

## University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 216-01: Civilizations of Asia  
MW 2:00-3:15 p.m. MHRA 1214

Spring Semester 2008

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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

Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50 a.m., and by appointment

Graduate Assistant: Eric Oakley

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### Introduction:

Is Modern East Asia really “modern”? What do we mean by this term? Can we understand the modern history of the region, if we focus exclusively on the Asian response to the arrival of Western powers in the region? This course will examine political change, specifically the emergence of anti-colonial nationalist and communist movements, as well as related intellectual and social developments in East Asia since ca. 1800.

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.
- Study the historical development of 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 an ungraded skills quiz), and a 6-8 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, 23 April**. 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, 5 May** and it must be turned in to me no later than 3 p.m. on **Monday, 12 May**. Attendance at **all** lecture and discussion sections is expected; an attendance list may be compiled at the start of each class meeting. **Moreover, the completion of all required 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:**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Skills Quiz</b>   | <i>Ungraded</i> |
| <b>5 Graded Quizzes</b>  | <b>30%</b>      |
| <b>Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, general participation)</b> | <b>30%</b>      |
| *Film Responses  | (15%)           |
| *Discussion Questions and Small Group Discussion                                     | (7%)            |
| *General Participation   | (8%)            |
| <b>Paper</b>   | <b>20%</b>      |
| <b>Final Exam</b>  | <b>20%</b>      |

**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. **No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class.** Instead, your lowest quiz grade will automatically be dropped from your cumulative course score, **only** if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once the first quiz is dropped, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit. Quizzes will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant.

**Film Responses:**

Ten in-class film screenings will take place during most Wednesday class meetings throughout the semester. Prior to each screening, you will receive film-guide handouts featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare well-written and thoughtful responses to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each of 3-5 questions present. **These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the following Friday at midnight.** These due dates are listed on the course schedule and on the Blackboard forums themselves. Film Responses will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant. **Late film responses will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

\*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve at the Teaching and Learning Center in McIver Hall.

\*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

**Discussion Questions:**

Twice during the semester, on 30 January and 2 April, you will splinter into several small groups to discuss primary sources illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these activities, you are expected to read the primary sources and prepare two well-considered discussion questions for presentation in your small group. **These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard by the preceding Tuesday at midnight—29 January and 1 April, respectively. Print and bring these questions with you to present the following afternoon among your discussion group.** This activity will be graded on the quality of your questions and participation in the discussion group. Discussion Questions will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant. **Late Discussion Questions will receive no credit.**

\*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

**“Think Piece” Paper:**

The “Think Piece” Paper, a response to assigned topics from the required texts *Lost Names* and *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace*, 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. The “Think Piece” Paper will be evaluated by the Professor. **Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

**Final Take-home Examination:**

There is a 6 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 (MRHA 2111) no later than 3pm on **Monday, 12 May**. We’ll talk more about this exam and specific requirements later during the semester. The take-home exam will be evaluated by the Professor. **Late papers will receive no credit.**

**Website:**

This class is served by a companion Blackboard site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. I also 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. Please refer to the class 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. Ebrey, Patricia et al. *Modern East Asia: from 1600*. First Edition. Houghton-Mifflin, 2006. ISBN: 0618133852.
2. Đặng, Thùy Trâm. *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace: The Diary of Dang Thuy Tram*. Random House, 2007. ISBN: 0739354485.
3. Kim, Richard E. *Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood*. University of California Press; Reprint edition, 1998. ISBN: 0520214242.

All other materials for this course will be available on electronic reserve at the library web site.

