

HUMA 1520
Modern East Asia
Summer 2018

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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, to a lesser extent Taiwan and Vietnam—from the 1800s to the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s. We will examine the tumultuous interactions of these East Asia 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, developed democratic and authoritarian institutions in different societies.

REQUIRED TEXT

Patricia Buckley Ebrey and Anne Walthall, *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* (Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Lecture attendance is required, as the lectures include materials not provided in the textbook. Students are expected to have completed all readings assigned for that day prior to the class meeting.

ASSESSMENTS

Attendance & Pop quizzes	20%
Timeline/Chronology	10%
Mid-term examination	25%
Final examination	30%
Oral History interview report	15%

Extra Credit (3%): a 5 to 8-minute documentary film based on your oral history interview

1. **Attendance and Pop quizzes.** Instead of taking attendance, several pop quizzes will be given in the first five minutes of randomly chosen sessions. These straightforward quizzes are designed to motivate you to keep up with the **readings of the day**.
2. **Timeline/Chronology.** You are expected to build a timeline of major events drawn from readings and lectures. The timeline can help bring some order to the complex sequence of events we will be studying.
3. **The mid-term and final exams** contain map exercises, photo and key term identifications/short answers, multiple-choice questions, and a short essay. A study guide will be provided before the exam.
4. **Oral history interview project.**
 - a) Each student can conduct an oral history interview on one topic of your choice. You are responsible for locating the interviewee and conducting the interview.
 - b) Audio or video record the interview with the interviewee's consent.
 - c) The final oral history interview report should situate your interviewee's story into a larger historical context, and you should explain how it shed light on the history of modern East Asia or the broader world.
 - d) For the final report, while you will draw upon the oral history account as the primary source, you should cite at least one scholarly book or article as secondary sources.

- e) Your timeline for the class should be customized to include key events in your interviewee's life.
- f) Format and length: 4 to 6 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font.

LECTURES AND READING SCHEDULE:

Lecture	
1	Ming-Qing China, Edo/Tokugawa Japan, and Choson Korea Readings: Chapters 15-16.
2	The age of Western imperialism: The Opium Wars and Meiji Restoration Readings: Chapters 18-21.
3	China in reform and revolution, Japan's rise, and its annexation of Korea Readings: Chapters 22-24.
4	Rising nationalism and communism Readings: Chapter 25.
5	Japanese expansion, Chinese resistance, and Korean independence movement Readings: Chapter 25.
6	The Pacific War Readings: Chapter 26 and additional readings (to be provided).
7	China in civil war, Japan under U.S. occupation, and divided Korea Reading: Chapter 26.
8	The Korean War Reading: Chapters 27-28.
9	The East Asia Economic Miracle: Taiwan, Japan, and Korea Readings: Chapter 29 and additional readings (to be provided).
10	The Vietnam War Readings: to be provided.
11	China's "reform and opening up"; Japan as No. 1 Reading: Chapters 29-30.
12	South Korea and Taiwan's democratization; China's Tiananmen Crackdown Reading: Chapters 28, 30.
13	The end of the Cold War; reflections