

HI 197 A: A History of Modern East Asia**Colby College****Fall Semester 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Viktor Shmagin

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Class time: MW 2:30-3:45pm

Class location: Miller 014

Office hours: MW 12:30 – 2:00pm, Tu 1 – 4pm

Office: Miller 235

Format: Introductory survey

All course materials except the required texts are to be found on the course Moodle page. You can purchase the required texts from the bookstore, or read the reserve copies at the library. You will submit assignments there by uploading them, unless otherwise instructed. Research resources (such as JSTOR, others) are available through the Colby College Libraries homepage <https://www.colby.edu/libraries/>

Course description

This course welcomes you to yet another Asian Century. Today's East Asia, an immense stretch of land and coastline, is one of the most densely populated and economically active regions of the world. It is also incredibly diverse culturally, ethnically, and politically. This is only to be expected of a place with a four-thousand year history of complex society, of literacy, and of powerful states able to command vast resources. And yet in many ways, it was only in the last century and a half that the East Asia we are familiar with today first emerged. We will begin our examination in the late 18th century, a highpoint of East Asian economic power and government stability, and examine the destabilizing impact of growing internal crises and Western imperialism. We will examine the rise of Asian nationalism and the national conversations about rights, including women's rights in China, Japan and Korea. We will study the development of modern East Asian understandings of race and class, the development of Japanese imperialism and the Pacific War. We will also examine the creation of the People's Republic of China, and East Asia's Cold War history. The class will also focus on the role of East Asian culture in world history. Students will attend lecture, engage in class discussions, participate in class exercises, and complete several significant written assignments.

Course objectives

- Developing a familiarity with the fundamentals of modern East Asian history
- Appreciating the roles imperialism, globalization, race, gender, and popular culture played in modern East Asian history
- Improving information literacy and critical thinking skills
- Communicating your findings and engaging with the material both orally and in writing
- Refining your conclusions and reading of the material in conversation with your classmates as fellow historians
- Deploying what you learned about East Asia in order to better understand the world we live in as a whole, and your place in it

Course texts

These are the only two texts that you have to purchase or rent. Everything else is available through the course Moodle page.

- Patricia Buckley Ebrey and Anne Walthall. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History, Volume II: From 1600*, third edition. Cengage Learning, 2013. [Hereafter referred to as *Textbook*]
 - Miyazaki Hayao. *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind*, Volumes I-IV. VIZ Media, 2012.
- READ THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER: FINISH BY WEEK 14

Course requirements and grading

- **Attendance**

You are expected to attend every class, but things happen. If you are unable to attend class for a reason beyond your control, let me know as soon as you can. Three unexcused absences result in a 5% grade reduction, four in 10%, five in 20%. After six absences you will be unable to pass the course.

- **Quizzes (10%)**

You must be thoroughly prepared to participate in class. This means reading carefully and taking notes. To help keep you on track, you will, from time to time, be given unannounced quizzes at the start of the class. These will be open notes, but not open book, judged on a scale of 1-4. A failing grade on one of these quizzes (2 or below) will also result in your class participation grade being capped at 2 for that day. Unexcused absences for the quiz will result in a grade of 0. If you miss a quiz due to an excused absence, the score from your next quiz will also be applied to the quiz you missed, and if you miss the last quiz of the semester due to an excused absence, the quiz score from the last quiz you completed will be applied to the quiz you missed.

- **Class participation (30%)**

You are expected to participate actively in class discussion and activities. You are all colleagues for the duration of this course, and that means engaging with each other's ideas. Effort is what counts here.

- **Two essays (15% first, 20% second)**

You will write two 4-5 page analytic essays. You will be given a choice of questions to answer, which you will do by developing an original thesis and effectively deploying evidence from the assigned texts in support of your arguments. Detailed instructions will be provided on the course webpage.

- **Final Essay (25%)**

This 6-8 page essay will utilize everything that you have learned in this course to come up with an original essay on a topic relevant to East Asian history. The bulk of this essay is to be based on the class readings, but limited research will be required. Detailed instructions will be provided.

- **Extra credit**

Attendance at Asia or history-related events on the Colby campus may also be factored into your grade. You are encouraged to attend as many events as possible (they will be announced in class and posted on the course webpage. Instructions for completing assignment related to these events will be provided.

Late assignments

- Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day. I will not accept assignments more than three days late.

Academic honesty

Academic honesty is expected of all Colby College students. Conversely, dishonest practices carry serious consequences, including failure of the course and possible suspension or expulsion. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating on exams, and other practices, some of which may even be accidental (though you will still be held accountable). Please familiarize yourself with the definition of academic honesty at <http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/academic-honesty/> and learn how to avoid plagiarism at <http://libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism>

Other matters

Please put away your phones while in class. Have course materials available either on your computers or on paper for easy reference. Take notes on your readings and on the discussions.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me for help with the coursework, or to talk and share ideas.

