

History 444: Asia's Response to the West

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Required textbooks (available at the Samford bookstore):

Borthwick, Mark. *Pacific Century: the Emergence of Modern Pacific Asia*. 3rd ed. Boulder: Westview Press/ Allen & Unwin, 2007.

Curtin, Philip D. *The World and the West: the European Challenge and the Overseas Response in the Age of Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

McNeill, William H. *The Age of Gupowder Empires, 1450-1800*. Essays on Global and Comparative History, ed. Michael Adas. Washington, DC: American Historical Association, 1989.

Rizal, Jose. *Noli Me Tangere*. (Penguin Classics edition is recommended, but others are acceptable, including the original Spanish, if you prefer. Some English translations are published under the title, *The Social Cancer*.)

Course description

This course explores the themes of imperialism and nationalism in modern Asia, c. 1500-2000, in their political, economic, social and cultural dimensions. Particular attention will be given to the notions of western influence and Asian response in the transfer of technology and commodities, control of trade, and related political structures and strategies. Examples will be taken from East, South, and Southeast Asia.

Learning Objectives

- Practice reading, evaluating, and constructing complex, factually-supported arguments.
- Ability to identify and interpret primary sources.
- Ability to conduct independent library and Internet research, evaluate sources, and assess content.
- Practice writing essays with structured argument and scholarly apparatus.
- Facility interpreting historical maps and identifying geographic features and political entities by name.

Course Requirements

- Read and understand the course syllabus and assigned texts. Take notes to help analyze and remember what you read.
- Attend class and take notes on lectures and discussion.
- Complete all tests and assessed work on time, as described below.
- Uphold the code of academic honesty at all times.
- Respect other members of the class. Make sure that your activities in the classroom enhance and do not interfere with the ability of others to listen and participate. This includes being responsible for any electronic devices in your possession—please turn them off during class .

Assessment:

- 2 exams:
 - 1 midterm exam, worth 20% of final grade
 - 1 semi- comprehensive final—25%
- 2 essays
 - Short Essay, 20% (5-8 pages) Given a “big-picture” statement from the early part of the course, you will construct a convincing argument for or against it.
 - Long Essay: 25% (12-15 pages) Either a research essay on a topic of your choice, approved by the instructor, OR an essay comparing the work of two nationalist authors.
 - Detailed essay-writing guidelines will be provided separately.
- Quizzes and take-home exercises—10% total

Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make a request by contacting Disability Support Services located in Counseling Services on the lower floor of Pittman Hall, or call 726-4078/ 726-2105. The instructor can only grant accommodations upon written notification from Disability Support Services.

Course Schedule

Additional required readings will be provided on library reserve, on Blackboard, or in hard copy. Readings listed below are tagged as follows:

[T]—Required **Text**, available at the university bookstore.

[B]—Electronic copies of readings on the **Blackboard** site or linked to it.

[L]—**Library** reserve.

I. Never the twain shall meet? Conceptualizing Asia and the West in the early modern era (c. 1450-1750). periodization, geography, concepts, debates, technology

AUG 27 Course introduction: What is Asia? What is the West?
What is modern? - geography, culture, economy, language

Readings:

- McNeill vs. Curtin, "Did the West Define the Modern World?" [B]
- Shaffer, "Southernization", all [L]

Sept 3 Technology and social change in Asia

- McNeill, "The Gunpowder Empires", all [T]
- John Lee, "East Asia in the Age of Global Integration" [B]
- Kristof vs. Swanson, "Did China's Worldview Cause the Abrupt End of Its Voyages of Exploration?" [B]

Sept 10 Trading-post empires in the Indian Ocean

- TBA
- Thomaz, "The Malay Sultanate of Melaka" [B]

II. Building Asian Empires in the long 19th century:

Short essay due 9/17

Sept 17 Class, collaboration, and intellectual adaptation:

- Curtin, ch.3
- David Cannadine, "India", ch. 4 in *Ornamentalism: How the British saw their empire* [B]
- Ram Mohan Roy [B]

Sept 24 Colonial economic policy and practice

- Curtin, Ch. 6 [T]
- Ian Brown, "The Cultivation System" [B]

- Oct 1 Rationalizing the state: Siam and Burma
- Curtin, p.150-154 [T]
 - Lucien Pye, *Asian Power and Politics* [B]
 - Thongchai Winichakul, "Boundary", Ch. 3 in *Siam Mapped: a History of the Geobody of a Nation* (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 1994). [B]

- Oct 8 Defensive modernization in East Asia
- The Meiji Restoration in Japan Curtin, Ch.9 [T]
 - China's embattled empire TBA

10/12 midterm exam

Fall Break- no class on 15 October

- Oct 17 Language and Race in the Philippines:
- Rizal, *Noli me Tangere* [T]
 - Phelan, The Hispanization of the Philippines [B]
 - Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" [B]
<http://www.historyillustrated.com/ai/kipling/>

- Oct 22 Millennialism and rural responses
- Curtin, p. 213-17
 - Popkin, *The Rational Peasant*
 - Scott, *Moral Economy of the Peasant*

III. The Rise of the East? Nationalism, independence and conflict
Additional readings t.b.a.

- Oct 29 China loses face: East Asia 1898-1917

- Nov 5 Japanese Imperialism in Asia
Bayly and Harper, *Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia* (excerpt) [B].

- Nov 12 Religious communalism – Indian partition.
- Rabindranath Tagore: Nationalism in India [B]
 - Selected primary readings [B]

- Nov 19 Communism in China, Korea, and Vietnam

Thanksgiving holiday – no meeting on 21-23 November

- Nov. 26 Anti-communism and capitalism in Southeast Asia
- Curtin, Ch. 13

- Dec 3 Islam and politics in the 21st century