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

Instructor: H. P. James  
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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.

TENTATIVE DATE FOR FINAL EXAM:  
THURSDAY, MAY 11th, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

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 automatically.

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/srscs/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 11-12; 14-27
Lectures:
      Tuesday, January 17 – Course Introduction
      Thursday, January 19 – Theoretical Introduction

Week 2 – Setting the Stage
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 28-137
Lectures:
      Tuesday, January 24 – The Eighteenth Century in China and Korea
      Thursday, January 26 – Tokugawa Japan

Week 3 – The Impact of the West
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 138-152
Lectures:
      Tuesday, January 31 – “The Great Divergence”
      Thursday, February 2 – The Opium Wars

Week 4 – Problematic Responses
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 152-159; 188-203
Lectures:
      Tuesday, February 7 – The Taiping Rebellion and its Aftermath
      Thursday, February 9 – Ambivalent Modernization in China and Korea

Week 5 – Revolutionary Change in Japan
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 160-187; 208-222
Lectures:
      Tuesday, February 14 – Japan’s Bakumatsu and Meiji Restoration
      Thursday, February 16 – Imperial Japan and “Japanism”

Winter Break – February 20 – 24

Week 6 – Korea’s Path To Colonization
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 203-207; 232-243; 267-277
Lectures:
      Tuesday, February 28 – Korea’s Path To Colonization
      Thursday, March 2 – MIDTERM

Week 7 – China in Transition
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 222-232; 257-267
Lectures:
      Tuesday, March 7 – China: Dynastic Collapse and Republican Revolution
      Thursday, March 9 – China: The “Warlord Era” and the “Nanjing Decade”
Week 8 – East Asia in the 1920s and 1930s
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 244-257; 277-279; 293-299
Lectures:
  Tuesday, March 14 – Shanghai: Crucible of Chinese Modernity
  Thursday, March 16 – From Taisho to Showa Japan

Week 9 – World War II in Asia
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 280-293; 299-317
Lectures:
  Tuesday, March 21 – Prelude to World War II
  Thursday, March 23 – The “Greater Asia War”

Week 10 – Northeast Asia’s Postwar Transition (I)
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 318-328; 331-339; 342-352
Lectures:
  Tuesday, March 28 – Postwar Realities in Japan and Korea
  Thursday, March 30 – Civil War and Revolution in China

Week 11 – Northeast Asia’s Postwar Transition (II)
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 328-331; 339-342; 352-369
Lectures:
  Tuesday, April 4 – The Korean War and its Aftermaths
  Thursday, April 6 – China Under Mao

Passover Break – April 10 - 18

Week 12 – China’s Rise
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 392-405; 451-462
Lectures:
  Thursday, April 20 – Contemporary China and the Issue of Taiwan

Week 13 – Japan and Korea in the Contemporary World
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 369-391; 405-451
Lectures:
  Tuesday, April 25 – Prosperity and Decline in Contemporary Japan
  Thursday, April 27 – Ideology and Reality in a Divided Korea

Week 14 – Northeast Asia in the Contemporary World
Reading: Lipman et al, pages 462-465
Lecture:
  Tuesday, May 2nd – Conclusion and Review

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