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%

Instructor: Sukhee Lee
Email: sukhlee@rci.rutgers.edu Use your Rutgers email account when you write to me.
Office: 002F Van Dyck Hall
Office Hours: Monday 3:00-4:00 and by appointment

Textbooks

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)  


**WEEK 3**
Jan 30  Discussion Section 1 (*response paper)
Feb 1  The Opium War and the Taiping Rebellion
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).

WEEK 5
Feb 13  Discussion Section 2 (*response paper)
Feb 15  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
de Bary, pp. 730-739 (Mao)
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.
***The Cultural Revolution Website: www.morningsun.org

WEEK 7
Feb 27  Film Screening: “To Live” (*response paper)
March 1  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.  
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”  
de Bary, pp. 954-964.  
* John Dower, “The Useful War,” Daedalus 199.3 (Summer, 1990)

April 5  Economic Miracle and Political Struggles  

WEEK 13  
April 10  Korea Turning Inward  
de Bary, 423-435.

April 12  Coming to Terms with Imperial Powers  
de Bary, pp. 975-977, pp. 989-991, pp. 1011-1013 (Demand for Democratic Reform)
WEEK 14
April 17  Dilemma of Colonial Rule
dé Bary, pp. 1031-1037.

April 19  Korea Divided
Ebrey, pp. 491-500 (Korea [1945 to the Present]).
dé Bary, pp. 1062-1064 (Kim Ilsŏng and Chuch’e Thought in North Korea)

WEEK 15
April 24  Industrialization and Democratization
Ebrey, pp. 500-510.
dé Bary, pp. 1056-1059 (Pak Chŏnhŭi and Economic Development in South Korea), pp.1067-1080 (Kim Taejung and His Struggle for Freedom and Democracy in South Korea).

April 26  Film Screening: “Ode to My Father”

WEEK 16
May 1  Wrap-up
May 5  Final Exam (4:00 – 5:30 pm)