Course Description:
What is modernity? What traits contribute to defining a society as a “modern” one? More specifically, in the collision between tradition and modernity, and between the East and the West, how did East Asian countries interact with changes and challenges from within and without? This course addresses these issues and familiarizes students with major historical events, figures, and ideas that have had far-reaching influences on China, Japan, and Korea. By discussing a wide range of topics on politics, religion, literature, as well as women and gender studies, we see the influence of cultural traditions on East Asian countries. We also illuminate how outside forces challenged and altered these societies. Last but not least, we will reflect upon how the West has perceived East Asian cultures. Readings are all in English. No knowledge of East Asian languages and cultures is required.

Requirements and Grades:
1. Attendance and Class Participation – 15%
2. Canvas Postings – 15%
3. Group Presentation – 20%
4. Final Quiz – 20%
5. Final Paper (6 pages) – 30%

Class Participation: In every class meeting, all students are expected to participate actively in discussion.

Canvas Postings: Each student should write a short paragraph, in which you focus on one particular issue that interests you most after reading the material. Please post your postings before 6 PM on Sunday.

Group Presentation: Every week, three students form a group to do a group presentation. In this teamwork, each student will use 20 minutes to discuss a topic that is related to the topic of the week.

Final Quiz: We will have a final quiz in class near the end of the semester. The quiz will contain single-answer and multiple-answer questions.

Final Paper: Each student should write a well-crafted and clearly argued final paper based on lectures and readings. It can cover any topic that interests you and should present a clear argument. You may engage relevant theoretical works if you think they are helpful to your
analysis. You should include footnotes and a bibliography according to the *MLA Style Manual* or *Chicago Manual of Style*.

**Statement on Academic Integrity**
As a member of Rutgers community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. Your paper should be your own original work. If you want to use words or ideas from other sources, make sure you identified the original sources and provide footnotes or parentheses. If you cite from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short, please place it in quotation marks; if you quote a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. Any work that has been submitted for credit in another course is generally not allowed to be submitted in this course unless you have the permission from your instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students with any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to talk to your instructor after class or during office hours.

**Instructor’s Contact Information**
Peng Liu, peng.liu@rutgers.edu
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 1:45–2:45 pm, by appointment
Scott Hall 337

**Required Textbooks:**


**Schedule**

**Week 1**
1/22 Introduction to the Course

**Week 2**
1/27 The Manchu Conquest
Harold Tanner, *China: A History*, vol. 2,
1/29 Group Presentations 1

Week 3
2/3 Emperors Kangxi, Yongzheng and Qianlong

2/5 Group Presentations 2

Week 4
2/10 In-Class Film: *The Opium War* (I)

2/12 In-Class Film: *The Opium War* (II)

Week 5
2/17 Rebellions and Reforms in the Qing

2/19 Group Presentations 3

Week 6
2/24 The Meiji Restoration: Japan Toward a Modern Nation-State

2/26 Group Presentations 4

Week 7
3/2 The End of Imperial China and The Emergence of New China

3/4 Group Presentations 5

Week 8
3/9 Lu Xun and Modern East Asia


3/11 Group Presentations 6

**Week 9 Spring Recess**

**Week 10**

3/23 *The Republic of China*


3/25 Group Presentations 7

**Week 11**

3/30 No Class

4/1 *People’s Republic of China*


**Week 12**

4/6 *Women’s Liberation in East Asia*


4/8 Group Presentations 8

**Week 13**

4/13 *Religion, War, and National Identity in Modern Japan*


4/15 Group Presentations 9

Week 14
4/20 The End of Chosŏn Dynasty and Japan’s Occupation of Korea


4/22 Group Presentations 10

Week 15
4/27 Korea in Documentary

4/29 Quiz

5/4 Review

Final Paper Due May 8