Twentieth-Century East Asia

Class Meetings: Tu. & Th. 5:00-6:20, Solis 107
Instructors: Tomoyuki Sasaki (tosasaki@ucsd.edu), Ji Hee Jung (jhjung@ucsd.edu)
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-12:00 & by appointment (Jung, Week 1-5), (Sasaki, Week 6-10), HSS 6012
TAs: Greg Depies (gdepies@ucsd.edu), Margaret Greene (mcgreene@ucsd.edu), Brent Haas (whaas@ucsd.edu), Jenny Huangfu (zhuangfu@ucsd.edu)

Course Description
This course will introduce students to the history of twentieth-century East Asia, particularly the conflicts and interactions of China, Japan, Korea and the Euro-American powers. The course will cover the period from the Western and Japanese imperialist expansion in East Asia to the end of the Cold War. The first half of the course will focus on East Asia under Japanese imperialism and will look at the reactions of the people of China, Japan and Korea to Western and Japanese imperialism, nationalism, democracy, communism, and fascism, Japan’s changing policies toward its colonies and China, the Asia Pacific War and the fall of the Japanese Empire. The second half will deal with East Asia during the Cold War. The key issues will include the US occupation of Japan, the decolonization of the former colonies, civil wars, and each East Asian nation’s response to the Cold War. This course is intended to help you understand how contemporary East Asia’s political, economic, and social institutions were made through close interaction with global events, particularly imperialism and the Cold War. The assigned readings include a number of English translations of historical sources. Students are expected to engage with these sources imaginatively and cultivate the ability to assess historical arguments critically.

Required Books: (available at the Price Center Bookstore and on reserve at Geisel)
Jonathan Spence, Mao Zedong (Penguin, 2006)
Oshiro Tatsuhiro and Higashi Mineo, Okinawa: Two Postwar Novellas, translated by Steve Rabson (Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, 1989)

All assigned readings not in the above books are available on electronic reserve at the library.

In this class, we will not use a textbook. The following book, however, is recommended for those who want to acquire basic knowledge of East Asian history to prepare for or review the class.


Requirements:
- Attendance at lectures: Be sure to turn off all mobile phones and use computers only for note taking.
-Two pop quizzes (10%): each quiz will be given during the first ten minutes of lecture and will focus on the readings assigned for the week. Therefore, you must complete the weekly reading assignments by the Tuesday class. Those who are in Monday and Tuesday sections must complete the reading assignments before going to the section. No make-ups or extra time will be granted.
-Midterm exam (30%): Tuesday, May 5
-Final exam (40%): Thursday, June 11
-Section attendance and participation (20%)

Absences for either sections or exams will only be excused with a doctor’s note or similarly compelling document.

Those who take the course pass/not pass must demonstrate a serious engagement with every requirement in order to receive a passing grade. The lowest passing grade is a “C-“ (70% of total possible points for the course).

Week 1
March 31 Introduction
April 2 Western and Japanese Imperialism in East Asia and Taishō Democracy


Week 2
April 7 Guest Speaker: Professor Paul Pickowicz, “The Chinese City in Transition”
April 9 Self-determinism and the Question of Culture: March First and May Fourth


Week 3
April 14 The Rise of Chinese Communism and the Nanjing Decade
April 16 Colonial Rule: Resistance and Collaboration, Coercion and “Choice”


Week 4
April 21 From Taishō Democracy to Fascism: The Road to War
April 23  Film: “Volunteer” (Chiwŏnbyŏng)


Week 5

April 28  Violence, Mobilization, Imperial Subjectification
April 30  From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Reading: Mao Zedong, 87-101; John Dower, War without Mercy, 3-14 & 33-73

Week 6

May 5  Midterm Exam in Class
May 7  Occupied Japan


Week 7

May 12  Revolutionary China
May 14  Korea: Liberation and Division


Week 8

May 19  Okinawa
May 21  Postwar Japanese Democracy


Week 9

May 26  Cold War and China
May 28  Cold War and Two Koreas


**Week 10**

June 2  End of the Cold War
June 4  Conclusion

**Reading:** Chalmers Johnson, *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*, 3-33, 193-215

**Finals Week**

Final Exam in class: June 11 (Th.) 7:00-9:00 p.m., TBA