

Sociopolitical History of East and South-East Asia

This introductory course focuses on the historical and social background in East and South-East Asia including the historical roots, the nature of state power, social forces, major powers relationships and the future of Asian geopolitics in the 21st century. The history of world politics has, by and large, been a history of interactions among great powers. The legacy of history, traditional political culture, cross-border conflicts and alliances play very important role in the modern-day political situation in Asia.

This course is mainly dedicated for those students who have no or little background in Asian studies so this course could be regarded as a qualifying or preparatory course for more detailed courses.

This course will examine how the Asian states as well as Western powers have tried (and are trying) to shape the geopolitical environment since the mid-18th century to the present. The course will focus primarily on the continuities and discontinuities in Asian cultural, social, political pattern, international relations.

The following issues will be discussed: the East Asian setting and early European influence to 1800; 19th century European impact on East and Southeast Asia; China's and Japan's response to the West; the decline and fall of empires in East Asia and national resurrection of Asian states; the Cold War in Asia and postwar nation-building ; the self-reinventing of Japan and China; the rise of nationalism in East Asia and its different models (Chinese, Japanese, etc.); power, authority, and the advent of democracy in Asia; Russia in Pacific Asia; regional dynamics, regional and global perspectives of Asia Pacific; new trends in Asia: isolation, integration, and changes, etc.

Present day Asian powers confront challenges and opportunities that influence its national security objectives and strategies. One of the major objectives of this course is to analyze these challenges and opportunities and attempt to reach some consensus on what the alternative futures of Asian geopolitics will be over the next 15 to 25 years.

The fundamental question of the continuity between the cultural tradition and socio-economic organization of the past and the elements of change and “modernity” in the present, will accompany us during the course and this theme will be developed in the context of the different historical periods.

Course Outcomes

- Lectures, readings, excursions, assignments, and discussions are designed to help you develop the skills to:

- Think historically, read critically, and write and speak persuasively.
- Situate major historical events in East Asian History in their proper geographical, chronological, and thematic context.
- Connect and integrate historical understandings, and grasp their political, economic, ethical and moral dimensions.
- Appreciate the greatness and complexity of EA and SEA cultural and religious traditions.
- To understand continuities and discontinuities in political and state institution of East Asia
- Seek for better understanding of the present development of Asia .
- Evaluate and critically assess the validity of historical evidence and interpretations.
- Use primary and secondary sources to construct sophisticated, persuasive, and logical interpretations of historical problems and events.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance & Discussion

Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend class as well as participate in lectures, discussions, and review sessions. Class participation will constitute 25% of the final grade. Each student is allowed a maximum of two (2) and no more than two (2) unexcused absences during the semester. For each unexcused absence thereafter, five (5) points are deducted from your final grade. You are responsible for keeping the professor informed of any situation that prevents you from attending class. **Students who have more than 4 unexcused absences will not pass the course**

Readings

You have to read a lot – it's one of the main requirements for the course. To intensify your understanding and to make your life easier I recommend you first of all to catch the main idea and the main trends of the development of East and SE Asia. Some details in this case could be dropped.

Students should be prepared to do a fair amount of reading and to confront a number of unfamiliar-looking names and places. If you find yourself confused, or not understanding what we are covering, please do not hesitate to inform me.

Grading

This is qualification course. It means that it will be no grading at all (you won't get credit units). But you need to pass this course if:

- you have no previous background in Asian Studies

- you have a week background in East Asian Studies

You can check whether you need to pass this course from the manager of MA program

Grading

Attendance and Class Participation - 25%

Presentation - 25%

Group Discussion and readings – 30%

Final Examination (essay) - 20 %

Presentation

You should make at least one presentation using PowerPoint or Keynote. Please, clearly articulate objectives of the presentation, the main content and idea and summary. Choose main points, Try presenting no more than three-five main points in a 10-15 minute presentation and develop a good conclusion. Don't put too many slides in your presentation (usually 4-5 for 15 min presentation), and don't put too much text in each slide (usually no more than 5 pointed lines). Try to use more tables, charts and illustrations.

After your presentation it will be a class discussion for 30 minutes, so be prepared to answer questions

You can find some helpful materials how to prepare a good presentation here:
<http://www.skillsyouneed.com/presentation-skills.html>

Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty is taken very seriously in this course. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty in any form will result in a failed grade for the project, and possibly for the course. In order to avoid the sanctions applied to cases of academic dishonesty, please make sure that you properly cite all sources that you utilize in your writing, including works that are directly quoted or paraphrased, as well as works used as a source of information. This includes both print and online sources. Your paper submissions must consist of your own writing, and any direct quotations or paraphrasing from other works must be properly cited.

Reading

Borthwick, Mark. Pacific Century: The Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia. Westview Press, 2013.

Supplementary readings and materials

Schirokauer, Conrad, Miranda Brown, David Lurie, and Suzanne Gay. A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations. 4th ed. Wadsworth Publishing, 2012.

Ferdinand, Peter. Governance in Pacific Asia: Political Economy and Development from Japan to Burma. Continuum, 2012.

Godement, Francois. The New Asian Renaissance. Routledge, 1997.

Cumings, Bruce. Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History, Updated Edition. W. W. Norton, 2005.

Abrami, Regina M., William C. Kirby, and F. Warren Mcfarlan. Can China Lead?: Reaching the Limits of Power and Growth. Harvard Business Review Press, 2014.

Holslag, Jonathan. China's Coming War with Asia. Polity, 2015.

Although most of the readings will be in the textbooks, in several instances we will draw on outside readings.

You are expected to do all the assigned reading **prior** to all classes, and do it in a way that will allow you to raise critical questions and actively participate in the discussions. You should also bring your books to class (in digital form), since we will discuss the readings.

