

Three Rivers Community College
Modern Asian History CRN 30926
K271/TRCC E227 Wed: 6:30 – 9:15

Chuck Marcotte, Instructor
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Syllabus: Fall 2008

Required Texts:

Schirokauer, Conrad and Clark, Donald. Modern East Asia: a Brief History. 2nd ed. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008.

In addition to the above text a series of primary and secondary source handouts will be provided.

Course Description: This course will concentrate on developments in China and Japan from the mid 1800s including, the impact of western imperialism, the decline of China and the rise of Japan in the 19th century, the Chinese Revolution of 1911, the rise of militarism in Japan, World War II in the Pacific, the growth and triumph of communism in China, and the defeat and recovery of Japan.

Course Objectives: Lectures, selected readings (primary and secondary source) and assignments are designed to: provide the student with an understanding and appreciation of Modern Asian History as well as enable the student to think critically and analytically in determining cause and effect relationships of historical movements.

Attendance: Lectures in this course complement and supplement the assigned readings they do not repeat them. As a consequence your attendance is, in this course, a requirement. Each class represents a full week of academic instruction. More than two missed classes will result in a reduced grade (one full letter grade for each additional class). Chronic lateness will be treated as an additional absence. See me about any anticipated unavoidable absence well before the date in question.

Written Assignments: There will be two analytical book reviews assigned, one on China and the other on Japan. These reviews should be 3-4 pages in length. Papers will be handed in, in person, at the beginning of class on the assigned due dates. In addition these books will serve as the basis for class discussion. Each student will give a five - ten minute presentation on his or her book and should be prepared to respond to questions from the instructor or by members of the class.

There will be eight critiques assigned. Critiques should be 1+ page(s) in length.

Exams: You will take a midterm exam and a final exam, both of which are comprehensive examinations. Each exam will consist of short identifications quizzing knowledge of detail and significance, and essays testing your understanding of the course material through logical presentation of facts and explanation of historical trends.

Readings: The textbook as well as the various handouts are intended to provide you with important factual and background information before the beginning of each class. Therefore you should read the assigned chapters and handouts according to the class schedule. Not all topics in the textbooks will be covered in class, but you are responsible for them on the exam and in class discussion. If classroom discussion is unusually weak or lacking quizzes will take the place of those discussions. The purpose of a quiz is to test that which would normally be determined through vigorous class discussion; therefore, when discussion is weak or limited to only a few students, a quiz will surely follow.

Grades: Book Reviews will receive letter grades A-F (20% of overall grade). The Mid-Term and Final will receive numeric grades 100-0 (50% of overall grade). In addition, critiques will receive numeric grades of 20-0 (20% of overall grade), class participation i.e. discussion, presentations, quizzes (if given) 10% of overall grade. To receive FULL CREDIT for class participation, input must be consistent, not sporadic. In other words, the more often you become actively and honestly involved in classroom dialogue, the more likely you are to receive a satisfactory grade.

Further Notes

- ❑ Quizzes and critiques missed due to absence or lateness cannot be made-up. Critiques may be e-mailed prior to the start of class.
- ❑ Unless there are extenuating circumstances, absence from the mid-term exam must be made up prior to the next class. Absence from the final exam must be made up by December 19th. It will be your responsibility to make arrangements with me to make up exams.
- ❑ Late papers (i.e. book reviews, major essays, etc.) will lose one letter grade per day....**There will be no exceptions.** If you know you are going to be absent from class on the date a paper is due either turn in the paper a week before or e-mail me the paper as an attached file before the start of class on the due date.
- ❑ Each of the assigned papers must be typed. Papers must use 10 to 12 point Times New Roman font (or a similar type font). **MLA format** will be followed for headings, headers, in-text citations and works cited pages (when applicable)
- ❑ Cell phones and beepers are NOT to be used in class.
- ❑ Check your e-mail. Topic outlines and articles may be sent as attached files in order to reduce paper use.
- ❑ Students must sign the attendance sheet each week. Your signature is proof of attendance.

Date

Assignments

September 3 Topics: Introduction and discussion of syllabus and class requirements; discussion of assigned papers; China background, geographical considerations, philosophies
Readings: Chapter 1 Foundations, Traditions and Commonalities pages 4-21

September 10 Topics: China's response to the west
Readings: Chapter 2 Qing China, pages 22-45, Chapter 5 East Asia and Modern Europe, pages 92-108, and Chapter 6 Part II China, pages 122-137
Critique 1 due

Date	Assignments
September 3	Topics: Introduction and discussion of syllabus and class requirements; discussion of assigned papers; China background, geographical considerations, philosophies Readings: Chapter 1 Foundations, Traditions and Commonalities pages 4-21
September 10	Topics: China's response to the west Readings: Chapter 2 Qing China, pages 22-45, Chapter 5 East Asia and Modern Europe, pages 92-108, and Chapter 6 Part II China, pages 122-137 Critique 1 due
September 17	Topics: Japan background, geography, Tokugawa period Readings: Tokugawa Japan, pages 65-91 Critique 2 due
September 24	Topics: Japan, Modernization and Industrialism Readings: Chapter 7 Japan from Tokugawa to Meiji, pages 138-160 and Chapter 8 Emergence of Modern Japan, pages 161-181 Critique 3 due
October 1	Topics: China, from bad to worse – Sino-Japanese war, 1911 Revolution and The Nationalist Decade and Origins and growth of Chinese communism Readings: Chapter 9 China 1870-1894, pages 183-199, Sino-Japanese War, pages 206-209, and Chapter 10 China: Ending and Beginnings, pages 213-238 Critique 4 due
October 8	Topics: Conclude part one of course, Mid-term Exam review, Book Review on China/presentations due
October 15	Mid-Term Exam
October 22	Topics: Japan's rise to world power status (1895-1919) and Japan, the 1920s Readings: Chapter 11 Imperial Japan, pages 239-263 and Chapter 12 Vietnam, Korea, and Taiwan Under Colonial Rule, pages 264-295 Critique 5 due
October 29	Topics: Rise of Ultra nationalism and WWII Readings: Chapter 13 The 1930s and WWII, pages 296-321 Critique 6 due
November 5	Topics: Civil War and the Communist victory Readings: Chapter 14 Aftermath of WWII Part I China through Korean Armistice pages 325-342 Critique 7 due
November 12	Topics: China under Mao 1949-1976 Readings: Chapter 15 China under Mao, pages 354-376 Critique 8 due
November 19	Topics: China since Mao Readings: Chapter 16 China since Mao, pages 401-429

- November 26 No class
- December 3 Topics: The New Japan
Readings: Chapter 17, pages 401-429
- December 10 Conclude Part II of course, Review for Final Exam, **Book Review on Japan/presentations due**
- December 17 **Final Exam**

Please be advised that the instructor reserves the right to change or modify the syllabus.

College Withdrawal Policy:

Students may withdraw, in writing at the Registrar's Office, for any reason until the end of the 10th week of classes. From the end of the 11th week through the end of the 13th week, a student may withdraw with the signature of the instructor or advisor.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have a hidden or visible disability which may require classroom or test-taking modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please be sure to notify Chris Scarborough, who is coordinating services to students with disabilities. Since Chris is available at TRCC only on Mondays, Tuesdays, and every other Friday, he should be contacted by phone at (860) 892-5751, or, if you prefer, by e-mail at CScarborough@trcc.commnet.edu