

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 centuries 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	15%
Two Quizzes	10%
FOUR one-and-half page response papers	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	30%

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Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

Textbooks

Patricia Ebrey et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*, Volume II: From 1600 (Wadsworth Publishing, 2008) **ISBN-13:** 978-0547005362 (required)

William Theodore de Bary et al., *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, volume 2 (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008) **ISBN-13:** 978-0231143233 (recommended)

All other readings will be provided in pdf file at our Sakai course site.

On academic integrity

Plagiarized paper or cheating in exams will result in, at least, an “F” for the assignment. In addition, the cases will be reported to the university administration for sanctions. So, be honest and be prudent. **TAKE THIS WARNING SERIOUSLY.** 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 an “**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 TWO days past the due.** 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 18 Course Introduction
*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

WEEK 2

- Jan 23 Pax Manjurica and Price of Glory
Ebrey et al., pp. 262-272 (The Creation of the Manchu Empire), pp. 273-278 (Social and Cultural Crosscurrents to before “Edo Japan”).
de Bary, pp. 85-89 (Hong Liangji: On Imperial Malfeasance and China’s Population Problem).
- Jan 25 Encounter with the West
Ebrey et al., pp. 272-273 (Contacts with Europe).
de Bary, pp. 64-76 (Chinese Responses to Early Christian Contacts)
*George Macartney, “Audience with Ch’ien-lung [= Qianlong],” *An Embassy to China: Being the journal kept by Lord Macartney during his embassy to the Emperor Ch’ien-lung, 1793-1794*, edited by J.L. Cranmer-Byng, 122-124.
*Henry Dundas, “Instructions to Lord Macartney, Sept. 8, 1792,” *The Chronicles of the East India Company Trading to China, 1635-1834*, (vol. 11): 232-242.
*George III, King of England, “Letter to the Emperor of China,” *The Chronicles of the East India Company Trading to China, 1635-1834*, (vol. 11): 244-247.
*“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. Mason Gentzler, 23-28.

WEEK 3

- Jan 30 Discussion Section 1 (*response paper)
Feb 1 The Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion

Ebrey, pp. 296-312 (Western Imperialism, China in Decline [up to “Self-Strengthening”]).
de Bary, pp. 96-105 (Lin Zexu and Wei Yuan), pp. 110-118 (The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom).

WEEK 4
Feb 6

Reforms and Revolution

Ebrey, pp. 312-323 (from “Self-Strengthening” to “The Decline of the Qing Empire in Comparative Perspective”), pp. 402-407 (Remaking China to “The Presidency of Yuan Shikai and the Emergence of the Warlords”).

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”

Feb 8

The May Fourth Movement

Ebrey, pp. 407-415 (from “Toward a More Modern China” to “The Women’s Movement”).

de Bary, pp.703-720 (May Fourth Movement).

*Lu Xun, *The True Story of Ah-Q*, available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1921/12/ah-q/index.htm>

WEEK 5
Feb 13
Feb 15

Discussion Section 2 (*response paper)

Nationalist Rule and War with Japan

Ebrey, pp. 415-438 (from “Reunification by the Nationalists” to “The Japanese Invasion and the Retreat to Chongqing”).

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 20

The Rise of CCP

Ebrey, pp. 438-440 (from “The Chinese Communist Party during the War” to “The Civil War and the Communist Victory”).

de Bary, pp. 730-739 (Mao)

*Joseph Esherick, “Ten Theses on the Chinese Revolution,” *Modern China* 21.1 (1995): 45-76.

Feb 22

China under Mao: The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution

Ebrey, pp. 457-473 (China under Mao before “China since Mao”).

de Bary, pp. 755-761.

**“Peng Dehuai’s Critique of the Great Leap Forward” (435), “Developing Agricultural Production” (440), “Lei Feng, Chairman Mao’s Good Fighter” (442), “Housing in Shanghai” (447), “Red Guards” (449), Victims” (458). All from Patricia Ebrey’s *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*

***The Cultural Revolution Website: www.morningsun.org

WEEK 7
Feb 27
March 1

Film Screening: “To Live” (*response paper)

Reform and the Re-opening of China

Ebrey, pp. 474-490 (China since Mao before “Korea [1945 to the Present]).

WEEK 8

- March 6 Society and Culture in the Tokugawa Period
Ebrey, pp. 279-294 (Edo Japan before “The Age of Western Imperialism”).
de Bary, 471-484.
- March 8 Midterm Exam
- WEEK 9 SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
March 13
March 15
- WEEK 10
March 20 Film Screening: “Tasogare Seibei” (*response paper)
March 22 The Meiji Restoration
Ebrey, pp. 324-352 (Japan in Turmoil before “Korea in the Turbulent Nineteenth Century”).
de Bary, 488-491, (The Meiji Constitution) 511-514, (The Imperial Rescript on Education) 530-532.
*Richard Devine, “The Way of the King: An Early Meiji Essay on Government,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Spring, 1979), pp. 49-72.
- WEEK 11
March 27 Japan Transformed
Ebrey, pp. 370-386 (Rise of Modern Japan before “Modernizing Korea and Colonial Rule”).
*Donald Roden, “Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan,” *The American Historical Review* 85.3 (June 1980): 511-34
- March 29 Japan in Wartime
Ebrey, pp. 442-445 (War and Aftermath in Japan).
de Bary, pp. 596-624.
- WEEK 12
April 3 “Embracing Defeat”
Ebrey, pp. 445-451 (War and Aftermath in Japan continues before “Political Settlement and Economic Recovery”).
de Bary, pp. 954-964.
* John Dower, “The Useful War,” *Daedalus* 199.3 (Summer, 1990)
- April 5 Economic Miracle and Political Struggles
Ebrey, pp. 451-456 (“Political Settlement and Economic Recovery” before “China under Mao”); pp. 511-524 (Contemporary Japan before “East Asia in the Twenty-First Century”).
- WEEK 13
April 10 Korea Turning Inward
de Bary, 423-435.
- April 12 Coming to Terms with Imperial Powers
Ebrey, pp. 353-368 (Korea in the Turbulent Nineteenth Century), pp. 387-391 (Modernizing Korea and Colonial Rule before “Japanese Colonial Rule”).
de Bary, pp. 975-977, pp. 989-991, pp. 1011-1013 (Demand for Democratic Reform)

WEEK 14

April 17

Dilemma of Colonial Rule

Ebrey, pp. 391-401 (“Japanese Colonial Rule” before “Remaking China”).

de Bary, pp. 1031-1037.

*Andre Schmidt, “Colonialism and the ‘Korea Problem’ in the Historiography of Modern Japan: A Review Article,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 59.4, pp. 951-976.

April 19

Korea Divided

Ebrey, pp. 491-500 (Korea [1945 to the Present]).

de Bary, pp. 1062-1064 (Kim Il-sŏng and Chuch’e Thought in North Korea)

WEEK 15

April 24

Industrialization and Democratization

Ebrey, pp. 500-510.

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).

*Uchang Kim, “The Agony of Cultural Construction: Politics and Culture in Modern Korea,” in Koo, ed., *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, pp. 163-195.

April 26

Film Screening: “Ode to My Father”

WEEK 16

May 1

Wrap-up

May 5

Final Exam (4:00 – 5:30 pm)