You can find materials here:

www.asian-studies.com

<http://www.asian-studies.com/sociopolitical-and-economic-development-of-asia-ma-course.html>

For current information, please, refer:

<http://atimes.com>

Classes schedule

No of Session	Topics	Lectures (Academic hours)	Seminars
1	Course Introduction. The Asian Setting and Rising of State and Society before 1800	2	4

2	Early European Influence to 1800. 19th Century European Imperialism and the Colonization of Southeast Asia	2	4
3	China's response to the West: The Crisis and Fall of the Ch'ing Empire. Japan's Response to the West: Meiji Modernization	2	4
4	The Rise of Nationalism in Asia. Nationalism in Colonial East and SE Asia. Models of Nationalism in China: Chiang Kai-shek versus Mao. Ultra-Nationalism in Japan: The 1930's	2	4
5	The Pacific and Cold War In Asia. The Pacific and Cold War In Asia. China from Mao to Deng	4	6
6	Japan Reinvents Itself. .	2	4
	Remodeling China in 2000's.	2	4
7	The Struggle for Power and development in Modern Asia. Course wrap-up	4	6
	Final exam (essay)		
Total	56	20	36

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic No	Title	Readings (pp.)
1	Course Introduction	
2	The Asian Setting and Rising of State and Society before 1800	3-6, 11, 48-56, 71-77
4	Early European Influence to 1800	77-89
5	19th Century European Imperialism and the Colonization of Southeast Asia	89-100
6	China's response to the West: The Crisis and Fall of the Ch'ing Empire	173-178
7	Japan's Response to the West: Meiji Modernization	127-155
8	The Rise of Nationalism in Asia	161-163, 170-185, 189-194, 196-201
9	Nationalism in Colonial East and SE Asia	190-200
10	Models of Nationalism in China: Chiang Kai-shek versus Mao	178-190
11	Ultra-Nationalism in Japan: The 1930's	201-213
12	The Pacific and Cold War In Asia:	213-230, 238-240
13	Postwar Nation-Building in Southeast Asia	457-481
14	China from Mao to Deng	403—415, 439, 443-457

15	Japan Reinvents Itself	241-270
16	Remodeling China in 2000's	Can China Lead?, ch. 6
17	The Struggle for Power and development in Modern Asia	China's Coming War with Asia ch. 5, 6, 8
18	Course Wrap-up	507-535

Control questions

1. Does East Asia as defined above enjoy any unity beyond that imposed by race and geography?
2. What are the main ethno-linguistic divisions among East Asians?
3. Do these divisions necessarily coincide with cultural differences such as religion and subsistence patterns?
4. What are the main cultural divisions in the region?
5. Why did the Chinese see themselves as the "center" of the civilized world?
6. To what extent do pre-modern attitudes and rivalries carry over into contemporary East Asia?
7. What was the first reaction of Asian countries to the Western impact?
8. The British policy in East and South-East Asia: main trends, regional financial flows and trade.
9. What was the nature of early European Rivalry in China?
10. What were the main trends of the transformation of political systems in South-East Asia after the European impact?
11. Do you agree that "modern nation-states" did not exist in East Asia in 1800?
12. Why was the European impact relatively limited between 1500 and 1800?
13. Where and in what ways did the Europeans exert the greatest influence?
14. Why was East Asia unprepared to deal with the 19th century European imperialist onslaught?

Final essays

The general title is "The legacy of tradition and the price of reforms in Modern Asia" (Please, specify the region, e.g. China, Japan, Malaysia, etc.)

You have to write a short essay (2 pages) after watching the documentary (in English)

Readings:

Borthwick, Mark. Pacific Century: The Emergence Of Modern Pacific Asia, Second Edition. 2nd ed. Westview Press, 1998, pp. 403-457

Main topics to concentrate on:

1. The European impact to the Asian development in 18-19 cc.
2. The nature and reasons of the rise of nationalism in Asia in 19-20 cc.
3. Compare the development of Japan in 19 c and 20 c.: political institutions, international behavior, form of government
4. Impact of
5. The nature of reforms in East Asia: social and economic dimensions
6. Social conflicts as the price for reforms
7. Political guidance and social activities
8. Reforms as the mental challenge for ordinary people
9. China "next": "overheating" of Chinese economy and the overloading of Chinese mind
10. Political and economic dimensions of the transition in East Asia
11. What are the main ethno-linguistic divisions among East Asians? What are the main cultural divisions in the region?
12. Why was the European impact relatively limited between 1500 and 1800?
13. Please, compare political order in South-East Asia before and after European impact. What were the main trends of the transformation of political systems in South-East Asia after the European impact?
14. Please, define the main trends for Korean development after WWII
15. What were the results for China of European impact and Opium wars in 19 c.
16. What was the first reaction of Asian countries to the Western impact?
17. Do you agree that "modern nation-states" did not exist in East Asia in 1800?
18. Please, define the main reasons and outcomes of the «Great proletarian culture revolution in China» (1966-1976)
19. The nature of reforms in China in 80-2000': social and economic dimensions
20. The nature of reforms in Japan in 50-70: social and economic dimensions
21. Will China move to crisis or to world leadership: main ideas in expert discussion.

Requirements

1. You need to use knowledge and information from the materials you previously have read. You can criticize, approve, agree or disagree with the shown material. In any case essay should have a critical design and reflect your independent thinking. Any thesis or statement should be proved by historical or socio-cultural analysis.
2. It's better to concentrate in several most important ideas than to try to write "in general". Be brief, laconic, and specific in developing your ideas
4. Good English is mostly welcomed.
5. Time for writing the essay – no more than 120 min.