Modern East Asia

History of the East Asian countries – China, Korea, and Japan – has been deeply intertwined with one another, whether politically or culturally. It goes without saying that the close connection among the three countries continues today. But each country’s modern fate in the 19th-20th century was anything but similar. China, which had long been the center of the East Asian world, had to experience a century long “humiliation” of foreign interventions before it finally became a socialist country; Japan swiftly transformed itself from a loosely united feudal society into a modern industrial nation-state and eventually imperialistic superpower, colonized Korea, and invaded China; and Korea’s road to modernity was informed as well as thwarted by Japanese colonial rule. What accounts for these markedly different paths the three countries walked?

This course aims to introduce students to the historical backgrounds of modern trajectories of the three East Asian countries. In doing so, we begin by examining the “early modern” period of each country. Besides basic political histories of each country, issues of their social structures, traditional thoughts and beliefs, and indigenous efforts to modernize themselves will be examined as well.

Assessment:
- Attendance and participation 10%
- Midterm exam (March 2) 20%
- FOUR one-page response papers 15%
- One book review (due March 9) 25%
- Final exam (May 5, 8:00-11:00 a.m.) 30%

Instructor: Sukhee Lee
Email: sukhee@rci.rutgers.edu There is no phone in my office. Email is the only way of contacting me outside the class. Use your Rutgers email account when you write to me. And please do not forget to start your subject line with “(Modern East Asia).”
Office: Van Dyck Hall 002E, 16 Seminary Place
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-12:00 and by appointment

Textbooks

Book for review:

These books have been ordered at the Rutgers University Bookstore. You can also find cheaper (used) ones at online book sellers such as www.amazon.com or www.bookfinder.com.
Additional readings which are under asterisk (*) will be posted at the SAKAI course website in time.

On academic integrity
Plagiarized paper or cheating in exams will result in “F” for the course. In addition, the cases will be reported to the university administration for sanctions. As for the Rutgers policies on academic integrity, see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml

Other Class Policies
*Lecture and section attendance is your most basic responsibility. I will take attendance at every lecture and section. Unexcused absences, when they exceed twice, will affect your final grade. (e.g. 3 times, -5% from your “class attendance and participation”; 4 times, -8%; 5 times, -11%…) If you are absent from more than one third of the entire classes and sections, you will automatically get “F.”

*Late paper will be penalized by subtracting FIVE points for every day past the due date for the first FIVE days. No paper will be accepted after FIVE days past the due date. Famous lines such as “I am pretty sure that I emailed that to you the other day” or “I certainly uploaded it at Sakai in time, but somehow can’t find it there now” will do no good unless you show me “hard evidence” of such claims (e.g. a print of your original sent mail showing the time of its sending).

*As a courtesy to others, please turn off your cell phones.

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1
Jan 19 (W) Course Introduction

WEEK 2
Jan 24 (M) Daily Life in Early Modern China
   de Bary et al., Sources of East Asian Tradition, 48-63.
   *Chinese local society in the early modern era. Local History Website at Harvard: http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~chnlocal/Local_History_Sites_in_Jinhua/index.cgi?location_id=1
Jan 26 (W) Pax Manjurica and Price of Glory

WEEK 3
Jan 31 (M) Encounter with the West
   de Bary, pp. 64-76 (Chinese Responses to Early Christian Contacts), pp. 85-89 (Hong Liangji: On Imperial Malfeasance and China’s Population Problem).
   **Two Edicts from the Ch’ien-lung Emperor to King George III,” Changing China: Readings in the History of China from the Opium War to the Present, edited by J.