If anyone is experiencing difficulties of any kind (health, financial, emotional, etc.), please let me or someone else know. You can say as little or as much as you like, but please say something so we can help. Some other resources are available here:

- Student Advising and Support Homepage (links for Advising, Academic Support, Access and Opportunity): <http://www.colby.edu/studentadvising/>
- Dean of College Division Homepage (tabs for Health Services, Campus Life, Counseling Services, Dean of Studies, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, others): <https://www.colby.edu/life/about/>

COURSE SCHEDULE:

All graded assignments that you have to submit are OUTLINED LIKE THIS

- Have all materials indicated by these arrows read before the start of class

Week 1 – Introduction

- Sept 4 (Wed) – Course introduction

Week 2 – Premodern East Asia

- Sept 9 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook Chapter 16 (pp. 270-87)
 - “Taxes and Labor Service,” in *Chinese Civilization: a Sourcebook*, ed. Patricia Buckley Ebrey (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 282-86.
 - “Lan Dingyuan’s Casebook,” in “Taxes and Labor Service,” in *Chinese Civilization: a Sourcebook*, ed. Patricia Buckley Ebrey (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 292-96.
- Sept 11 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Textbook Chapter 17 (pp. 288-303)
 - “Forging Political Order: ‘Laws for the Military Houses (1615, 1635),’” in *Voices of Early Modern Japan: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life during the Age of the Shoguns*, ed. Constantine Nomikos Vaporis (Boulder: Westview Press, 2014), 68-71.
 - “A Woman’s Place: Onna Daigaku (The Greater Learning for Women, 1716) and Tadano Makuzu’s Hitori Kangae (Solitary Thoughts, 1818),” in *Voices of Early Modern Japan: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life during the Age of the Shoguns*, ed. Constantine Nomikos Vaporis (Boulder: Westview Press, 2014), 17-23.

Week 3 – Interlude: Korean War

- Sept 16 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook Chapter 28 (pp. 490-501)
 - *Brotherhood of War*, dir. Je-kyu Kang (Kang Je-kyu Co. Ltd, 2004). On reserve. Also screening TBA.
- Sept 18 (Wed) – Discussion with special guest, Dr. Kyung Hyun Kim
 - Kim, Susie Jie Young, “Korea beyond and within the Armistice: Division and the Multiplicities of Time in Postwar Literature and Cinema,” *The Journal of Korean Studies* 18, no. 2 (2013): 287-313.
 - Sept 18, 4:30pm – Diamond 122, Association for Asian Studies, Northeast Asia Council, Distinguished Speakers Bureau talk. Dr. Kyung Hyun Kim, “Korean War Films: Turn Toward a Post-traumatic Future.”

Week 4 – The Great Divergence?

- Sept 23 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook Chapter 18 (pp. 314-32)
- Sept 25 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Peter C. Perdue, “The First Opium War: The Anglo-Chinese War of 1839-1842,” MIT Visualizing Cultures, accessed August 16, 2019, https://visualizingcultures.mit.edu/opium_wars_01/ow1_essay.pdf

Read Nausicaa

Week 5 – Transformations in Japan and Korea

- Sept 30 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook Chapter 20 (pp. 347-62)
 - John Dower, “Yokohama Boomtown,” MIT Visualizing Cultures, pp. 23-61. Accessed August 16. https://visualizingcultures.mit.edu/yokohama/pdf/yb_essay.pdf
- Oct 2 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Textbook Chapter 23 (pp. 400-14)
 - “Syngman Rhee: The Spirit of Independence,” in *Sources of Korean Tradition*, eds. Ch’oe Yōng-ho, Peter H. Lee and Wm. Theodore de Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 299-305.

Week 6 – Modernization and Society

- Oct 7 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook Chapter 24 (pp. 415-29)
 - “The Spirit of the May 4th Movement,” in *Chinese Civilization: a Sourcebook*, ed. Patricia Buckley Ebrey (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 360-63.
- Oct 9 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Textbook Chapter 22 (pp. 382-99)
 - Sally A. Hastings, “Hatoyama Haruko: Ambitious Woman,” in *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan*, ed. Anne Walthall, (Oxford: SR Books, 2002), 81-98.
- Oct 11 (Fri) – ESSAY 1 DUE uploaded to Moodle by 5pm

Week 7 – Imperialism in 20th Century Asia

- Oct 14 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Bourgeois and Proletarians,” in *The Communist Manifesto* (Penguin Books, 1985), 79-94.
 - “Civilization and Barbarism,” Image Gallery, MIT Visualizing Cultures, accessed August 17, 2019,
https://visualizingcultures.mit.edu/civilization_and_barbarism/cb_gallery.html
- Oct 16 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Kate McDonald, “Speaking Japanese: Language and the Expectation of Empire,” in *Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan* (Oakland: University of California Press), 135-59.

Week 8 – Revolution and war in China

- Oct 21 (Mon) – FALL RECESS NO CLASS
- Oct 23 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Textbook Chapter 25 (pp. 439-54)
 - “He Zhen: ‘What Women Should Know about Communism,’” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, second edition, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 389-92.
 - “Report on an Investigation of the Hunan Peasant Movement,” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, second edition, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 406-11.

