

Modern East Asia
Sogang International Summer Program

	Modern East Asia	Semester	2024 Summer
Credit	3	Course Number	
Class Time	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Enrollment Eligibility	
Instructor's Photo	Name: Melissa Dale	Homepage: https://www.usfca.edu/faculty/melissa-dale	
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Overview:

Modern East Asia (1600-early 2000s) is a survey course designed to engage students with key themes important for understanding East Asia both historically and today. This dynamic period in East Asia's history is marked by rebellions, revolutions, wars, and social and economic transformation. We will begin with an examination of Imperial East Asia, where students will explore the traditions, cultures, and governments of the region from 1600 to 1800. Next, the course will focus on East Asia in the Modern World, highlighting key concepts such as modernity, Westernization, nationalism, and imperialism before discussing the War in the Pacific and its impact. In the third module, Post-War East Asia, we will study the occupation of Japan and Korea, the establishment of Communist regimes in the PRC and the DPRK, and the political, social, and economic transformations that define the postwar period. We will study this period through original texts and documents, assigned readings from leading scholars, literature and film, as well as lectures and discussions. This course is designed to hone your critical reading, analytical thinking, and writing and presentation skills while exploring the connections between the histories of China, Japan, and Korea.

Required Texts:

The following book is required for the course. You may purchase or rent paper or e-book editions from a vendor of your choice.

Holcombe, Charles. *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century*. 2nd ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

In addition to the required text, pdfs and links to readings will be shared with the class.

Evaluation Will be Based on the Following Criteria:

Class engagement (attendance & participation in discussions)	10%
Quizzes, response paragraphs, discussion posts, primary document analysis	20%
Group Presentations	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

CLASS SCHEDULE (This is a draft. Reading assignments will be updated closer to the start of the program)

Readings marked with an * can be found on Canvas

Term Dates: July 2 – Jul 25, 2024

Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before coming to class.

IMPERIAL EAST ASIA	
Class 1: Introduction to the Course/Traditional Societies (July 2)	
Topics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we define East Asia? The central tenets of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism and their influence on society The mandate of heaven and the dynastic cycle
Learning Objective(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the central tenets of the main teachings and moral precepts of East Asia & their impact on society, politics, and culture the value of comparative methodology
Readings and Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA
Class 2: East Asia Prior to 1800 and the Modern State (July 3)	
Topics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The social and political order in East Asia prior to the 1800s Encounters among East Asians and between East Asians and Westerners prior to the 1800s
Learning Objective(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the main themes and concepts of the course, especially “modernity” the political, social and cultural order of East Asia in 1600s, 1700s, and 1800s To gain the ability to compare and contrast the social structures of Tokugawa Japan, Joseon Korea, and Qing China To consider whether these states were modern and to back up your argument with evidence
Readings and Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA
Class 3: The Age of Western Imperialism (July 4)	
Topics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The arrival of imperialism in East Asia Interactions and encounters between the West and Asia The Opium War(s)
Learning Objective(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand how Tokugawa Japan and Qing China reacted to the arrival of Western ideas and military forces and what factors informed their different paths
Readings and Activities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA Students are encouraged to participate in Field Trip #1 to Gyeongbokgung Palace
EAST ASIA IN THE MODERN WORLD	
Class 4: Restoration, Self-Strengthening & Westernization (July 8)	
Topics:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Meiji Restoration The Self-Strengthening Movement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sino-Japanese War • The Boxer Rebellion
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To gain an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ China's last empire in transition and its attempts to reform through self-strengthening ○ The different modernization programs undertaken by China and Japan and whether modernization equaled Westernization ○ How and why the international order in East Asia shifted and China's role as the Confucian "elder brother" was questioned ○ How Korea is connected to the Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Class 5: Nations and Nationalism (July 9)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts of "nation" and "empire" • Differences between subject and citizen • The end of the Qing empire and the Xinhai Revolution
Learning Outcome(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To comprehend the reasons behind the fall of the Qing and the end of the imperial system in China • The ability to define "nation" and understand how this relates to the notion of "empire" • To understand the differences between "subjects" and "citizens"
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Class 6: Colonialism and Imperialism (July 10)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperialism • Japanese imperialism • The colonial experiences of Taiwan and Korea • The legacy of colonialism in Taiwan and Korea
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be able to define imperialism and Japanese imperialism • To understand the reasons why Japan practiced imperialism • To understand the complicated legacies of colonial rule in Korea
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Class 7: Rejection of European Liberalism & Anti-Japanese Movements (July 11)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The May Fourth Movement • The New Culture Movement • The March 1st Movement
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand why Chinese took to the streets to protest on May 4, 1919. What were their goals? Did they achieve them? • To be able to define the key historical actors and causes of the New Culture Movement • To understand the nature of Korean opposition to Japanese rule
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA •

Class 8: Empire Building & War in the Pacific (July 15)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Japanese road to war • Pan-Asianism • The War in the Pacific
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand what factors contributed to the rise of militarism in Japan in the 1930s • To understand the key historical players and important events of the War in the Pacific (1937-1945) • To identify the perspectives of the different historical players during the war • To understand the atomic bomb from the perspective of Americans and the Japanese
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
POSTWAR EAST ASIA
Class 9: Occupied Japan & Korea (July 16)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Japanese Emperor • The 1947 Constitution • Why was the decision made to divide Korea? • The Cold War • The Korean War
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To examine the Occupation of Japan and analyze how it attempted to prevent the rise of militarism again in Japan • To understand how we ended up with two Koreas • To assess whether these occupations were manifestations of Western colonialism/imperialism
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Class 10: Communism in East Asia, Pt. 1 (China Under Mao) (July 17)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of the PRC & creation of the new state • China under Mao Zedong
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand the challenges the Chinese Communists faced upon coming to power • To be able to discuss the structure of the new government in the PRC • To understand how Mao's ideology contributed to the 100 Flowers Movement, the Great Leap Forward, and the Cultural Revolution
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA
Class 11: Communism in East Asia, Pt. 2 (DPRK under the Kims) (July 18)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of the "Kim dynasty" • The <i>Chollima</i> Movement • <i>Juche</i> • The transition from Kim Il Sung to Kim Jong Il
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess the impact of the Korean War on North Korea • To understand how the Kim family solidified their hold on power

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The understand the structure of Korea society from 1953 to 1993 and life inside North Korea during that time
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA
Class 12: Economic Transformations: Reform & The East Asian Miracle (July 22)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The economic “miracle” in East Asia Comparisons of the Japanese and South Korean policies and patterns of development Reasons for the end of the high growth period Locating Asia’s “tigers” today
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the roots of the economic “miracle” in East Asia To assess the patterns of economic development in Japan and South Korea To understand the causes for the end of the high growth area To be able to identify the “tigers” today
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA
Class 13: Social Transformations: People Power & the Limits of Democracy (July 23)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protests in South Korea and China in the 1980s and Hong Kong and Taiwan in 2014
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the causes behind the protests To be able to analyze how techniques street protests have been deployed for both pro- and anti-democratic movements in Asia
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA
Class 14: Special Topics (July 24)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China’s One Child Policy Environment & pollution Demographic Challenges in East Asia
Learning Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the reasons behind China’s One Child Policy and its impact on society To be able to discuss the environmental challenges facing East Asia today To analyze the reasons behind and social impacts of East Asia’s low birth rates, low marriage rates, and rising elderly populations
Readings and Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA Prepare for the final exam
Class 15: Final Class (July 24)
Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summing Up Final Exam

