# Department of History and Art History / Schar School of Policy & Government George Mason University

**Winter/Spring 2021**
**Thursdays 4:30-7:10 pm**
**BlackBoard Collaborate Ultra**

**Instructor: Dr. Gerrit van der Wees**
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**Office: BlackBoard Collaborate Ultra**
**Office hours: 3:30-4:20 pm**

## HIST 387-DL3 / GOVT 444-019: History of Taiwan

### Course Description:

Taiwan has a rich history, with its strategic geographic location attracting a succession of pirates, colonial powers, and settlers driven by poverty and chaos in China to this fertile land originally populated by Austronesian peoples.

Today, Taiwan is an international flashpoint, the one place where the possibility of war between major powers exists. This course will explore the factors that have created this complex situation: claims to sovereignty over the island over the course of centuries, the post-World War II matrix of decolonization and self-determination, shifting U.S. policy toward the island, and the drive for democracy with its attendant heightened sense of a unique Taiwanese identity developed over the past decades.

This course is designed to familiarize students with the history and people of Taiwan and its success in transforming itself from an authoritarian, underdeveloped country into a free and vibrant democracy. The course will also explore the complex triangular relationship among Taiwan, China and the United States.

The first part of the course will survey the history of Taiwan and will cover the original inhabitants, the Dutch and Spanish occupations, the Koxinga period, the Manchu (Ch'ing) era, Japanese colonial rule, and the Republic of China on Taiwan after World War II. The second and third parts will focus on the transition to democracy as well as explore Taiwan's relationship with China and the U.S.

We conclude with Taiwan's arrival into the 21st Century as a vibrant democracy. As we travel through the country's history, we will also touch on a broad range of issues such as the environment, arts and culture.

### Required Texts

Jonathan Manthorpe, *Forbidden Nation: A History of Taiwan*, Palgrave/MacMillan, 2009.

Jerome F. Keating and April C.J. Lin: *Island in the Stream; A quick case study of Taiwan's Complex History*. SMC Publishing, 2008. Available online at http://taiwan228.epizy.com/

Milo L. Thornberry: *Fireproof Moth; A Missionary in Taiwan's White Terror.* Sunbury Press, 2011.

***Optional reading:***
*Nancy Bernkopf Tucker. Strait Talk: United States-Taiwan Relations and the Crisis with China.* Harvard University Press. 2009

Additional articles will be assigned and given to students or posted on Blackboard.

## Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class attendance and participation (30%). Regular class attendance and active participation in class discussions are expected of all students. Although the class will be conducted primarily in a lecture format, students are invited to contribute their thoughtful comments in class discussions.

2. Three 6-7 page analysis essays (35%). Professor will provide three or four topics, with appropriate readings and suggestions for further research, for students to choose from and to write up their analyses. Papers should include footnotes of sources used and quoted. The papers will be due on the dates listed in the syllabus. The papers may be typed and handed in or posted to the professor's email account: gvanderw@gmu.edu

3. Take-home final examination (35%). The examination questions will be distributed during the last day of class.

## Add and drop deadlines for classes

The deadlines for adding or dropping courses in the Spring 2020 Semester are given below:

- Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course): January 26th, 2021
- Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course): February 09th, 2021

## Honor Code and Plagiarism Statement:

*To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:* **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**

For details on how the honor system at GMU works, please see:
http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/index.htm#honor_system_and_code

## Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (703) 993-2474 for assistance.

## Use of Cell Phones During Class

As a courtesy to the instructor and to fellow students, please turn off your cell phones during the class or switch them to a silent mode.

## Class Schedule and Assignments

For details of administrative deadlines, please consult GMU Spring 2021 Academic Calendar.

## Global Understanding under Mason Core

This course has been approved under the **Global Understanding** category under **Mason Core.** The goal of this category is to help students see the world from multiple perspectives, reflect upon their positions in a global society, and be prepared for future engagement as global citizens. While it may include a historical perspective, global understanding courses focus primarily on a contemporary understanding of one's place in a global society.

**Courses in this category must meet a minimum of three of the following learning outcomes:**

1. Identify and articulate one's own values and how those values influence their interactions and relationships with others, both locally and globally.

2. Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies.

3. Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies.

4. Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field

| Date | Topics | Assignment |
|---|---|---|
| 01/28 | Introduction, course requirements, and introduction to Taiwan today: its geography, people, political system, and economy<br><br>The origins: aboriginal tribes and expansion across the South Pacific | Keating, Chronology and preface<br>Manthorpe, preface, 1-20 |
| 02/04 | 15 and 16th Century: the European explorers make their way to East Asia; the Spice Trade | Keating, 01-05<br>Manthorpe, 21-42 |
| 02/11 | 1624 – 1662 the Dutch and Spanish periods in Taiwan and the Fall of Fort Zeelandia;<br>1662-1683: Koxinga family rule, the Kingdom of Tungning | Keating, 06-10<br>Manthorpe, 43-53 |
| 02/18 | 1683-1887: The Manchu (Ch'ing) rule of Taiwan | Keating, 10-16<br>Manthorpe, 54-110 |
| 02/25 | 1887-1895: The Taiwan Republic; first independent republic in Asia<br>**First paper due** | Keating, 17-24<br>Manthorpe, 111-140 |
| 03/04 | 1895-1945: Sino-Japanese war and the cession of Taiwan to Japan. The Japanese period. | Keating, 25-32<br>Manthorpe, 141-164 |
| 03/11 | 1945-1972: Under Kuomintang rule | Keating, 37-54<br>Manthorpe, 165-186<br>Thornberry, Fireproof Moth |
| 03/18 | 1971-1979: Towards de-recognition | Keating, 57-66<br>Manthorpe, 187-210<br>Class presentations |
| 03/25 | 1979-1989: Transition to democracy<br>**Second paper due** | Keating 67-80<br>Manthorpe, 211-226<br>Class presentations |
| 04/01 | 1989-1996: Democratic consolidation under President Lee Teng-hui | Manthorpe, 227-238<br>Class presentations |
| 04/08 | 1996-2000: The Taiwan missile crisis. President Bill Clinton's *Three Noes* | Manthorpe, 239-258<br>Class presentations |
| 04/15 | 2000-2008: The Administration of DPP President Chen Shui-bian<br>**Third paper due** | Manthorpe, 259-270<br>Class presentations |

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| 04/22 | 2008-2016: The Kuomintang returns to power. The Administration of President Ma Ying-jeou | Class presentations |
| 04/29 | 2016 – present. President Tsai Ing-wen's election victory. The DPP comes back to power. Significance and implications. Last day of class. | Class presentations |
| 05/07 | **Deadline for take home Final Exam** | |