History 80(b):
East Asia in the Modern World
Course Syllabus

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Office hours: Thursdays 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (and by appointment)

Course Description:

This course is designed to survey the modern history of eastern Asia from the 18th century to the present. The class will focus primarily on the histories of China and Japan, with coverage of Korea as well. The entire course will be framed within a global historical context. Discussion topics will include economic, social, cultural, and gender history, as well as developments in art, architecture, material culture, religion, social philosophy, technology, and science.

Examinations:

There will be two “blue book” examinations: a mid-term and a final.

DATE FOR FINAL EXAM: T.B.D.

Grading:

The class grade will be determined according to the following formula:

Mid-Term Examination: 40%
Final Examination: 45%
Class Attendance and Participation: 15%

Required Textbook:


Additional required readings may be distributed in class or electronically.
Electronics Policy

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

Learning Objectives

Students taking this course will become familiar with the histories of China, Japan, and Korea through the lens of the complex interactions between these three nations and the world at large. Students will develop the ability to understand history within the framework of transnational and global interactions. Students will also develop improved critical thinking skills, as well as the habit of employing them.

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/. 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.
Class Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 14-27
Lecture:
  Tuesday, January 15 – Course Introduction
  Thursday, January 17 – Historiography

Week 2 – Theoretical Introduction
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 11-12
Lecture:
  Tuesday, January 22 – NO CLASS
  Thursday, January 24 – The Eighteenth Century in China and Korea

Week 3 – Setting the Stage
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 28-137
Lectures:
  Tuesday, January 29 – Tokugawa Japan
  Thursday, January 31 – “The Great Divergence”

Week 4 – The Impact of the West
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 138-152
Lectures:
  Tuesday, February 5 – The Opium Wars
  Thursday, February 7 – The Taiping Rebellion and its Aftermath

Week 5 – Problematic Responses
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 152-159; 188-203
Lectures:
  Tuesday, February 12 – Ambivalent Modernization in China and Korea
  Thursday, February 14 – Japan’s Bakumatsu and the Meiji Restoration

Winter Break – February 18 – 22

Week 6 – Revolutionary Change in Japan
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 160-187; 208-222
Lectures:
  Tuesday, February 26 – Imperial Japan and “Japanism”
  Thursday, February 28 – Korea’s Path To Colonization

Week 7 – The End of Monarchy in China and Korea
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 203-207; 222-243; 267-279
Lectures:
  Tuesday, March 5 – MIDTERM EXAM
  Thursday, March 7 – China: Qing Collapse and Xinhai Revolution
Week 8 – China in Transition
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 257-267
Lectures:
   Tuesday, March 12 – China’s “Warlord Period” and “Nanjing Decade”
   Thursday, March 14 – Shanghai: Crucible of Chinese Modernity

Week 9 – East Asia in the 1920s and 1930s
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 244-257; 293-298
Lectures:
   Tuesday, March 19 – From Taisho to Showa Japan
   Thursday, March 21 – Prelude to World War II

Week 10 – World War II in Asia
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 280-293; 298-317
Lectures:
   Tuesday, March 26 – The “Greater Asia War”
   Thursday, March 28 – Postwar Realities in Japan and Korea

Week 11 – Northeast Asia’s Postwar Transition (I)
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 318-328; 331-339; 342-352
Lectures:
   Tuesday, April 2 – Civil War and Revolution in China
   Thursday, April 4 – The Korean War and its Aftermaths

Week 12 – Northeast Asia’s Postwar Transition (II)
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 328-331; 339-342; 352-369
Lectures:
   Tuesday, April 9 – China Under Mao
   Thursday, April 11 – Contemporary China and the Issue of Taiwan

Week 13 – Northeast Asia in the Contemporary World (I)
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 392-405; 369-379; 451-462;
Lectures:
   Tuesday, April 16 – Prosperity and Decline in Contemporary Japan
   Tuesday, April 18 – Ideology and Reality in a Divided Korea

Passover Break – April 19 - 26

Week 14 – Northeast Asia in the Contemporary World (II)
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 379-391; 405-451; 462-465
Lectures:
   Tuesday, April 30 – Conclusion and Review
   Thursday, May 2nd – NO CLASS (Brandeis Friday)

**FINAL EXAM DATE: TBD**