## SEMESTER LECTURE SCHEDULE

| WEEK'S TOPIC  | READINGS AND DISCUSSION   |
|---|---|
| <b>EAST ASIA: THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT</b>  |   |
| <b>14-16 January:</b> A Look at Asia as a Region  | No outside reading.   |
| <b>Monday 21 January</b>  | <b>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Classes dismissed; offices closed.</b>  |
| <b>23 January:</b> Pre-Modern East Asia and Modern East Asian Society.  | No outside reading.   |
| <b>SKILLS QUIZ, Wednesday 23 January</b>  |   |
| <b>28-30 January:</b> The Nature of Imperialism in Asia.  | Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 308-312 and 366-374.<br>Discussion reading: <i>The Search for Modern China: Chapter 6, China and the Eighteenth-Century World</i><br><b>Discussion Questions submissions due Tuesday 29 January by midnight.</b> |
| <b>CHINA</b>  |   |
| <b>4-6 February:</b> Early Chinese Encounters with the West. Struggling to Maintain the Emperor's World Order. The Opium Wars.            | Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 313-330.<br>Film: <i>Two Coasts of China: Asia and the Challenge of the West</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 8 February by midnight.</b>  |
| <b>GRADED QUIZ 1, Tuesday 4 February</b>  |   |
| <b>11-13 February:</b> Chinese Domestic Unrest. The Decline and Fall of Imperial China. The Nationalist and Communist Movements in China. | Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 375-396, 448-464, and 501-528.<br>Film: <i>China in Revolution (Part 1): Battle for Survival</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 15 February by midnight.</b>   |
| <b>18-20 February:</b> Mao's Victory in China. The Early Years of the People's Republic of China. The Cultural Revolution.                | Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 546-564.<br>Film: <i>The Mao Years (Part 2): It's Right to Rebel</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 22 February by midnight.</b>   |
| <b>GRADED QUIZ 2, Tuesday 18 February</b>   |   |
| <b>25-27 February:</b> The Age of Deng Xiaoping. The Trials of Reform and Growth. June 1989 and its Aftermath.                            | Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 565-583.<br>Film: <i>Born Under the Red Flag (Part 2): The New Generation</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 29 February by midnight.</b>  |
| <b>3-5 March:</b> China and Taiwan: a Close, Troubled Relationship  | Film: <i>Tug of War</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 7 March by midnight.</b>   |
| <b>GRADED QUIZ 3, Tuesday 3 March</b>   |   |

**SPRING BREAK: 8-16 March, No Class Meetings.**

| WEEK'S TOPIC  | READINGS AND DISCUSSION  |
|---|--|
| <b>JAPAN</b>  |  |
| <b>17-19 March:</b> The Tokugawa Shogunate. Japanese Society on the Eve of the Meiji Restoration.   | Lecture reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 331-347 and 397-411.<br>Film: <i>Tokugawa Japan</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 21 March by midnight.</b>  |
| <b>24-26 March:</b> The Transformation of Meiji Japan. Japan as an Imperialist Power.   | Lecture Reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 412-430.<br>Film: <i>Meiji: Asia's Response To The West</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 28 March by midnight.</b>  |
| <b>31 March – 2 April:</b> Japan's "Swing to the Right" Japan and WWII  | Lecture Readings: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 465-483, 520-528, and 529-534.<br>Garon, <i>State and Society in Interwar Japan</i> .<br>(*Optional e-reserve reading)<br>Discussion reading: <i>The Human Tradition in Modern Japan: Chapter 9, Yoshiya Nobuko</i> , pp.155-174<br><b>Discussion Questions submissions due Tuesday 1 April by midnight.</b> |
| <b>GRADED QUIZ 4, Tuesday 31 March</b>  |  |
| <b>7-9 April:</b> The Post-war Period. Occupied Japan and the US. Japan's Economic Nationalism. Bursting of the Economic Bubble. Japan's Middle Class Shift | Lecture Reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 534-545, 604-618.<br>Film: <i>Reinventing Japan</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 11 April by midnight.</b>  |
| <b>VIET NAM</b>   |  |
| <b>14-16 April:</b> Viet Nam and French Imperialism. Ho Chi Minh and the ICP. The US-Vietnamese Conflict.   | Film: <i>Cold War: Vietnam</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 18 April by midnight.</b>  |
| <b>KOREA</b>  |  |
| <b>21-23 April:</b> Late Choson Korea, Colonial Korea. The Cold War and the Two Koreas.   | Lecture Readings: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 348-364, 431-445, 484-500, and 584-603.<br>Eckert, <i>Korea's Transition To Modernity</i> .<br>(*Optional e-reserve reading)<br>Film: <i>State of Mind</i><br><b>Film Response submissions due Friday 25 April by midnight.</b>  |
| GRADED QUIZ 5, Tuesday 21 April   |  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY, 23 APRIL</b>  | <b>THINK-PIECE PAPER DUE IN CLASS</b>  |
| <b>EAST ASIA TODAY</b>  |  |
| <b>28-30 April:</b> The Currency Crisis and its Aftermath. Contemporary Issues.   | Reading: <i>Modern East Asia</i> , 619-624.  |
| <b>5 May:</b> Concluding Points and Review.   | <b>Final Class Meeting. Final Exams Distributed.</b>   |
| <b>THURSDAY, 12 MAY</b>   | <b>FINAL EXAM DUE BY 3 PM in MHRA 2111</b>   |

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MAP OF EAST ASIA



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