

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 216-01: Civilizations of Asia
MW 2:00-3:15 p.m. GRAM 313

Spring Semester 2006

Instructor: James A. Anderson

Telephone: (336) 334-5209

Office: 242 MCVR

E-mail: jamie_anderson@uncg.edu (This is the best way to contact me throughout the week.)

Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS216>

Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50 a.m., and by appointment

Introduction:

Is Modern East Asia really “modern”? What do we mean by this term? Can we understand the modern 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 goals by the end of the semester:

- Construct persuasive written arguments concerned with historical topics.
- Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- Study the historical development of China, Japan, Korea, and Viet Nam from ca. 1800 to the present day.
- Understand better the effect the recent past has had on the modern world.
- Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

Course Requirements:

There will be a take-home final exam, six in-class “half-hourly” quizzes (including a 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 **Wednesday, April 19th**. 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 **Monday, May 1st** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Monday, May 8th**. Attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Moreover, 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:

“Half-hourly” quizzes	40% (8% each)
Skills Quiz	Ungraded
Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation	20%

“Half-hourly” Quizzes

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, 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

No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class. Instead, you may drop one of your five graded quizzes, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once you have one quiz, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

Final Take-home Examination

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 (242 McIver) no later than 3pm on **Monday, May 8th**. We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

Classroom Discussions

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are very important components of this course, especially this semester. Everyone will be required to participate, and you should feel free to ask questions in every class during lecture. Due to the size of the class, I will divide students into four (4) formal discussion groups (**Groups A-D**) by **Monday, January 23rd**. I will also assign one student to act as Group Leader (i.e. discussion facilitator). During the weeks for which no film has been scheduled, we will have two required class-wide discussions of readings from the assigned texts. Discussions will usually be held on Wednesdays. The first formal discussion will be held on **Wednesday, January 25th**. I will take attendance for each discussion, and students may not switch groups without my prior permission. General instructions regarding the classroom discussion format may also be found at the course web site.

NOTE: At the end of each discussion, I will ask everyone in class to give me a typed, short (3-4 sentences) synopsis/summary of the reading that includes one (1) discussion question. Each group will also choose one questions to present to the class, and I will post the four questions to the course web site. Each student will then answer one for the four questions (following the guidelines provided below), and bring his/her typed responses to class in our following meeting. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. I will not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing.

Short Discussion Response Exercises

Following each classroom discussion, I will require that you submit a two (2)-paragraph response to the questions posed that week. One (1) paragraph will be a response to one of the four questions submitted that week. One (1) paragraph will be a personal reflection on the whole classroom discussion that week. Was anything left out of the general discussion? Do you have an observation that you wish to offer in greater detail? These 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. Please include your name with each submission. You will be required to submit at least **five** (5) responses this semester.

Paper:

The “think piece” paper, a response to assigned topics from the required texts *Lost Names* and *Dumb Luck*, 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. Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

Web-site:

I 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. Moreover, I may include additional materials on the library's Electronic Reserve list. Please refer to the class Web 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. Ebrey, Patricia et al. *Modern East Asia: from 1600*. First Edition. Houghton-Mifflin, 2006. ISBN: 0618133852.
2. Zinoman, Peter (Editor). *Dumb Luck: A Novel by Vu Trong Phung*. Trans. by Nguyen Nguyet Cam. University of Michigan Press, 2002. ISBN: 0472068040.
3. Kim, Richard E. *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood*. University of California Press; Reprint edition, 1998. ISBN: 0520214242.

All other materials for this course will be available on electronic reserve at the library web site.

Lecture Schedule

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
EAST ASIA: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT	
January 9-11: A Look at Asia as a Region	No outside reading.
Monday January 16th	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed.
January 18: Pre-Modern East Asia and Modern East Asian Society.	No outside reading.
SKILLS QUIZ, Wednesday 1/18	
January 23-25: The Nature of Imperialism in Asia.	Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 308-312 and 366-374. Discussion reading: <i>Dumb Luck</i> , 1-31. (Class Discussion #1)
CHINA	
January 30-February 1: Early Chinese Encounters with the West. Struggling to Maintain the Emperor's World Order. The Opium Wars.	Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 313-330. Film: <i>Two Coasts of China: Asia and the Challenge of the West</i>
GRADED QUIZ #1, Tuesday 1/30	
February 6-8: Chinese Domestic Unrest. The Decline and Fall of Imperial China. The Nationalist and Communist Movements in China.	Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 375-396, 448-464, and 501-528. Film: <i>China in Revolution (Part 1): Battle for Survival</i>
February 13-15: Mao's Victory in China. The Early Years of the People's Republic of China. The Cultural Revolution.	Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 546-564. Film: <i>The Mao Years (Part 2): It's Right to Rebel</i>
QUIZ #2, Tuesday 2/13	
February 20- 22: The Age of Deng Xiaoping. The Trials of Reform and Growth. June 1989 and its Aftermath.	Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 565-583. Film: <i>Born Under the Red Flag (Part 2): The New Generation</i>
February 27- March 1: China and Taiwan: a Close, Troubled Relationship	Film: <i>Tug of War</i>
QUIZ #3, Tuesday 2/27	

SPRING BREAK: March 4, Saturday - Instruction Ends for Fall Break 1:00 p.m
March 13, Monday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 a.m

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
JAPAN	
March 13-15: The Tokugawa Shogunate. Japanese Society on the Eve of the Meiji Restoration.	Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 331-347 and 397-411. Film: <i>Tokugawa Japan</i>
March 20-22: The Transformation of Meiji Japan. Japan as an Imperialist Power.	Lecture Reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 412-430. Film: <i>Meiji: Asia's Response To The West</i>
March 27-29: Japan's "Swing to the Right" Japan and WWII	Lecture Readings: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 465-483, 520-528, and 529-534. Garon, <i>State and Society in Interwar Japan</i> . (E-reserve reading) Discussion reading: <i>Lost Names</i> , 22-57. (Class Discussion #2)
QUIZ #4, Tuesday 3/27	
April 3-5: 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>Modern East Asia</i> , 534-545, 604-618. Film: <i>Reinventing Japan</i>
VIET NAM	
April 10-12: Viet Nam and French Imperialism. Ho Chi Minh and the ICP. The US-Vietnamese Conflict.	Film: <i>Cold War: Vietnam</i>
KOREA	
April 17-19: Late Choson Korea, Colonial Korea. The Cold War and the Two Koreas.	Lecture Readings: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 348-364, 431-445, 484-500, and 584-603. Eckert, <i>Korea's Transition To Modernity</i> . (e-reserve reading) Film: <i>The Fight for Democracy</i>
QUIZ #5, Tuesday 4/17	
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19th	
EAST ASIA TODAY	
April 24- 26: The Currency Crisis and its Aftermath. Contemporary Issues.	Reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 619-624.
May 1: Concluding Points and Review.	
MONDAY, MAY 1st	
LAST DAY OF CLASS	
THURSDAY, MAY 8th	
EXAM DUE BY 3 PM in MCVR 242	



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