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HIST 389-01, Modern East Asia, Fall 2009

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History 389, Modern East Asia

Fall Semester 2009, M/W/F 10:00-10:50 am

Professor Clayton D. Brown, email: brownc@rhodes.edu

Office: Buckman 206A, T/Th 11 am-2 pm and by appointment

This syllabus and all course materials are available on Moodle

(this syllabus is subject to revision at the professor's discretion)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The twenty-first century is already being hailed as Asia's century. Today this region holds a quarter of humanity and, after America, the world's largest economies. This course explores the recent history of China, Japan, and Korea and the complex and evolving relationships these countries share with each other and with us. In the twentieth century, after undergoing dramatic transformations to become modern nation-states, the US became involved with each of these countries in both hot and cold wars, resulting in shifting alliances and divided nations. Our past is irrevocably tied to this region and our future prospects depend on sound understanding and successful engagement with the peoples and nations of East Asia.

COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to offer a general survey of the modern history of East Asia through use of chronological narrative while also providing some depth by focusing on a limited number of important events and major themes. This is achieved through critical analysis of primary sources and discussion of specialized readings. Through this method and not lecture alone, it is expected that students will gain factual knowledge about the recent history of this region while also learning to appreciate the uniqueness of these cultures and their impact on the contemporary world.

COURSE ATTRIBUTES

This course fulfills requirements for F3 - Historical Forces, F9 - Cultural Perspectives, non-Western histories (Asia, Africa, Middle-East), and Humanities credits.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the Book Center in paperback, some used):

Patricia Ebrey et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History v. 2, from 1600*
2nd ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2009). ISBN 9780547005362

Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanjing* (New York: Penguin, 1998). ISBN 978-0140277449

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution* (Vintage: 1984).
ISBN 0394722744

(Additional readings available digitally on Moodle, accessible from the Rhodes homepage by clicking "login" and then "Moodle").

FILMS (available both on Moodle or in the Media Center. * denotes film is not eligible for essay)

*Once Upon a Time in China, The Warlords, Rashōmon, Seven Samurai, Yojimbo, *Behind Forgotten Eyes, The Last Emperor, The Sand Pebbles, *Nanking, *White Light Black Rain, To Live, Farewell My Concubine, *The Blood of Yingzhou District*

COURSE STRUCTURE

This class meets three days a week: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. In the interest of variety, each week will typically involve Powerpoint presentation on Mondays, discussion of assigned readings on Wednesdays, and documentaries or news articles on Fridays. Additional recommended films are optional and accessible either as streamed files on Moodle or on reserve in the Media Center.

Quizzes: A schedule of **reading assignments**, including text and supplemental readings, is provided below and must always be completed *before* class. Use the weekly readings guides posted on Moodle to prepare for quizzes. One quiz will be administered nearly every week for a total of eleven, with the lowest quiz score dropped at the end of the semester. Each quiz is worth 10 points, for a semester total of 100 points possible. Each quiz involves five questions covering material from the previous presentation and/or current reading assignments. Quiz points steadily accumulate and, as such, are designed to reward diligence and consistency.

Exams: Two exams will be given in the course of the semester—a midterm and a final, each worth 50 points of your final grade for a total of 100 points. Both exams involve multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. As with quizzes, the reading guides posted on Moodle assist in preparation for the exams. The final exam is cumulative; however, at the end of the term, **any student with an "A" (93% or above) may opt out of the final exam and retain their A grade.**

Participation: 20 points based on participation in class, 10 points before midterm and 10 after. Regular and informed contribution to **discussions**, and the **quality** of contribution, will be regularly assessed. Persistent silence and unpreparedness disqualify one from participation credit. Be sure to come prepared with textbook and supplemental readings for reference. Occasional presentations to the class on assigned topics fall into the Participation category.

Papers: 10 points each for occasional writing exercises, including response paper to one film. These are intended to provide an opportunity for creatively engaging the course material. Select one feature film (not documentary) offered during the

semester and, after viewing, write a 2-3 page essay analyzing the message it conveys to a contemporary audience. In other words, how do people find relevance or meaning in this history today? Paper must be turned in by Friday of that week.

Final grades are based on the above four assessment techniques (quizzes, exams, participation, and papers). Current scores will be posted on **Moodle** with your aggregate grade to date automatically figured and displayed.

POLICIES

In this course we are committed to Rhodes standards: "Freedom of thought, a civil exchange of ideas, and an appreciation of diverse perspectives are fundamental characteristics of a community that is committed to critical inquiry. To promote such an academic and social environment we expect integrity and honesty in our relationships with each other and openness to learning about and experiencing cultural diversity" (Student Handbook 27). In this spirit, this class is to provide a safe space for critical thinking and a free exchange of ideas.

