

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 216-01: Civilizations of Asia
TR 12:30-1:45 a.m. SOEB 206

Fall Semester 2012

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Office Hours: TR 11:00-11:50am and by appointment

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Introduction:

How is Modern East Asia “modern”? What do we mean by this term? Can we understand the recent history of the region, if we focus exclusively on the Asian response to the arrival of Western powers in the region? This course will examine political change, specifically the emergence of anti-colonial nationalist and communist movements, as well as related intellectual and social developments in East Asia since ca. 1800.

Students taking this course should reach the following learning goals by the end of the semester:

1. Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods. [Historical Comprehension]
2. Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view. [Historical Analysis: Departmental and GEC HP goal]
3. Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. [Historical Interpretation: Departmental and GEC HP]

Course Requirements:

There will be a take-home final exam, six in-class “half-hourly” quizzes (including an ungraded skills quiz), and a 6-8 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1” margins, paginated) “Think Piece” paper. The paper will be due in class on **Thursday, 15 November**. The schedule for the six in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Thursday, 29 November** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Thursday, 6 December**. Attendance at **all** lecture and discussion sections is expected; an attendance list may be compiled at the start of each class meeting. **The completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.**

E-mail Accounts:

I will require that **all** students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grading:

Skills Quiz		<i>Ungraded</i>
5 Graded Quizzes	30%	(6% each)
Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, general participation)	30%	
*Film Responses		(10%)
*Blackboard Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections		(10%)
*General Participation (attendance, classroom discussion, etc.)		(10%)
Paper	20%	
Final Exam	20%	

Quizzes (Learning Goals 1, 3):

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. All assigned readings will be addressed, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period. **No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class.** Instead, your lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped from your cumulative course score, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once the first quiz is dropped, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit. Quizzes will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant.

Film Responses (Learning Goal 1):

Six in-class film screenings will take place during Tuesday or Thursday class meetings throughout the semester. Prior to each screening, you will receive film-guide handouts featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare well-written and thoughtful responses to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each of 3-5 questions present. **These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Monday at midnight.** These due dates are listed on the course schedule and on the Blackboard forums themselves. Film Responses will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant. **All film responses are required assignments.**

*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve in the Jackson Library.

Discussion Questions and Discussion Reflections (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3):

Many Thursdays you will splinter into several smaller groups in the classroom to discuss primary sources illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these activities, you are expected to read the assigned primary sources and prepare two well-considered discussion questions for presentation in class. **These questions must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the preceding Thursday at midnight. Print and bring these questions with you to present the following morning among your discussion group.**

Following each discussion you are responsible for submitting a one-paragraph (3-5 sentences) discussion reflection or summary. **These reflections must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Monday at 11:59pm.** Were there points in the text that you wish had been discussed or elaborated upon in greater depth? Have you come to a new understanding of the text since the Thursday meeting? If so, please feel free to note those points here. The written exercises will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus scale. If you receive straight “checks” for all exercises, you will have earned a “B” for this part of the course. To earn a “check-plus” you need to demonstrate that you have

thought imaginatively about the question and have put some genuine effort into your answer. The purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam.

Discussion Questions and Reflections will be evaluated together as one assignment by the Graduate Assistant. **Late submissions will receive no credit. You are required to submit at least 10 (ten) Discussion Questions and Reflections during the semester to receive a passing grade.**

*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

“Think Piece” Paper (Learning Goals 1, 2, 3):

The “Think Piece” paper, a response to assigned topics from the required texts *The Corpsewalkers* and *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China*, will be based on your readings, section discussions, and the lectures. This paper is not a research paper; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. The “think piece” paper will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant and the Professor. **Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

Final Take-home Examination (Learning Goals 1, 3):

There is a 6 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute three or four questions one week before the exam due date. The exams will be due in my office (MRHA 2111) no later than 3pm on **Thursday, 6 December**. We’ll talk more about this exam and specific requirements later during the semester. The take-home exam will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant and the Professor. **Late exams will receive no credit.**

Website:

This class is served by a companion Blackboard site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. I also have created a web site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the quarter progresses. Here students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Please refer to the class site periodically for such materials.

Required Texts:

The following books are required reading for this course, and may be purchased at the UNCG Bookstore:

1. Holcombe, Charles. *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780521731645.
2. De Bary, William Theodore (ed.) *Sources of East Asian Tradition: The Modern Period*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780231143233.
3. Lu, Xun, and Julia Lovell. *The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China: The Complete Fiction of Lu Xun*; Translated with an Introduction by Julia Lovell; with an Afterword by Yiyun Li. New York: Penguin Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780140455489.
4. Liao, Yiwu. *The Corpse Walker: Real Life Stories, China from the Bottom Up*. New York: Anchor Books, 2009. ISBN: 9780307388377.

