

History 252: Survey of Modern East Asia

Spring 2017 GMU

Classroom: Krug Hall 210 (The location of the class may change. I will be in touch about the classroom as soon as it is known.)

Instructor: Professor Jacqueline Pak

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Recently, the dynamic region of East Asia has become the focus of most turbulent news. What are the historical, political, military, economic, and social dynamics at work behind these dramatic yet ever-growing news of our unusual times? What are the sources of continuity and change? The course will assess the historical and current realities of four nations of East Asia, including North Korea, South Korea, China, and Japan. The historical roots of the current challenges and problems will be studied, along with its unique relationship with the United States. The class will explore the underlying causes of tension, paradox, and dilemmas as well as unparalleled growth and potential of East Asia by analyzing history, politics, security, diplomacy, economy, culture, and society, as well as the issues of youth, technological innovation, and globalization. The class will include lectures, discussions, films, interactive websites, guest speakers, books, and popular culture, and more.

Grading

Attendance/participation: 10%

Self-Introduction Essay: 5%

Homework (instrok.com or subject bibliography for those who have done instrok.com previously): 5%

Map: 10%

Midterm: 30%

Film Review: 10%

Book Review: 10%

Final: 30%

Books

Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, Cengage Learning, 2016* (*Other earlier editions of the book work just as well. They are less expensive.)

Odd Arne Wastad, *Restless Empire: China and the World Since 1750*, (Norwegian history/IR/Cold War prof. of LSE), Basic Books (Perseus Books), 2012

Minxin Pei, *China's Crony Capitalism*, Harvard University Press, 2016

John W. Dower, *Ways of Forgetting, Ways of Remembering*, The New Press, 2014 (Pulitzer winner for the history book, *Embracing Defeat*)

Carter Eckert, *Park Chunghee and Modern Korea: The Roots of Militarism, 1866-1945*, Harvard University Press, 2016

Paul Fischer, *A Kim Jong-Il Production*, Flatiron Books, 2015

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*, Oxford University Press, 2007

Klaus Schwab, *The Fourth Industrial Revolution*, Crown Business, 2017 (Davos Forum President)

Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*, Hogarth, 2016 (Booker Award, 2016)

Recommended History Textbooks on Modern Period

For China, Immanuel Hsu, *Rise of Modern China*, and Jonathan Spence, *Search for Modern China*, are the classics. John Fairbank's book is a standard work also by the founding academic of the field of Chinese history in the U.S. For Korea, Edward Wagner et al., *History of Korea: Old and New*, published by Ilchogak work fine. (Here, the chapters on traditional Korea are quite good, but not the chapter on the colonial period of Korea.) Andrew Nahm's introduction to Korean history book works well too. Both Wagner and Nahm were pioneers of the field of Korean history in the West. Mikiso Hane's book is often used as class textbook on Japan, as the above mentioned history books for China or Korea. A native historian's work on one's own country should always be read as well as an outsider's work for a balanced perspective.

Class Schedule

1. 1/25 Introduction: Themes and Issues
 - The Past, Present, and Future
 - South Korea, North Korea, China, and Japan: Hallyu to Nuclear Problems, Economic Rise and Fall, and Youth to Demographic Change

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Part Four: The Age of Western Imperialism, 1800-1900, Chapter 21

North Korea

2. 1/30 North Korea Now: Behind the Nuclear Crisis in the Neo-Cold War Era

-The North Korean Style: Leadership and Society

-The International Relations of East Asia: The China Card

Due: Self-Introduction Essay

- 2/1 Socialist Dynasty: From Kim Il-sung to Kim Jong Il to Kim Jong Un – “Juche” to “Byongjin”

Film: “Under the Sun”

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 28

3. 2/6 North Korean Policy or Nordpolitik: “Sunshine” Engagement or Cold War Confrontation?

-Ideological Conflicts of South-South Division: Korean War and Debates

-South Korea’s Dilemma

2/8 Human Rights, Sanctions, and Unification

-Human Rights vs. Humanitarianism

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 18-19

Due: Film Review, “Under the Sun”

South Korea

4. 2/13 Park Geunhye: A President Under Fire, 2012-2016

-Father Park to the Daughter Park: Paradox of Park Chung Hee, 1960-1979

-The Han Miracle: Rise of Chaebol and Korean Economy

-Rapid Economic Development under Authoritarian Rule

-Candlelight Demonstrations: Symbols and Meaning

2/15 Dictatorship vs. Democracy: From Rhee to Upcoming Election

Reading: EW, Chapter 22; Minxin Pei, *China’s Crony Capitalism*, 2016

5. 2/20 No Class

2/22 Korea’s Heroes of the Past: Sejong and Admiral Yi Sunshin

Reading: EW, Chapter 23

6. 2/27 Modernizing Leaders and Pioneers: Dr. Seo Jaepil (Philip Jaisohn) and -From Tradition to Modernity: Enlightenment, Self-Strengthening, and Rise of Nationalism

Due: Instrok.com

3/1 Ahn Changho from Choson Dynasty to Colonial Rule

-Quest for Independence: Toward a Birth of New Republic

-History and Historiography: Colonialism, Nationalism, and Controversies

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 20

7. 3/6 Midterm Review

3/8 Midterm

- 8. Spring Break 3/13-3/17**

East Asia and Gender

9. 3/20 Gender in East Asia: Comfort Women Problem
-Imperialism, Militarism, and Sexism

3/22 East Asia and History: Debates
-Historical Legacy of Colonialism and Wars

Reading: EW, Chapter 24

China

10. 3/27 Current China: Xi Jinping and the Communist Party
-Rise of Communism: World and China

3/29 Chinese Communism: From Mao to Deng
-Long March to Cultural Revolution (1966-1976):
Great Leap Forward, 1958-1962; Great Famine, 1959-1961
-Tiananmen Square and Deng Xioping, 1989

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 26

11. 4/3 China's Past: Rise and Fall of Dynasties in Premodern Era
-Significance of Ming China's Maritime Adventures

- 4/5 From Qing Dynasty to the New Republic
 -China's Humiliating Century
 -In Search of Wealth and Power: East and West
 -Taiping Rebellion, Opium War, and Boxer Rebellion
 -Sun Yat-sen, Chiang Kaishek, and Mao Zedong

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 25

12. 4/10 China and the U.S.: Present and Future Challenges
 -China and Human Rights

Japan

- 4/12 Guest Lecture: East Asian Tradition, Culture, Performance, and Popular Music
 -Ethnomusicologist, Professor Rob Provine

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 27

13. 4/17 Japan: Abe to "Normal Nation" – Historical Amnesia to Remilitarization of the Country
 -Japan in World War II
 -Japan in the Pacific War

Reading: John Dower's books or other works on Japan by consultation with professor

- 4/19 From Samurai Era to Meiji Reform

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 28-29

14. 4/24 Japan, Inc.: Rise of Japanese Economy
 -Abenomics and Lost Decades
 -Foreigners and Minorities in Japan

Due: Book Review, John Dower's book or other historian's books

- 4/26 Contemporary Japan

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall, Chapter 30

15. 5/1 Final Review
 5/3 Conclusion

Final Exam May 10, 2017

10:30am-1:15pm

Extra Credit Opportunities: Films and books relevant to the course will be assigned to be reviewed for extra credit opportunity in class. For those students who wish to write a report or senior/honor thesis can also consult with me about a subject of the paper. These papers can also become extra credit opportunity.

Volunteer, Internship, Teaching Tech Aide, and Research Assistant Opportunities: For the students who wish to have these opportunities, please come and consult with me.

Class Policy

- 1) Academic integrity policy of the George Mason University will be strictly upheld concerning plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct in the course. Proper citation and bibliography rules are expected to be closely followed in all research papers and assignments.
- 2) Only printed papers submitted in class will be accepted. No email version will be accepted for any assignment or test.
- 3) For late papers and assignments, a student's grade will become zero for that particular assignment if it is not submitted by a reasonable due date announced and assigned in class.
- 4) Computers are only to be used for note-taking purpose in class. A student will be told to close the computer if it is being used for other tasks not related to class.