Feb 2 (W) **DISCUSSION SECTION I** on China’s contact with the West

WEEK 4
Feb 7 (M) The Opium War and Taiping Rebellion
Schirokauer, pp. 405-418.
de Bary, pp. 96-105 (Lin Zexu and Wei Yuan), pp. 110-118 (The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom).
Feb 9 (W) Reforms and Revolution
Schirokauer, pp. 419-435
de Bary, pp. 631-647 (Reform Ideas), pp. 657-660 (Conservative Reactions), pp. 666-674 (Liang Qichao), pp. 680-688 (Sun Yat-sen)
*PBS Documentary: “China in Revolution”

WEEK 5
Feb 14 (M) The May Fourth Movement
Schirokauer, pp. 487-504.
de Bary, pp. 703-720 (May Fourth Movement).
Feb 16 (W) Nationalist Rule and War with Japan
Schirokauer, pp. 504-510, pp. 541-555.
de Bary, pp. 688-698 (Democracy and Nationalist Rule)
*Yang Daqing, “Convergence or Divergence? Recent Historical Writings on the Rape of Nanjing,” The American Historical Review 104.3 (June 1999), 842-865.

WEEK 6
Feb 21 (M) **DISCUSSION SECTION II** on Ah-Q and others
Feb 23 (W) The Rise of Mao
Schirokauer, pp. pp. 563-570
de Bary, pp. 730-739 (Mao)

WEEK 7
Feb 28 (M) China under Mao: The Great Leap Forward and Cultural Revolution
Schirokauer, pp. 587-608.
de Bary, pp. 755-761.
***The Cultural Revolution Website: [www.morningsun.org](http://www.morningsun.org)
Mar 2 (W) Midterm Exam

WEEK 8
Mar 7 (M) Reform and the Re-opening of China
Schirokauer, pp. 611-630.
Mar 9 (W) **DISCUSSION SECTION III** on Mao’s China (Book Review Due)

WEEK 9
**SPRING BREAK**
Mar 14  NO CLASS
Mar 16  NO CLASS

WEEK 10  Japan in the Early Modern Era
Mar 21 (M)  Society and Culture in the Tokugawa Period
Schirokauer, 353-377.
de Bary, 471-484.
*PBS Documentary: “Japan: Memoirs of a Secret Empire”

Mar 23 (W)  The Meiji Restoration
Schirokauer, 439-459.
de Bary, 488-491, (The Meiji Constitution) 511-514, (The Imperial Rescript on Education) 530-532.

WEEK 11
Mar 28 (M)  Japan Transformed
Schirokauer, pp. 463-483, pp. 513-541.
de Bary,
*Donald Roden, “Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan,” The American Historical Review 85.3 (June 1980): 511-34

Mar 30 (W)  Japan in Wartime
Schirokauer, pp. 549-552, pp. 555-559.
de Bary, pp. 596-624.

WEEK 12
April 4 (M)  “Embracing Defeat”
Schirokauer, pp. 570-576.
de Bary, pp. 954-964.
* John Dower, “The Useful War,” Daedalus 199.3 (Summer, 1990)

April 6 (W)  Economic Miracle and Political Struggles
Schirokauer, pp. 633-659.

WEEK 13
April 11 (M)  Korea Turning Inward
Korea Old and New, pp. 178-230.
de Bary, 423-435.

April 13 (W)  Coming to Terms with Imperial Powers
Korea Old and New, pp. 254-326.
de Bary, pp. 975-977, pp. 989-991, pp. 1011-1013 (Demand for Democratic Reform)

WEEK 14
April 18 (M)  Dilemma of Colonial Rule
Korea Old and New, pp. 254-326.
de Bary, pp. 1031-1037.

April 20 (W)  Korea Divided
Korea Old and New, pp. 327-344.
de Bary, pp. 1062-1064 (Kim Ilsŏng and Chuch’ e Thought in North Korea)
WEEK 15
April 25 (M) Industrialization and Democratization

Korea Old and New, pp. 359-367, pp. 388-418.

de Bary, pp. 1056-1059 (Pak Chŏnghŭi and Economic Development in South Korea),
pp.1067-1080 (Kim Taejung and His Struggle for Freedom and Democracy in South Korea).


April 27 (W) DISCUSSION IV on issues of Japanese and Korean history

WEEK 16
May 2 (M) Wrap-Up