In this course we will examine major social and cultural issues of contemporary East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from the late-nineteenth century to the present, such as East Asian modernity, colonial identity, memories of war, and contemporary popular culture. The course also highlights the centrality of “everyday life and practices” (生活, C: shenghuo, J: seikatsu, K: saenghwal) in the organization and experience of modernity in East Asia. These issues will be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives including literary analysis, visual studies, social history, women’s and gender studies, and global studies, and a comparative and transnational understanding will be encouraged. The course will also provide a systematic introduction to research and recursive writing processes, and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand major issues in the larger context of East Asian cultures and societies.

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

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1) explain the nuances of major social and cultural issues in modern East Asia
2) identify how arguments are constructed in different disciplines and assess the validity or limitations of such arguments
3) 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
4) communicate their research findings in writing and orally in a mode appropriate to their area of inquiry and their target audience

***This syllabus is distributed at the beginning of the semester. All updated information about the course will be posted on Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking the Canvas course page for updates.

Requirements: Please check Canvas for detailed information about these assignments and requirements.

- Preliminary project proposal 5%**
- Four Reading Responses and one Library Assignment 20% (4% x 5)**
- In-class Participation 10%**
- Class Presentation 5%**
- Written Peer Feedback 5%**

**You will receive informal or in-class comments

Major Assignments

- Midterm Response Paper 10% (You will receive written comments, mid to late February)
- Updated project prospectus 10% (You will receive written comments, mid to late March)
- First draft and presentation 15% (You will receive written comments, mid April)
- Final Project 20%

Note on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. For details, please see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu. I will also be glad to discuss with you any concerns or questions you have on this issue.

A special note on plagiarism: Please note that ignorance of the citation practice is not a mitigating circumstance for plagiarism. Anyone who needs assistance in academic writing should contact the writing program (http://wp.rutgers.edu/tutoring/writingcenters).

Note on Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.
Schedule

**primary sources**

_assignment notice_

Wk 1 Introduction

Tues. 1/21 Introduction
- Course overview
- Self-introduction, theories of everyday life

_assignment Notice_

Fri. 1/24 Everyday life and modernity
- **Fukuzawa Yukichi, **“Datsu-A Ron “On Leaving Asia”—from the Jiji shinpō newspaper, March 16, 1885.”

Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 3 Clash of Civilizations” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 44-62

Part 1: Early 20th Century

Wk 2 Colonial modernity

Tues. 1/28 Madness and modernity
- **Short fiction, Lu Xun, “Madman’s Diary” (1918), pp. 7-18
- **Short fiction, Hyon Chin-kŏn, “A Society That Drives You To Drink” (1921)

Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 4 The Development of Nationalism” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 63-83

Fri. 1/31 Spectacle and womanhood
- **Film, New Women (1934), dir. Cai Chusheng, 104 min. (watch before class), [https://youtu.be/9Q4zhLxCBro](https://youtu.be/9Q4zhLxCBro)
Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 5: The Rise of Imperial Japan” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 84-103

† Preliminary project proposal due Sunday, 2/2 11:59pm on Canvas †

Wk 3 Urban Ethnography

Tues. 2/4 Life on the Street:
● Jini Kim Watson, “Imagining the Colonial City” in The New Asian City: Three-Dimensional Fictions of Space and Urban Form, p. 27-52
● **Short fiction, Yi Hyo-sŏk, “City and Specter” (1928), p. 89-104

Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 6. The Turbulent 1920s and 1930s” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 104-124

† Midterm Response Paper assigned on Tuesday, 2/4 †

Fri. 2/7 No class

† Library assignment due Sunday 2/9, 11:59pm on Canvas †

Part 2: Second Sino-Japanese War and the Korean war

Wk 4 Imperialization

Tues. 2/11 Manchuria as imperial contact zone

Presentation: Ebrey and Walthall, “Chapter 25: War and Revolution, China, 1927-1949” in Modern East Asia from 1600, p. 439-454

Fri. 2/14 Mobilization and animation

Presentation: Ebrey and Walthall, “Chapter 26: War and Aftermath in Japan, 1931-1964” in Modern East Asia from 1600, p. 456-471

