Modern East Asia
(HIST 3320 001, Fall 2023, MW 1:00 – 2:15, F 477)

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Office hours: MW 2:30–4:15 pm; TR 8–9:15 am; or by appointment

Course Description
This course will examine the history of East Asia, primarily China and Japan, from the
1600s through to the present. It will seek to provide an historical overview, and also
suggest how an examination of the past can shed light on contemporary events and
issues. For reasons of logic and coherence, the course is organized chronologically, but it
will not attempt the impossible and unrewarding task of following in detail every twist
and turn of some four centuries of history. Rather, it will seek within a chronological
framework to explore the major social, economic, cultural, and political changes of this
period. Key topics include the impact of Western imperialism, the process of
modernization, the rise of militarism in Japan, the Second World War in Asia, and the
Chinese Revolution.

Texts and Materials
The following books are required reading and can be purchased at the bookstores:

- Katsu Kokichi, Musui’s Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai
  (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1988)
- Michio Takeyama, Harp of Burma (Rutland, VT: Charles E. Tuttle, 1994)
- Liang Heng & Judith Shapiro, Son of the Revolution (New York: Vintage Books,
  1984)

Besides the books, I will provide you with additional materials (documents, articles, and
visual sources). Hard copies of most of these materials will be handed out in class and
electronic copies can be found on the Brightspace (D2L) course site.

The readings for each class session are listed on the course calendar. You should
complete the relevant reading assignments in preparation for each class meeting – we will
discuss in class the readings assigned for that particular day. Your familiarity with the
reading material will also be tested in quizzes and the midterm and final exams. Please
keep up with the reading assignments and bring them to class, so that we can refer
to them during our discussions.

Course Requirements

Class Participation
Class periods will consist of lecture interspersed with discussion. Because the class will
involve significant discussion, you should actively participate; indeed, the success of the
class discussions depends upon your conscientious preparation and participation. I appreciate that some students feel more comfortable than others about talking in class. I don’t want to penalize those who prepare thoroughly but don’t always show it in class. Consequently, you will find in the “Discussions” section of the Brightspace course site (under “Course Tools”) a discussion forum. Here, you may post your thoughts on the discussion materials, additional thoughts following our in-class discussion, and reply to any of your classmates’ postings. To receive credit, however, you must post on a topic before the start of the next class period (for example, if you want to post about the materials that we will discuss in class on Wednesday, August 30, you should do so before our next class meeting on Monday, September 4). To reflect its importance, class participation will form part of the grade (see under “Grades”).

Quizzes and Exams
There will be a midterm examination held on October 11 and a final examination on December 13. These will be in-class examinations consisting of map, identification, and essay questions. The final exam will not be cumulative; it will only deal with material covered after the midterm. In addition, students will be given four in-class quizzes, which will consist of objective questions based on the four course books. No make-up quizzes or exams will be given unless you make prior arrangements with me to miss the regularly scheduled test. If you miss a test due to an emergency on the day, you will not be allowed to take a make-up unless you can provide me with an appropriate excuse and/or documentation to justify your absence.

Written Assignment
You will choose one of four questions and write a paper that is 8-10 pages in length (2,500-3,000 words), typed and double-spaced (12-point type; 1-inch margins). Please submit both a hardcopy and an electronic copy. To be fair to those who submit papers on time, late ones will be penalized by a loss of 5% for each day they are late. Due December 4.

Please see the handout “Written Assignment” for further details.

Specific Course Policies & Information

Attendance
There will be no grade given simply for attending class. It is most unlikely, however, that you will do well unless you attend regularly, nor can you participate in class discussions if you are not there. You are responsible for all material covered during class time. Any consequences of absence from class are your responsibility.

Grades
The grades for the course will be determined as follows: 20% for class participation; 20% for the quizzes; 20% for the midterm examination; 20% for the final examination; 20% for the written assignment. The grading scale is as follows: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 59 or less.
Contact/Communication
Ordinarily, I will respond to course-related emails during the regular work week (Monday-Friday) and work day (8-5) as soon as possible and certainly within 24 hours. If you email me after 5pm during a regular work week, I may not respond until the following day; if you email me on a Friday night or weekend, I may not respond until the following Monday. I will also hold office hours on MW 2:30-4:15 pm and TR, 8-9:15 am. Please feel free to stop by my office at any time during my office hours. If you can’t make those times, we can set up an appointment. I am happy to meet and chat with you; indeed, it’s usually easier to discuss substantive issues in person.

Course Calendar

Week 1 (8/28 – 8/30) Introduction – Qing Dynasty China
- **Reading 8/30**: “On the Duties of an Official” (X); “Selections from the Twenty-four Exemplars of Filial Piety” (X)

Week 2 (9/4 – 9/6) Internal & External Pressures – Opium War
- **Reading 9/4**: “China’s Population Problem” (X); “Two Edicts from the Qianlong Emperor” (X)
- **Reading 9/6**: “Letter to the English Ruler” (X); “Despatch from Lord Palmerston” (X)

Week 3 (9/11 – 9/13) Taiping Rebellion – “Self-Strengthening” Movement
- **Reading 9/11**: “Book of Heavenly Commandments” (X); “Taiping Economic Program” (X); “A Proclamation Against the Bandits” (X)
- **Reading 9/13**: “On Reform” (X); “Principle Versus Practicality” (X)

