

**Division of Humanities
Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA1520
Course Title: Modern East Asia
Course Offered in: Spring 2021
Course Instructor: Dr. Xilin Guo

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the history of political, social, economic, and cultural changes in East Asia—primarily China, Japan, and Korea—from the 1800s to the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s. We will examine the tumultuous interactions of these East Asian countries with the West and with each other. To locate the historical origins of twenty-first-century East Asia, we will study the internal and external dynamics that undermined the Confucian orders, fomented revolutions and wars, brought unprecedented human suffering and economic disasters, generated extraordinary prosperity, and developed democratic and authoritarian institutions in different societies.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. describe the political, social, economic, and cultural changes in East Asia from the 1800s to the end of the Cold War;
2. examine the interactions of East Asian countries (mainly China, Japan, and Korea) with the West and with each other; and
3. discuss the internal and external dynamics that underpinned these changes and interactions.

Course Outline:

Week 1 Feb 6	Introduction: Ming-Qing China, Edo/Tokugawa Japan, and Choson/Joseon Korea <i>Readings:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textbook, Chapters 15-17.• Document: Emperor Qianlong's edicts to Lord McCartney (1793)
Week 2 TBC	The age of Western imperialism: China's Self-Strengthening vs. Japan's Meiji Restoration <i>Readings:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Textbook, "Connections: Western Imperialism", Chapters 18-20.• Documents: Feng Guifen, "On the Adoption of Western Learning" (1861); Fukuzawa Yukichi, "Autobiography" (1897)

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<p>Week 3 Feb 20</p>	<p>The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) and China's failed reforms <i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook, Chapters 18, 24. • Documents: Kang Youwei's memorial to Emperor Guangxu (1898); Reform edict of the Qing imperial government (1901); Sun Yat-sen, "The Three Stages of Revolution" (1918)
<p>Week 4 Feb 27</p>	<p>China's intellectual awakening and rising nationalism, 1910s-1930s <i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook, Chapters 24-25. • Documents: Chen Duxiu, "Our Final Awakening" (1916); Hu Shi, "Our Attitude Toward Modern Western Civilization" (1926); Edgar Snow's account of "The Long March" (1938) <p><i>Documentary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: A Century of Revolution – China in Revolution (1911-1949) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCJkt3bisVM)
<p>Week 5 Mar 6</p>	<p>Korea under Japanese rule and Japan's road to war <i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook, Chapters 21-23. • Documents: Korea's "Declaration of Independence" (1919); Ishihara Kanji, "Personal Opinion on the Manchuria-Mongolia Problem" (1931); Arita Hachirō, "The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" (1940)
<p>Week 6 Mar 13</p>	<p>China's War of Resistance (1931-1945) and the U.S. role <i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook, "Connections: World War II", Chapter 26. • Pomfret, <i>The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom</i>, Chapter 21. • Documents: Chiang Kai-shek, "China Cannot Be Conquered" (1939); Nagai Ryūtarō, "Some Questions for President Roosevelt" (1939); John S. Service, "The Need for Greater Realism in Our Relations with Chiang Kai-shek" (1944) <p><i>Documentary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: A Century of Revolution – China in Revolution (1911-1949)
<p>Week 7 Mar 20</p>	<p>China in civil war (1946-1949); Japan under U.S. occupation (1945-1952) <i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook, Chapter 26. • Chang, <i>The Hijacked War</i>, Chapter 1. • Documents: Mao Zedong, "On the People's Democratic Dictatorship" (1949); The Constitution of Japan (1947); U.S.-Japan Security Treaty (1951) <p><i>Documentary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China: A Century of Revolution – China in Revolution (1911-1949)
<p>Week 8 Mar 27</p>	<p>China under Mao and the fate of Taiwan <i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook, Chapter 27 • Pomfret, <i>The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom</i>, Chapter 31. • Documents: Mao Zedong, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People" (1957); Peng Dehuai, " 'Letter of Opinion' to Mao Zedong on the Great Leap Forward" (1959)

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	<p><i>Documentary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China: A Century of Revolution – The Mao Years (1949-1976) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMaXSKH2w3c)
<p>Week 9 Apr 10</p>	<p>The Korean War</p> <p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook, Chapter 28. Chang, <i>The Hijacked War</i>, Introduction, Chapter 4, Chapter 8 (optional). Documents: President Truman, Statement on Formosa, Jan. 5, 1950; President Truman, Statement on the Situation in Korea, June 27, 1950 <p><i>Film clip:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taegukgi 태극기 휘날리며 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vqb_DzL8xmw) 20:00
<p>Week 10 Apr 17</p>	<p>The Cultural Revolution and China’s rapprochement with the U.S. and Japan</p> <p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook: Chapter 27 Pomfret, <i>The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom</i>, Chapters 34-36. Documents: Shanghai Communiqué (1972); Japan-China Joint Communiqué (1972); U.S.-China Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (1979); Taiwan Relations Act (1979) <p><i>Documentary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment: China - The Week that Changed the World (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyCZDvec5sY)
<p>Week 11 Apr 24</p>	<p>China’s “reform and opening up” and the 1989 democracy movement</p> <p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook, Chapter 30. Documents: Deng Xiaoping, “Uphold the Four Basic Principles” (1979); Fang Lizhi, “The Social Responsibility of Today’s Intellectuals” (1985) <p><i>Documentary:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Gate of Heavenly Peace (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GhwuAR0Apc)
<p>Week 12 TBC</p>	<p>Group presentations</p> <p>As this week’s lecture falls on a public holiday, we will not meet on the day. Instead, we will try to find a common timeslot for all groups to present together so that you can share thoughts and learn from each other. If that’s not possible, each group will then find a timeslot to deliver its presentation separately to the instructor.</p>
<p>Week 13 May 8</p>	<p>Japan’s “bubble economy”, two Koreas, and East Asia in the 21st century</p> <p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook, Chapters 28-29; “Connections: East Asia in the Twenty-First Century” Pomfret, <i>The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom</i>, Chapter 40 Documents: Pak Chŏnghŭi, <i>To Build a Nation</i> (1971); Kim Taejung, “My Country, My Aspiration” (1985)

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Planned Assessment Tasks:

1. Weekly timeline/chronology	15%
2. Participation	15%
3. Pop quizzes	15%
4. Group presentation	25%
5. Final essay questions	30%

1. **Weekly timeline/chronology:** Before each class, you should submit a timeline with at least **TEN events** drawn from the textbook, required readings, and other sources. The timeline can help bring some order to the complex sequence of events we will be studying. By the end of the semester, you should combine all timelines into one file and submit to Canvas.
2. **Participation:** Instead of taking attendance, you are expected to participate actively in Zoom class or on the e-learning platform. Some discussion questions will be posted on Canvas before each lecture.
3. **Pop quizzes:** Three pop quizzes will be given in randomly chosen sessions. The quizzes will consist of straightforward questions designed to motivate you to keep up with the lecture content.
4. **Group presentation:** After the add-drop period, you will form into groups of 3-4 to do a presentation on a historical topic. Details will be given in due course.
5. **Final essay questions:** At the end of the semester, you are required to respond to a few essay questions designed to stimulate you to reflect on some general themes discussed in this course.

Readings:

1. (Textbook) Ebrey, Patricia, and Anne Walthall, *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*. 3rd ed. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014.
2. Pomfret, John. *The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2016.
3. Chang, David Cheng, *The Hijacked War: The Story of Chinese POWs in the Korean War*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2020.
4. de Bary, Wm. Theodore, ed. *Sources of East Asian Tradition*. Vol. 2. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008.