† Midterm Response Paper Due Saturday, 2/15, 11:59pm on Canvas †

Wk 5 Wartime Violence

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Tues. 2/18 Wartime atrocities
   ● David Askew, “New Research on the Nanjing Incident,” July 13, 2004 (Read “Introduction” and “Conclusion” carefully and skim the rest), Asia Pacific Journal, Japan Focus, https://apjjf.org/-David-Askew/1729/article.html

Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 7 Pacific War” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 125-144

Fri. 2/21 No class

Part 3: Postwar East Asia

Wk 6 Postwar Japan

♪ Updated project prospectus assigned on Tuesday, 2/25 ♪

Tues. 2/25 Postwar Japanese fiction
   ● Sharalyn Orbaugh, “Ōe Kenzaburō” in The Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature, p. 198-203
   ● **Fiction, Kenzaburō Ōe, Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness (1977), selections


Fri. 2/28 Postwar cinema of everyday life
   ● **Film, Tokyo Story (1953) dir. Ozu Yasujirō, 136 min.

Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 8 Form Postwar to Cold War” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 145-165

Wk 7 Revolutionary PRC

Tues. 3/3 R
   ● **Film, Red Detachment of Women (1961), dir. Xie Jin, 110 min., https://youtu.be/z0PM9d18e90

Fri. 3/6 Ideology versus practice

- **Lecture, Mao Zedong, “Talks at the Yenan Forum on Literature and Art” (1942), selections**
  https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-3/mswv3_08.htm

Presentation: TBD

Wk 8 Divided Korea

Tues. 3/10 Revolutionary Heroes

- **Film, The Flower Girl (1972), dir. Ch’oe Ik-kyu, 127 min.

Presentation: Armstrong, “North Korea: The Logic and Limits of ‘Self-Reliance’,” in The Koreas, p. 57-88

Fri. 3/13 City and the Countryside

- **Short fiction, Ch’oe In-ho, “Another Man’s Room” (1971) in Modern Korean Fiction, p. 181-194.


♫ Updated project prospectus due, Sunday 3/15, 11:59pm on Canvas ♫

SPRING BREAK

Part 4: Contemporary

Wk 9 Postmodern Japan

Tues. 3/24 Individuality in the postmodern city I


Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 9: The Late Cold War” in Modern East Asia: an Introductory History, p. 166-185
Fri. 3/27 Individuality in the postmodern city II


Presentation: Ebrey and Walthall, “Chapter 29: Contemporary Japan (1965 to the Present),” in *Modern East Asia from 1600*, p. 510-523

† Final project first draft assigned on Friday, 3/27 †

Wk 10 Contemporary Hong Kong and Taiwan

Tues. 3/31 Queer literature


Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 10: Post-Cold War Trends” in *Modern East Asia: an Introductory History*, p. 186-204

Fri. 4/3 Hong Kong Cinema

- Rey Chow, “By Way of Mass Commodities: Love in *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*” in *Sentimental Fabulations, Contemporary Chinese Films*, p. 105-121


Wk 11 Virtual Korea

Tues. 4/7 Post-IMF youth culture I


Presentation: Miller, “Chapter 11: East Asia’s Future” in *Modern East Asia: an Introductory History*, p. 205-223

Fri. 4/10 Post-IMF youth culture II
● How to provide constructive feedback to your peers.

♫ Final Paper first draft due Saturday 4/11, 11:59pm on Canvas♫

Wk 12 Presentation Preparation

♫ Comments due Monday 4/13, 11:59pm on Canvas♫

Tues. 4/14 In-class workshops
● In-class peer critique. Instructions will be forthcoming.

Fri. 4/17 No class

Wk 13 Presentations I

Tues. 4/21 Presentations
● Group A1 & A2

Fri. 4/24 Presentations
● Group B1 & B2

Wk 14 Presentations II

Tues. 4/28 Presentations
● Group C1 & C2

Fri. 5/1 Presentations
● Group D1 & D2

♫ Final Project due TBD♫