

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 216-01: Civilizations of Asia
MW 2:00-3:15 p.m. MCVR 228

Spring Semester 2002

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Course web site: <http://www.uncg.edu/~jaander2/HIS216>

Office Hours: MW 1:00-1:50 p.m., and by appointment

Introduction:

Given the recent economic hardships, is Asia doomed to regional ruin? Or are these countries at century's onset now on the brink of unequalled economic and political success? These two sweeping questions, often posed by Western media pundits, will serve as touchstones for our examination of East Asia in the modern age. During this course students will examine the events and personages that shaped this region in the twentieth century. Comparing the textbook narrative with various primary sources, you may decide for yourselves whether or not we are facing a "Pacific Century" with its locus of power in either Tokyo or Beijing.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- ?? Construct persuasive written arguments concerned with historical topics.
- ?? Utilize the latest methods of Web-based technology to communicate with fellow students.
- ?? Learn of the fundamental historical development of ancient Asian societies in the regions of modern-day China, Japan, Korea, and Viet Nam from ca. 1800 to the present day.
- ?? Understand better the effect the recent past has had on the modern world.
- ?? Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

Course Requirements:

There will be a take-home final exam, six in-class "half-hourly" quizzes (including a skills quiz), and a 5-7 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1" margins, paginated) "think piece" paper. The paper will be due in class on **Wednesday, April 24th**. The schedule for the six in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Monday, May 6th** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Monday, May 13th**. Attendance at all lecture and discussion sections is expected. Moreover, the completion of all written assignments is necessary for a passing grade.

E-mail Accounts:

I will require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will

occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grading:

“Half-hourly” quizzes	50% (10% each)
Skills Quiz	Ungraded
Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%
Class Participation	10%

“Half-hourly” Quizzes

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period. On some quizzes, you may be asked to relate materials from the readings, lectures, and films to information on maps. Therefore, you may wish to refer to a map when reviewing the readings and class notes. I also recommend that you bring a map to class every day to use as a reference guide during lectures and discussions.

Make-up Quizzes

With a doctor’s written excuse, a student will be able to make up one missed quiz. A make-up quiz must be taken within one week of the in-class quiz’s original date. Make-up quizzes will be given during my office hours, unless there exist unavoidable time conflicts.

Final Take-home Examination

There is a 5 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute three or four questions one week before the exam due date. The exams will be due in my office (242 McIver) no later than 3pm on **Monday, May 13th**. We’ll talk more about this exam later in the course.

Classroom Discussions

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are very important components of this course. Everyone will be required to participate, and you should feel free to ask questions in every class during lecture. When a film is shown in class, we will follow the presentation with a short discussion. Due to the size of the class, students will be divided into eight (8) formal discussion groups (**Groups A-H**). These groups will lead class discussions at times noted in the lecture schedule (usually during the second half of class on Thursdays). The first formal discussion will be held during the second half of class on **Thursday, February 6th**. Students must sign up for their preferred group by **Tuesday, February 4th**. I will take attendance for each discussion group, and students may not switch groups without my prior permission. Students will be graded on their contribution to the formal discussion groups and on their participation in informal class discussions. Each student will come to class having read the texts and prepared to discuss them. I will not hesitate to call on all students to participate. However, you should feel free to speak with me before class, if you find it difficult to speak in a public setting. In that case, you may submit your questions before each class in writing. **Any student with more than five unexcused absences from their discussion group will receive "0%" for the class participation portion of**

their final grade.

Short Writing Exercises

Following discussions led by student discussion groups, I will require that you submit a one-paragraph response to the five questions raised by that week's discussion group, as well as a one-paragraph, commentary on another student's posting. These exercises will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus scale. If you receive straight "checks" for all exercises, you will have earned a "B" for this part of the course. To earn a "check-plus" you need to demonstrate that you have thought imaginatively about the question and have put some genuine effort into your answer. The purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam. Please include your name with each submission.

Paper:

The "think piece" paper, to be written on assigned topics, will be based on your readings, section discussions, and the lectures. This paper is not a research paper; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.