Week 9 – Japan at war

- Oct 28 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook, Chapter 26 (pp. 456-71).

- “Red Circle is the Heart; Don’t ever Stab it,” “The Burning of Interpreter Chen: Chinese Eyes,” “The Devil and Buddha Coexist on the Battlefield,” “‘Where’s Daddy?’ The POW’s Child Asks,” “Germ Warfare and Human Body Experiments,” “Mystery of Atrocity on Zhujiang Riverbank,” “Don’t Ever Get Caught Again,” “Unforgettable – the Blood Spurting from that Chinese Boy’s Chest,” in *Sensō: The Japanese Remember the Pacific War*, ed. Frank Gibney (Armonk: M. E. Sharpe, 1995), 65-75.
- Oct 30 (Wed) – Discussion
 - “Race, Language and War in Two Cultures,” and “Graphic Others/Graphic Selves: Cartoons in War and Peace,” in John Dower, *Japan in War and Peace, Selected Essays* (New York: New Press, 1993), 257-85.

Keep reading Nausicaa

Week 10 – Postwar China

- Nov 4 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Textbook, Chapter 27 (pp. 472-89).
 - “The Sixteen Points: Guidelines for the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution,” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, second edition, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 474-76.
- Nov 6 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Textbook, Chapter 30 (pp. 524-39)
 - “‘Uphold the Four Basic Principles,’ Speech by Deng Xiaoping, March 30, 1979,” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, second edition, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 492-94.
 - “Li Xiaojiang: ‘Awakening of Women’s Consciousness,’” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, second edition, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), Vol. 2: 517-20.

Week 11 – Recovery, social change, social problems

- Nov 11 (Mon) – Screening: Lixin Fan, “The Last Train Home,” Zeitgeist Pictures, 2009.
 - Textbook, Chapter 29 (pp. 510-23).
 - Xiao-huang Yin, “China’s Gilded Age,” accessed August 17, 2019, <https://www.theatlantic.com/past/docs/unbound/flashbks/deng/gilded.htm>
- Nov 13 (Wed) – Discussion

- Gavan McCormick, "The Japanese Movement to 'Correct' History in Laura Hein and Mark Selden *Censoring History: Citizenship and Memory in Japan, Germany, and the United States* (M.E. Sharpe: Armonk and London, 2000), 53-74.

Week 12 – Freedom in East Asia

- Nov 18 (Mon) – Lecture
 - Lee Kuan Yew, "Culture Is Destiny: A Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew," *Foreign Affairs* 73, no. 2 (Mar. - Apr., 1994): 109-126.
 - Kim Dae Jung, Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values, *Foreign Affairs*, 73, no. 6 (Nov. - Dec., 1994): 189-194.
- Nov 20 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Ueno Chizuko, "The Declining Birthrate: Whose Problem?" *Review of Population and Social Policy* 7 (1998): 103-128.
 - Austin Ramzy and Chris Buckley, "'Absolutely No Mercy': Leaked Files Expose How China Organized Mass Detentions of Muslims," *The New York Times*, filed November 16, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/11/16/world/asia/china-xinjiang-documents.html>

[NOTE: To receive FREE NYT ACCESS, go to <http://www.colby.edu/libraries/new-york-times-academic-pass/> and follow the directions for registering for Academic Pass access with a Colby email address]
 - Agence France-Presse, "Blackwater Founder's Hong Kong firm signs Xinjiang Training Camp Deal," *The Guardian*, filed February 1, 2019. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/feb/01/blackwater-founder-erik-prince-to-build-training-camp-in-chinas-xinjiang?fbclid=IwAR3WcWpTL76jJ44R-IJLj-k9dNbqJp60Cz6gdKPRNF5EPkWkgM_HUjjeF8
 - [Read the opening in italics, then choose one interview and read that too] Ben Mauk, "Weather Reports: Voices from Xinjiang," *The Believer*, filed October 1, 2019, <https://believermag.com/weather-reports-voices-from-xinjiang/?fbclid=IwAR2TJxIhQk2JeKeaL2BmSFzgH69i6LdlGqQvwYV6IXtXIIMdHZEplvGSZuA>
- Nov 22 (Fri) – ESSAY 2 DUE uploaded to Moodle by 5pm

Week 13 – Manga and East Asia

- Nov 25 (Mon) – Discussion

- Wendy Siuyi Wong, "Globalizing Manga: From Japan to Hong Kong and Beyond," *Mechademia* 1 no. 1 (2006): 23-45.

- Nov 27 (Wed) – THANKSGIVING RECESS NO CLASS

Week 14 – East Asia, the Environment, the World

- Dec 2 (Mon) – Screening: Jing Chai, "Under the Dome," 2015.
 - Keep reading Nausicaa
- Dec 4 (Wed) – Discussion
 - Finish Nausicaa
- **FINAL ESSAY** – Dec 14 (Sat) FINAL ESSAY DUE uploaded to Moodle by 5pm.

I am available for consultation whenever my office door is open, including during normal office hours, and by appointment.