

01:098:444 Seminar on East Asian Societies

**Rutgers University
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Instructor:

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Office Hours: Thursday 11: 30am-12: 30pm; or by appointment (322 Scott Hall)

Class Hours and Classroom:

T/Th 1:10-2:30pm, Scott Hall 219

Syllabus

Course Description

In this course we will examine the development of major social and cultural institutions in contemporary East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from the nineteenth century to the present. Topics to be discussed in class include East Asian nationalism, urban modernity, economic miracle, and culinary culture. These topics will be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives such as literary approaches, visual studies, social history, women's and gender studies, and global studies. The course will provide a systematic introduction to the research process and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand major issues in the large context of East Asian culture and societies. The final product of the course, a 10-page research paper on a particular aspect of modern East Asia, will allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question, gather and evaluate relevant information, develop and sustain an argument, and communicate their findings orally and in written form in a mode appropriate to their chosen area of inquiry.

Course Objectives

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- explain how major social and cultural institutions and related practices in East Asia have changed in modern times
- identify how arguments are constructed differently in different disciplines and assess the validity or limitations of such arguments
- formulate their own research question, devise a research plan, take advantage of current scholarships, and make critical approaches to major issues in East Asian societies
- communicate their research findings in writing and orally in a mode appropriate to their area of inquiry and their target audience

This course assumes that you have a basic familiarity with at least one of the three countries we will focus on in this course. However, no knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean is required.

The course meets the following Core Curriculum goals:

III: Cognitive Skills and Processes

A: Writing and Communication

- s. (s1) Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
- (s2) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.
- t. Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.
- u. Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.
- v. Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

C: Information Technology and Research

- y. Employ current technologies to access information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings.
- z. Analyze and critically assess information from traditional and emergent technologies.

The course also meets the following departmental learning goals for East Asian Languages and Area Studies (214):

Majors will be able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the literature and culture of one or more East Asian countries (China, Japan, Korea); effectively use tools (reference works, etc.) and technology appropriate to learning an East Asian language; and, analyze issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach.

Course Requirements

- * Regular class attendance and participation;
- * Homework assignments: regular email postings (starting from Week 2: four students each time, three 1-page single-space email comments total in the semester);
- * One 5-page double-spaced paper;
- * 8-minute oral presentation of the findings you have made in your research paper (outline or proposal of your finale research paper);
- * One 10-page double-spaced research paper.

* {Note on the 6 core curriculum goals: (1), one 1-page email posting [goal y]; (2) the second 1-page email posting, plus short class presentation [goal z]; (3) the third 1-page email posting, plus short class presentation [goal t]; (4) 5-page midterm paper [goal u]; (5) final oral presentation, 8-minute presentation followed by Q&A [goal v]; (6) 10-page final paper [goal s]}

Grading

Class attendance and participation

15%

Homework assignments (three 1-page single-space postings: Forum)	15%
5-page paper (Drop Box)	20%
8-minute presentation of findings	20%
10-page Research paper (Drop Box)	30%

Required Readings

Merle Goldman and Andrew Gordon, eds. *Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003. ISBN 978-0674000988

All other readings are e-files and posted on Sakai.