The Honor System: All Rhodes students are committed to the Honor Code: "As a member of the Rhodes community, I pledge I will not lie, cheat, or steal, and that I will report any such violation that I may witness." Students must be clear about what constitutes plagiarism and cheating, and should refrain entirely from engaging in either. Please review the *Rhodes College Guide to Effective Writing* pages 37-40, also found online at <http://www.rhodes.edu/campuslife/1478.asp>. Any violation will be reported to the Honor Council which will then take appropriate action.

Disabilities: The instructor will happily accommodate any documented disabilities. This should be done through the Student Disability Services Office who will then work with the instructor to make any recommended accommodations for the student.

See www.rhodes.edu/disability or the *Student Handbook* page 8. Note that it is the responsibility of the student to obtain any necessary documentation and work through the Disability Office; the instructor merely complies with requests from the office.

Attendance: "Students enrolled at the institution make a commitment to participate fully in their education, which includes attending classes. Absenteeism is not to be taken lightly" (Student Handbook 12). Besides missing participation points and possibly quizzes, chronic absences will be noted by the instructor and your grade will suffer.

In-class behavior: Use of cell phones for speaking or texting, laptops for anything other than note taking, and newspapers or other unrelated readings, and other distractions such as private conversations ARE NOT ALLOWED in the classroom. During class time, your classmates and the instructor expect that you will be engaged in the course and not serve as a hindrance to teaching or learning.

Making up work: As a policy I do not allow the "making up" of assignments, papers, exams, or even classroom participation. In *documented* cases of extenuating circumstances (i.e. emergency hospitalization) the instructor will make reasonable accommodations.

Availability: If I am in my office with the door open feel free to stop in, but understand that I do teach three courses and am therefore not always available. I will be present for office hours, but if this does not work with your schedule I am also happy to meet by appointment. I also check email daily, and although I typically respond within twenty-four hours, do not expect an immediate response. If you have a genuine emergency please contact the department secretary, Ms. Heather Holt, who can then get in touch with me.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 Introduction to East Asia

Wed. August 26th: Introduction to course and instructor

Friday August 28th: Become familiar with the location of map items at the end of this syllabus using the map on inside cover of the textbook; Powerpoint presentation 1: Human and Physical Geography of East Asia

Week 2 The West and China

Mon. Aug. 31st: Text: Connections and chapter 16; Powerpoint presentation 2: The West in China, 1500-1800

Wed. Sep. 2nd: Text: Chapter 18, supplemental: "Yang Guangxian's Critique of Christianity," "Zhang Xingyao and the Inculturation of Christianity"; Powerpoint presentation 3: Qing Decline

Fri. Sep. 4th: Supplemental: "The Lesson of Lin Zexu," "Guangzhou Placards," "Widows Loyal Unto Death"

Optional films: *Once Upon a Time in China*, *The Warlords*

Week 3 Tokugawa Japan

*Mon Sep 7th: NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Wed. Sep 9th: Text: Chapter 17; Powerpoint presentation 3: Tokugawa Japan

Fri. Sep 11th: Supplemental: "The Model Samurai," "The Way of the Samurai"; Video: *Samurai Warriors*

Optional Film: *Rashōmon*; *Seven Samurai*

Week 4 Meiji Transformation

Mon. Sep 14th: Text: Chapter 20; Powerpoint Presentation 4: Meiji Transformation

Wed. Sep 16th: Supplemental: "Tokugawa Nariaki to Bakufu," "Itō Hirobumi's Memorial"

Fri. Sep 18th: Video: *The Pacific Century #2: Meiji Response to the West*

Optional Film: *Yojimbo*

Week 5 Japanese Empire Building and Colonial Korea

Mon. Sep 21st: Text: Chapter 22; Powerpoint Presentation 5: Japanese Empire Building

Wed. Sep 23rd: Chapter 23; "The Way of All Subjects"

Fri. Sep 25th: "Lost Names"; professor will bring readings on "comfort women"

Optional Film: *Behind Forgotten Eyes* (documentary)

Week 6 China: Empire to Nation

Mon. Sep 28th: Text: Chapter 24; Powerpoint Presentation 6: Revolutionary China
Wed. Sep 30th: Supplemental: "Three People's Principles," "A Madman's Diary," "Liang Qichao"
Fri. Oct 2nd: Video: *China: A Century of Revolution* segment 1 or 2
Optional Films: *The Last Emperor*, *The Sand Pebbles*