SEMESTER LECTURE SCHEDULE

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
EAST ASIA: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT	
21-23 August: Course “Nuts and Bolts” A Look at East Asia as a Region.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 1-29.
28-30 August: Early Western Encounters in East Asia. The Nature of Western Imperialism in Asia.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 160-189. Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapter 60 (pp. 64-76), “Chinese Responses to Early Christian Contacts,” and Chapter 66 (pp. 173-185), “The Evangelic Furnace.” Discussion Questions <u>always</u> due Wednesday by midnight. Discussion Reflections <u>always</u> due the following Monday by midnight.
SKILLS QUIZ, Tuesday 28 August	Ungraded, but <u>required</u> of all students
CHINA	
4-6 September: Struggling to Maintain the Qing World Order. International Aggression: the Opium Wars. Domestic Unrest: the Taiping Rebellion.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 190-200. Film: <i>Two Coasts of China: Asia and the Challenge of the West</i> (VH3798) Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapter 62 (pp. 106-118). Film guide responses due the following Monday by midnight. No Discussion Questions or Reflections due this week!
11-13 September: The Decline and Fall of Imperial China. The Nationalist and Communist Movements in China.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 200- 206, 230-244. Discussion reading: Lu Xun, “The Real Story of Ah-Q” in <i>The Real Story of Ah-Q and Other Tales of China</i> (pp. 79-123).
GRADED QUIZ 1, Tuesday 11 September	
18-20 September: Mao’s Victory in China. The Early Years of the People’s Republic of China. The Cultural Revolution.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 262-270, 313-322. Film: <i>The Mao Years (Part 2): It’s Right to Rebel</i> (VH7988) Film guide responses due the following Monday by midnight.
25-27 September: The Age of Deng Xiaoping. The Trials of Reform and Growth. Greater China. Taiwan since 1949.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 322-348. Film: <i>Born Under the Red Flag (Part 2): The New Generation</i> (VH7986) Film guide responses due the following Monday by midnight.
JAPAN	

2-4 October: Imperial Japan. The Tokugawa Shogunate.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 148-159, 179-188. Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapter 77 (pp. 121- 128).
GRADED QUIZ 2, Tuesday 2 October	
9-11 October: Japanese Society on the Eve of the Meiji Restoration.	Lecture reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 213-220. Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapter 77 (pp. 340- 366).

FALL BREAK: 13-16 October, No Class Meetings.

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
18 October: The Transformation of Meiji Japan. Japan as an Imperialist Power.	Lecture Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 220-227. Film: <i>Meiji: Asia's Response To The West</i> (VH3799) Film guide responses due the following Monday by midnight.
23-25 October: Japan's "Swing to the Right" Japan and WWII	Lecture Readings: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 249-262, 270-275. Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapter 92 (pp. 595- 613).
GRADED QUIZ 3, Tuesday 23 October	
30 October – 1 November: The Post-war Period. Occupied Japan and the US. Japan's Economic Nationalism. Bursting of the Economic Bubble. Japan's Middle Class Shift	Lecture Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 277-294. Film: <i>Reinventing Japan</i> Film guide responses due the following Monday by midnight.
VIET NAM	
6-8 November: Viet Nam and French Imperialism. Ho Chi Minh and the ICP.	Lecture Reading: No outside reading required.
GRADED QUIZ 4, Tuesday 6 November	
13-15 November: The First and Second Indochinese Wars. US-Vietnamese Conflict. Viet Nam in the Era of Reform (post-1986)	Lecture Reading: No outside reading required. Film: <i>Cold War: Vietnam</i> (VH8285) Film guide responses due the following Monday by midnight.
THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER	THINK-PIECE PAPER DUE IN CLASS
KOREA	
20 November: Late Choson Korea, Colonial Korea.	Lecture Readings: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 174-179, 207-213, and 244-249. Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapters 117 & 118 (pp. 1029- 1043)
GRADED QUIZ 5, Tuesday 20 November	
THANKSGIVING BREAK	No class on Thursday 22 November
27 November-29 November: The Cold War and the Two Koreas. Concluding Points and Review.	Reading: <i>A History of East Asia</i> , 295-312. Discussion reading: <i>Sources of East Asian Tradition</i> Chapter 119 (pp. 1044- 1067)
29 November	Final Class Meeting. Final Exams Distributed.
THURSDAY, 6 DECEMBER	FINAL EXAM DUE BY 3 PM in MHRA 2111

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MAP OF EAST ASIA




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www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions