

HIST 4399: Modern East Asia in World History
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:50 a.m.
Credit Hours: 3.0
Fall 2017



Dr. Eric Vanden Bussche
Office: ABIV 407
Office Phone: 936-294-1480
Email: ericvb@shsu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Dr. Thomas H. Cox
Office: ABIV 473
Office Phone: 936-294-4804
Email: thc001@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

East Asia has undergone profound transformations in the past 200 years. Covering the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day, this course will examine the histories of Japan, China, and Korea through a comparative lens. We will discuss the major transformations that have shaped East Asia through the analysis of different kinds of primary and secondary sources. Topics include the early U.S.-China trade, the demise of the Qing dynasty, Japanese imperialism, World War II, the Chinese Communist revolution, and the Korean War. Students will develop an understanding of the major historical transformations in East Asia, explore historiographical debates on the issues, and have the opportunity to participate in lectures and discussions with Japanese, Chinese, and Korean guest lecturers. By the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the historian's craft and East Asian history.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are:

- To establish connections between the major political, economic, and social changes that transformed the East Asia during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;
- To evaluate the different historiographical arguments surrounding East Asian history;
- To develop research skills by collecting and learning to examine a variety of primary sources;
- To write a research paper on a topic related to East Asian history or U.S.-China relations;
- To engage in discussions with prominent scholars in the field of East Asian history.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

The required readings for this course will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard. A discussion prompt for each of the readings will be posted on Blackboard. Students are required to bring the readings to class and be prepared to discuss them with the guest speakers. Failure to prepare for classroom discussions will negatively affect a student's participation grade.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Research Paper (50%)

Students will produce a research paper (10-12 pages) on a specific topic related to East Asian history over the past two centuries. An assignment sheet with the instructor's expectations and a rubric will be distributed during the second week of class. Students will spend the entire semester working on their research paper. They will meet with the instructor at least three times during the semester (once a month) to discuss their progress on the assignment. Students will also be required to present their research papers to their peers during the last week of class.

2. Discussion forum posts (15%)

For each reading assignment, students will compose a discussion forum post (ca. 200 words) on Blackboard. In their discussion posts, students will select any particular aspect(s) of the readings they wish to discuss. Posts will be graded based upon the quality of the student's engagement with the reading.

3. Book Review (10%)

Students will write a book review of a scholarly book on East Asian history that is related to their final research paper. Guidelines and a rubric will be posted on Blackboard.

4. In-class primary source activity (10%)

Students will be divided into groups to examine primary sources related to the Korean War during the final week of October. The instructor will provide an assignment sheet with his expectations.

5. Participation (15%)

Attendance is mandatory. Class meetings will include in-class activities. Hence, your consistent attendance is crucial to your success. To that end, you are expected to attend every class, be prompt in arriving, and come prepared. If you must miss a class, you must let the instructor know as far in advance as possible of the absence and obtain information about the work you must do to keep up in class. For any absence, you will be asked to complete a make-up written assignment—the details of which will depend on where we are in the course.

My grading scale is as follows: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69, F = 59 or lower.

TECHNOLOGY ETIQUETTE

Laptops should be used for class-related work only. Emailing, updating Facebook profiles or random Internet surfing during class will not be tolerated and will negatively affect your participation grade. Cell phones should be turned off when you arrive in class. Texting during class is strictly prohibited.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, plagiarism and cheating, will be subject to disciplinary action. For more information of the university policies, please see: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic functioning should contact the Services for Students with disabilities (SSD) Office located in the Lee Drain Annex (next to Farrington) telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786 to apply for accommodations. In the event that accommodations are approved by SSD, the student must schedule an appointment with the course instructor in order to present his/her accommodation form and discuss the arrangements for the accommodations.

NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the SSD.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the

absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Please note that the course schedule is subject to change depending on student needs and speaker availability

Week 1: Understanding Modern East Asia

Thursday, August 24:

Introduction to the course by instructors Eric Vanden Bussche and Thomas Cox

Week 2: Introduction to Historical Research

Tuesday, August 29:

Reading due: “China and Japan’s Wikipedia War” and “How Humiliation Drove Modern Chinese History”

Assignment due: Three possible topics for your research paper

Thursday, August 31:

Library Visit: Approaches to Research

Assignment due: Two research questions for each of the three topics.

NOTE: We will meet in front of Newton Gresham Library – please be on time

Week 3: The U.S.-China Trade During the Late Qing

Tuesday, September 5:

Speaker: Thomas H. Cox, Sam Houston State University

Reading due: TBA

Thursday, September 7:

Assignment due: Annotated bibliography

Week 4: Reform and Revolution (late 19th and early 20th century)

Tuesday, September 12

Reading due: Book review of Stephen Platt's book

Assignment due: State-of-the-field paragraph

Thursday September 14

Speaker: Stephen Platt, University of Massachusetts

Reading: Platt, *Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom*, selected pages

Meeting with the instructors to discuss your research during week 4

Week 5: Reimagining China: Race, Revolution, and Culture (1900-1930s)

Tuesday, September 19:

Assignments due: 1) Book review

2) Please be prepared to discuss at least two primary sources related to your research.

Thursday, September 21:

Speaker: Edward Rhoads, University of Texas, Austin

Reading due: Rhoads, *The Manchus and Han*, selected pages

Week 6: Japan's "Imperial Democracy" at Home and in Korea (1910-1930s)

Tuesday, September 26

Speaker: Todd Henry, University of California, San Diego

Reading due: Henry, *Assimilating Seoul*, selected pages

Thursday, September 28

Assignment due: Primary source analysis and updated list of primary sources

Week 7: Resistance and National Salvation: East Asia at War (Part I)

Tuesday, October 3:

Special event: Tiananmen Square, 1989

Dongxin Zhao, University of Chicago (Asian Lecture Series)

Reading due: Zhao, *The Power of Tiananmen*, selected pages

Thursday, October 5:

Speaker: Xiaoyuan Liu, University of Virginia

Reading due: Liu, *Frontier Passages*, selected pages

Meeting with the instructors to discuss your research during week 7

Week 8 (Oct. 9-13): Resistance and National Salvation: East Asia at War (Part II)

Tuesday, October 10:

Speaker: Xiaoping Cong, University of Houston (date TBD)

Reading due: Cong, book TBA, selected pages

Thursday, October 12:

Assignment due: Outline of your paper and updated list of primary and secondary sources

Week 9: Reconstruction and Recovery

Tuesday, October 17:

Assignment due: Introduction

Thursday, October 19:

Speaker: Naoko Wake, Michigan State University

Reading due: Wake, book TBA, selected pages

Week 10: To Mobilize and Transform: China Under Mao

Tuesday, October 24:

Speaker: Huaiyin Li, University of Texas, Austin

Reading due: Li, *Village China under Socialism and Reform*, selected pages

Thursday, October 26:

In-class exercise: Research in the Archives (Korean War)-Part I

Assignment due: Introduction and one section of your paper

Week 11 (Oct. 29-Nov. 3): The Two Koreas

Tuesday, October 30:

In-class exercise: Research in the archives (Korean War)-Part 2, group paper due at the end of the class

Thursday, November 2:

Speaker: Bruce Cummings (Asian Studies Lecture Series)

Reading due: Cumings, book TBA, selected pages

Week 12 (Nov. 6-10): Geopolitical Shifts

Tuesday, November 7:

Assignment due: First draft (the entire paper except for the conclusion)

Thursday, November 9:

Speaker: TBA

Meeting with the instructors

Week 13 (Nov. 13-17): Burying Ideologies (1980s-1990s)

Tuesday, November 14:

Assignment due: Second draft (includes conclusion)

Thursday, November 16:

Assignment due: Conference paper and powerpoint of the students' conference presentation

Week 14 (Nov. 20-26): Thanksgiving Week

Thanksgiving holiday, no class

Week 15: Legacies of Empire

Tuesday, Nov. 28:

Conference: Presentation of papers

Keynote speaker: Richard Smith, Rice University (To be confirmed)

Thursday, Nov. 30:

Guest Speaker: Yoji Sato, One Asia Foundation

Concluding remarks by instructors

Final draft due