History 176b:  
*Japan and Korea in Modern World History*  
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Heyward Parker James  
Email: hpijames423@gmail.com  
Voice/text: 617.797.8024  
Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:50 p.m.  
Office hours: Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (and by appointment)

This course will investigate the history of the relationship between Japan and Korea from early times to the present. For centuries, Korea acted as a conduit through which continental Asian culture was transmitted to Japan. Early Korea was dynamic, prosperous, cosmopolitan, and very much ahead of Japan in terms of technology and culture. By the beginning of the 17th century, however, changes in the political economy of Japan and its disastrous invasion of Korea helped cause these conditions to reverse. Japan entered its Edo-period commercial revolution, a time of political integration, social transformation, and cultural florescence. Meanwhile, Korea turned more inward and became increasingly dominated by its feudal Yangban aristocracy. In the 19th century, Meiji Japan transformed itself into a modern state with colonial designs on Korea. Japan’s colonization of Korea was brutal and is much resented by Koreans to this day. However, recent scholarship underscores the significance of the colonial period in shaping Korea’s transition to modernity. Post-war coverage of Japan will chart its emergence as a wealthy, democratic nation with a post-industrial economy. Coverage of post-war Korea will examine a divided peninsula with an impoverished, totalitarian North and a dynamic, democratic South.

**Grading**

The course grade will be computed according to the following formula:

- Midterm Exam – 20%  
- Research Paper – 40%  
- Final Exam – 25%  
- Class Participation – 15%

**Learning Objectives**

Students taking this course will become familiar with the histories of Japan and Korea and with the complex interactions between the two. Students will develop improved critical thinking skills and the habit of employing them automatically. Students will also develop enhanced skills in research, analysis, organization, and writing in order to produce a major research paper.
ELECTRONICS POLICY

There will be NO USE OF MOBILE TELEPHONES OR LAPTOP COMPUTERS DURING CLASS without directly expressed, individual permission granted by the instructor.

Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the university’s policies on academic integrity. For more information, see Section 4, Rights and Responsibilities, at http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srcs/rr/pdfs/RR%202015-16.pdf. Faculty may refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the university administration. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, failing grades being issued, withdrawal from educational programs, and other consequences.

Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week)

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, individual meetings with instructors, preparation for exams, etc.).
Required Books


Suggested Books


Class Schedule

Week One
Lecture:
Thursday, August 27: Course Introduction

Week Two
Lectures:
Tuesday, September 1: Theoretical Overview

Thursday, September 3: Early Japan and Korea

Reading: Cummings, pages 7-26.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Three
Lectures:
Tuesday, September 8: Korea to 1500 – Korea: Strong State, Civilian Elite

Thursday, September 10: NO CLASS

Reading: Cummings, pages 26-46.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Four
Lectures:
Tuesday, September 15: NO CLASS

Thursday, September 17: Joseon Society and Culture

Reading: Cummings, pages 46-85.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Five
Lectures:
Tuesday, September 22: Japan to 1500 – Feudalism in Japan

Thursday, September 24: The Unification of Japan, The Imjinwaeran and its Aftermaths

Reading: Gordon, pages 3-9.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)
Week Six
Lectures:
  Tuesday September 29: NO CLASS
  Thursday, October 1: Japan’s Edo-Period Renaissance
Reading: Gordon, pages 11-46.
  (See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Seven
Lectures:
  Tuesday, October 6: The “Great Divergence”
  Thursday, October 8: The Opium Wars, the Bakumatsu, and the Meiji Restoration
Reading: Gordon, pages 47-92.
  (See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Eight
Lectures:
  Tuesday, October 13: Korea Dithers; Japan Industrializes
  Thursday, October 15: MIDTERM EXAM
Reading: Cummings, pages 85-120; Gordon, pages 93-137.
  (See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Nine
Lectures:
  Tuesday, October 20: Colonizing Korea
  Thursday, October 22: Interwar Modernity in Japan
Reading: Cummings, pages 120-147; Gordon, pages 139-180.
  (See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Ten
Lectures:
  Tuesday, October 27: Colonial Modernity in Korea
  Thursday, October 29: The Rise and Rule of the Kwantung Army
Reading: Cummings, pages 48-174; Gordon, pages 181-201.
  (See Latte for additional reading assignments)
Week Eleven
Lectures:
   Tuesday, November 3: Prelude to WWII
   Thursday, November 5: WWII and Postwar Settlements
Reading: Cummings, pages 174-224; Gordon, pages 202-223.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Twelve
Lectures:
   Tuesday, November 10: Occupation-era Japan
   Thursday, November 12: The Korean War and its Aftermaths
Reading: Cummings, pages 224-298; Gordon, pages 224-241.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Thirteen
Lectures:
   Tuesday, November 17: Japan’s Dynamic Emergence
   Thursday, November 19: South Korea: Military Rule and Economic advancement
Reading: Cummings, pages 298-341; Gordon, pages 243-307.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Fourteen
Lecture:
   Tuesday, November 24: Contemporary Japan
   Thursday, November 26: THANKSGIVING
Reading: Gordon, pages 308-354.
(See Latte for additional reading assignments)
Week Fifteen
Lecture:
  Tuesday, December 1: Contemporary North Korea
  RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
  Thursday, December 3: Contemporary South Korea

Reading: Cummings: pages 343-513
  (See Latte for additional reading assignments)

Week Sixteen
Lecture:
  Tuesday, December 8: Conclusion and Review

Final Examination: (TENTATIVE) Wednesday, December 16, 6-9PM