Web-site:

I have created a web-site for this classroom, which I will continue to expand as the quarter progresses. Here students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Moreover, I may include additional materials on the library's Electronic Reserve list. Please refer to the class Web site periodically for such materials.

Required Texts:

The following books are required reading for this course, and may be purchased at the UNCG Bookstore:

1. Mackerras, Colin. *Eastern Asia: An Introductory History*. Third Edition. Longman, 2000.
2. Elliott, Duong Van Mai. *The Sacred Willow*. Oxford University Press, 1999.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

PART ONE: “TRADITIONAL” ASIA

WEEK #1 (1/14-1/16): Introduction to the course. Geographical features of East Asia.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 1-34.

Monday, January 21st: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, January 23rd: Please meet in the McIver 231 Computer Lab from 2-3:15pm.

WEEK #2 (1/28-1/30): East Asia in Pre-Modern Times.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 35-101.

SKILLS QUIZ (Monday 1/28)

PART TWO: THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM

WEEK #3 (2/4-2/6): The Nature of Imperialism in Asia. Early Asian Encounters with the West.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 102-138.
- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott: pp. 3-52. **(Group A)**

WEEK #4 (2/11-2/13): Early Asian Encounters with the West (continued).

- 1) Wednesday Film: *TWO COASTS OF CHINA: ASIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF THE WEST*

WEEK #5 (2/18-2/20): Asia’s Struggle with the Emerging Colonialist World Order.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 102-138.
 - 2) Wednesday Film: *MEIJI: ASIA'S RESPONSE TO THE WEST*
- QUIZ #2 (Monday 2/18)**

PART THREE: THE AGE OF NATIONALISM

WEEK #6 (2/25-2/27): Modern East Asia’s Political Testing Ground.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 139-186.
- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 53-82. **(Group B)**

WEEK #7 (3/4-3/6): Modern East Asia’s Political Testing Ground (continued).

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 187-218.

- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 83-101. (**Group C**)

SPRING BREAK (Saturday, March 9th - Sunday, March 17th)

WEEK #8 (3/18-3/20): World War Two: Crisis and Opportunity

- 1) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 103-135. (**Group D**)

Quiz #3 (Monday 3/18)

PART FOUR: THE AGE OF IDEALISM

WEEK #9 (3/25-3/27): The Cold War: Communist China and Occupied Japan

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 257-271, 289-297.

- 2) Discussion film: *REINVENTING JAPAN*

WEEK #10 (4/1-4/3): The Cold War: The Korean War and Early Conflicts in Southeast Asia

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 221-255, 273-288.

- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 189-242. (**Group E**)

Quiz #4 (Monday 4/1)

WEEK #11 (4/8-4/10): The Struggle for Domestic Reconstruction and International Prestige. China's Political Radicalism. Japan's Economic Nationalism.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 299-313, 327-338

- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 243-299. (**Group F**)

WEEK #12 (4/15-4/17): The US-Vietnamese Conflict. Invasion of Cambodia.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 435-450, 459-471.

- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 301-403. (**Group G**)

Quiz #5 (Monday 4/15)

PART FIVE: THE AGE OF REFORM

WEEK #13 (4/22-4/24): The Age of Deng Xiaoping. "June Fourth" Crisis. Japan's Middle Class Shift.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 221-255.

"THINK PIECE" PAPER DUE IN CLASS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th

WEEK #14 (4/29-5/1): Vietnamese Doi Moi. Asian Trials of Reform. The Currency Crisis and its Aftermath.

- 1) Lecture reading: Mackerras, pp. 315-326, 451-458.

- 2) Discussion reading: Elliott, pp. 405-474. (**Group H**)

Quiz #6 (Monday 4/29)

WEEK #15 (5/6): Post-9/11 Asia: Any Change?

Monday, May 6th Last day of instruction. Summary and Review. Pick up Exam Questions.

MONDAY, MAY 13th FINAL EXAM DUE IN MCIVER 242 BY 3 PM