.
- Roden, Donald. "Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan." *The American Historical Review* 85, no. 3 (June 1980): 511-34.
- Rottmann, Allison. "To the Countryside: Communist Recruitment in Wartime Shanghai." In *Cities in Motion*, edited by Sherman Cochran et al., Chap. 4. Berkeley, CA: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California Berkeley, 2007.
- Sen, Transen, and Victor Mair. *Traditional China in Asian and World History*. Ann Arbor, MI: Association for Asian Studies, 2012.
- Soh, C. Sarah. *The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Stalker, Nancy K. *Japan: History and Culture from Classical to Cool*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2018.
- Takenaka, Akiko. *Yasukuni Shrine: History, Memory, and Japan's Unending Postwar*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i, 2015.
- Tanizaki, Junichiro. *Naomi*. New York: Vintage, 2001.
- Taya Cook, Haruko and Theodore F. Cook. *Japan at War: An Oral History*. New York: New Press, 1993.
- Tokuda, Shusei. *Rough Living*. Translated by Richard Torraine. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2001.
- Vaporis, Constantine N., ed. *Voices of Early Modern Japan: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life during the Age of the Shoguns*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014.
- Vu, Trong Phung. *Dumb Luck: A Novel*. Translated by Nguyen Nguyet Cam and Peter Zinoman. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2002.
- White, Merry. *Coffee Life in Japan*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2012.
- Womack, Sarah. "The Remakings of a Legend: Women and Patriotism in the Hagiography of the Tru'ng Sisters." *Crossroads: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 9, no. 2 (1996): 31-50.
- Xu Naiji. "Memorial on Legalizing Opium, June 10, 1836." In *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, edited by Janet Chen et al., 110-14. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2013.
- Yang, Daqing. "Living Soldiers, Re-lived Memories?: Japanese Veterans and Postwar Testimony

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of War Atrocities.” In *Ruptured Histories: War, Memory, and the Post-Cold War in Asia*, edited by Sheila Jager and Rana Mitter, 78-98. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007.

Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Past and Present in Vietnam

- The Vietnam War
- Revealing the themes in East Asian history

Topic 2: China, to the Second World War (1500-1937)

- China’s ancient engagement with the Eurasian world
- Religions, philosophies, and the Confucian state in China
- The impact of western imperialism during the Qing; rise of nationalism
- Republican-era Shanghai modernity; shikumen and *haipai* culture

Topic 3: Korea, Through the Japanese Occupation (1598-1945)

- Korean Confucianism and other schools of thought
- Traditional Korean society: Slavery, social status, rebellion
- Korea Under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1896-1945
- Impact and Legacies of Japanese colonization

Topic 4: Japan, to the Second World War (1603-1931)

- Buddhism, Shinto, and Confucian influences
- Tokugawa state and society; Samurai in society
- Meiji Restoration; modernity and industrialization
- Japanese democracy and radicalism
- Japanese imperialism; the rise of totalitarianism

Topic 5: Vietnam: Dynastic and Colonial (1600-1954)

- History, nation, and memory: the Trung sisters
- Chinese and western imperialism; nationalism and Ho Chi Minh

Topic 6: World War Two: History and Memory

- Japanese imperialism in China; the Nanjing Massacre
- The Chinese War of Resistance Against Japan; Occupied Shanghai
- Japanese Imperialism in Chinese Museums
- Impact of sexual slavery in Korea and China; Japanese wartime atrocities
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Topic 7: The Korean War and Its Aftermath

- Division of the Korean nation
- North Korea: Kim Il Sung; Juche as state ideology; Ordinary lives
- South Korean: transition from autocracy to democracy; Asian Tiger economy
- The influence of tradition; Hallyu or the Korean Wave

Topic 8: Revolutionary China and Reform

- Civil War; the establishment of the PRC

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- The Mao Years through Deng Xiaoping's Reform and Opening

Topic 9: Post-War Japan

- American occupation; post-war recovery; Yasukuni Shrine
- Economic growth and democracy

Topic 10: Contemporary Northeast Asia

- Regional dynamics and how the past shapes the present