Week 4 (9/18 – 9/20) Revolution of 1911 – Tokugawa Japan
- **Reading 9/18**: “Comprehensive Consideration of the Whole Situation” (X); “An Address to My Two Hundred Million Women Compatriots” (X); “Revolutionary Alliance Proclamation” (X)
- **Reading 9/20**: “Laws of Military Households” (X); “Five-Household Group Laws” (X)

Week 5 (9/25 – 9/27) Social & Intellectual Changes – “Opening” of Japan
- **Reading & Quiz 9/25**: Katsu Kokichi’s *Musui’s Story*
- **Reading 9/27**: “Letters from President Fillmore and Commodore Perry to the Emperor of Japan” (X)

Week 6 (10/2 – 10/4) Meiji Restoration – Meiji Modernization
- **Reading 10/2**: “Kume Kunitake: Report of the Iwakura Mission” (X)
- **Reading 10/4**: “Kido Koin’s Recollection of Return of Feudal Domains” and “Memorial on the Return of Feudal Domains and Census Registers” (X); “Military Conscription Ordinance” (X)

Week 7 (10/9 – 10/11) Japanese Imperialism
• **Reading 10/9:** “Good-bye Asia” (X); “Sino-Japanese War Wood Block Prints” (images on the Brightspace/D2L course website)

• **10/11:** MIDTERM EXAM

**Week 8 (10/16 – 10/18) Early Republican China – May Fourth Movement**

• **Reading 10/16:** “The Warlords” (X)

• **Reading & Quiz 10/18:** Pa Chin’s *Family*

**Week 9 (10/23 – 10/25) First United Front – Taisho Democracy**

• **Reading 10/23:** “Victory of Bolshevism” (X); “Sun Yat-sen Opens the Whampoa Academy” (X)

• **Reading 10/25:** “Shidehara Diplomacy” (X); “Culture in Taisho Japan” (images on the Brightspace/D2L course website)

**Week 10 (10/30 – 11/1) Rise of Militarism – Second World War in Asia**

• **Reading 10/30:** “An Anniversary Statement by the Amur Society” (X); “The Naughty Japanese” (X)

• **Reading 11/1:** “Draft of Basic Plan for Establishment of Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” (X); “Japanese Wartime Propaganda” (images on the Brightspace/D2L course website)

**Week 11 (11/6–11/8) Second World War in Asia – Postwar Japan**

• **Reading 11/6:** “Potsdam Declaration” (X); “The Decision to Use the Bomb” (X)

• **Reading & Quiz 11/8:** Michio Takeyama, *Harp of Burma*


• **Reading 11/13:** “Report on the Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan (March 1927)” (X); “The Long March: The Tale of the Luding Bridge, 1935” (X)

• **Reading 11/15:** “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship” (X)

**Week 13 (11/20 – 11/22) THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**Week 14 (11/27 – 11/29) Great Leap Forward – Cultural Revolution**

• **Reading 11/27:** No reading

• **Reading & Quiz 11/29:** Liang Heng’s *Son of the Revolution*

**Week 15 (12/4 – 12/6) Cold War in East Asia – Post-Mao China**

• **12/4:** WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE

• **Reading 12/4:** No reading

• **Reading 12/6:** “Tiananmen Square Demonstrations” (X)

**Final Exam: Wednesday, December 13, 1 – 3pm**
Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes:
The SFA History Department has identified the following Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all SFA students earning a BA degree in History. The SFA History major can:

(1) Interpret the past in context.
(2) Understand the complex nature of the historical record.
(3) Engage in historical inquiry, research, and analysis.
(4) Craft historical narrative and argument.
(5) Practice historical thinking as central to engaged citizenship.

This course will involve all of these PLOs.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The more specific outcomes for this particular course are as follows. In this class, you will:

(1) Explain the major developments in the history of East Asia from the 1600s through to the present, with particular emphasis on China and Japan.
(2) Analyze East Asia’s interaction with other regions and its place in the modern world.
(3) Recognize how the history of East Asia has shaped the region today.
(4) Examine an historical issue, locate and evaluate appropriate sources, and construct an organized and effective analysis of your topic.

Explanation of credit hours awarded for course
This is an upper-level history course. Upper-level lecture courses in history meet for 2,250 minutes (37.5 hours), including examination times, during the course of a semester. Students typically have weekly reading assignments from a combination of textbooks, monographs, scholarly articles, primary document collections, and supplemental materials (biographies, historical novels, memoirs, etc.). The level of reading is more advanced than that required in lower-level surveys, and the number of pages that students are required to read is generally higher. Typical upper-level courses require students to take 2-3 essay exams per semester, in addition to the final exam, which is also generally a written exam. In addition, out-of-class writing assignments (book reviews, biographical sketches, research papers, etc.) are typically required in upper-level courses. Course instructors are required to hold regular scheduled office hours to make themselves available to consult with students as needed. Combined, studying for exams, doing the required reading, completing writing assignments, and consulting with course instructors average two hours of work outside the classroom for every hour spent in the classroom.
**General Policies & Information**

**Academic Integrity**
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity [10.4.pdf](sfasu.edu) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).
Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004/468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby) www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents; 936.468.7249; dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202 www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp; 936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub, “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education www.sfasu.edu/thehub; 936.468.4008; thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741