Week 7 WWII in China

Mon. Oct 5th: Text: pp. 417-440; Powerpoint presentation 7: WWII in China
Wed. Oct 7th: Supplemental: *Rape of Nanking* 1-80
Fri. Oct 9th: Supplemental: *Rape of Nanking* 81-167
Optional film: *Nanking* (documentary)

Week 8 WWII in Japan

Mon. Oct 12th: Text: Chapter 26; Powerpoint Presentation 8: Endgame and Occupation
*Wed. Oct 14th: Midterm Exam, midterm evaluations; Supplemental: *Rape of Nanking* 167-225
*Fri. Oct 16th: NO CLASS (Professor at UC Berkeley), watch streamed video: *White Light, Black Rain* (documentary)

Week 9 Japan Reconstructed

*Mon. Oct 19th: **NO CLASS (Fall Break)**
Wed. Oct 21st: Supplemental: "The Bombed," "MacArthur," "Excerpts from the Shōwa Constitution"
Fri. Oct 23rd: *A-bomb debate

Week 10 The Great Leap Forward

Mon. Oct 26th: Text: Chapter 27; Powerpoint Presentation 9: The Great Leap Forward
Wed. Oct 28th: Supplemental: "Great Leap Forward," "Mao's Harem," "Peng's Letter"
Fri. Oct 30th: read *Son of the Revolution* 3-60; Video: *China: A Century of Revolution* disk 2.1, "The Mao Years"

Week 11 The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

Mon. Nov 2nd: *Son of the Revolution* 61-137; Powerpoint Presentation 9: The Cultural Revolution
Wed. Nov 4th: "Was I Really Guilty," "The Most Intelligent Man," "Autobiographical Essay"
Fri. Nov 6th: read *Son of the Revolution* 138-208; Video: *China: A Century of Revolution* disk 2.2, "The Cultural Revolution" and clips from *Morning Sun*.
Optional films: *To Live*, *Farewell My Concubine*

Week 12 China after Mao

Mon. Nov 9th: Text: Chapter 28; "The Fifth Modernization" and "Defending Socialist Democracy"

Wed. Nov 11th: Video: *China: A Century of Revolution* disk 3 & *Tank Man*

Fri. Nov 13th: "Chairman Mao's Ark," "The Computer Bug"

Optional Film: *The Blood of Yingzhou District* (documentary)

Week 13 Korea Divided

Mon. Nov 16th: Text: Chapter 29; Powerpoint presentation 11: Korean War and Division

Wed. Nov 18th: Video: *The Fight for Democracy*

Fri. Nov 20th: Supplemental: "Nation of the Sun King"

Week 14

Mon. Nov 23rd: Video: *Welcome to North Korea*

***Nov 25, 27 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)**

Week 15 Asia Entering the 21st Century

Mon. Nov 30th: Text: pp. 511-528, "In the Realm of a Dying Emperor"

Wed. Dec 2nd: Powerpoint presentation 11: East Asia in the 21st Century

Fri. Dec 4th: Supplemental: East Asia in the Headlines

***Mon. Dec. 7th: Review session for final exam**

List of Map Items

Reference Maps: See Ebrey front inner cover and Powerpoint presentation on Moodle.

China: Yellow River, Yangzi River, Pearl River, Manchuria, Mongolia, Tibet, Xinjiang, Taiwan, Taklamakan Desert (Tarim Basin), Tianshan (Tian mountains), Kunlun Mountains, Wuhan, Xi'an, Tianjin, Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, Guangzhou (Canton), Hong Kong, Macao, Shenyang (Mukden), Chongqing, Yan'an, Great Wall

Korea: *38th Parallel, North Korea, South Korea, Yalu River, Pyongyang, Seoul, Pusan

Japan: Hokkaidō, Honshū, Shikoku, Kyūshū, Okinawa (Ryūkyū Islands), Tōkyō, Kyōto, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Kōbe, Ōsaka, Kantō Plain, Kinai (Kansai) Plain

Seas: Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, Pacific Ocean, Taiwan Strait, Tsushima Strait

Chinese Pronunciation Guide:

- C=ts Cui Jian
- Xi=hs Xi'an, Jiangxi, Xinjiang
- Xu=hsu Lu Xun
- Shi=shr Hu Shi
- Si=sz Sichuan
- Zh=j Zhejiang, Zhou Enlai
- Q=ch Qing, Qinghai, Chongqing
- ei=ā Taipei