

HIS 262G Regional History of international relations: Asia (PRELIMINARY)

Instructor: Tongfi Kim, Ph.D. (tongfi.kim@vesalius.edu)
Spring 2017, Friday 8:30-11:30, Office hours: TBD

This course introduces students to the history of modern Asia, developments within and between the regional states, and their impact on global politics. We pay particular attention to four Northeast Asian countries (China, Japan, and two Koreas), but the course also covers the history of Southeast Asia and South Asia. The course is composed of lectures and discussions during which students will analyze the readings and engage with guiding questions developed for each week. We will analyze historical developments that had profound influence on contemporary politics and assess how historical paths, domestic political institutions, and extra-regional actors such as the United States have shaped the history of modern Asia.

Student responsibilities/Grading:

Presentation on a famous Asian person (5%)

Presentation on current news with a link to Asian history (5%)

Midterm Exam (30%)/ Final Exam (30%)

Final paper based on one of the presentations (30%)

Required textbook: Jonathan Lipman, Barbara Molony, and Michael Robinson. 2011. *Modern East Asia: An Integrated History*. Laurence King Publishing (You can talk to me if you already have a different edition, but this one is much more affordable than other editions). In addition to the readings listed below, students will be assigned short news articles every week.

Week 1: Introduction to the course. Why study Asian history?

Hillary Clinton. 2011. "America's Pacific Century." *Foreign Policy*.

Survey to be collected at the end of the class.

Week 2: Lands of Asia/External actors in 19th century Asia

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapters 1 & 5.

Daniel Headrick. 1979. "The Tools of Imperialism: Technology and the Expansion of European Colonial Empires in the Nineteenth Century." *The Journal of Modern History* 51(2): 231-263.

Week 3: Western Colonial Empires in South and Southeast Asia

Bose and Jalal. 2011. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy*, 3rd edition, pp.62-79.

Steinberg ed. 1987. *In Search of Southeast Asia: A Modern History*, pp.171-202.

Week 4: East Asian Reactions to Western threats

John W. Dower, "The Opium War in Japanese Eyes: An Illustrated 1849 'Story from Overseas.'"

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 6.

Week 5: Rise of Meiji Japan. Fall of Qing and Chosun.

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 7.

Week 6: The Empire of Japan and resistance against it.

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 8.

Week 7: Mid-term exam.

Week 8: The “Fifteen Year War” (1931-1945)/Pacific War (1941-1945)

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 9.

John Mueller. 1991. “Pearl Harbor: Military Inconvenience, Political Disaster.” *International Security*, 16(3): 172-203.

Ward Wilson. 2013. “The Bomb Didn’t Beat Japan ... Stalin Did.” *Foreign Policy*, May 30.

Week 9: Occupations, Settlements, and Divisions (1945-1953)/Korean War

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 10.

Robert Jervis. 1980. “The Impact of the Korean War on the Cold War.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 24(4): 563-592.

Bose and Jalal. 2011. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture and Political Economy*, 3rd edition, pp.137-158.

Week 10: Divergent paths of political and economic development

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 11.

Commanding Heights, videos on PBS.

Thomas P. Bernstein. 2006. “Mao Zedong and the Famine of 1959–1960: A Study in Willfulness.” *The China Quarterly*, No.186: 421-445.

Week 11: Vietnam War/Nixon visits China

Readings to be determined.

Week 12: Asian Miracle

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 12.

Week 13: Globalization and Asia

Commanding Heights, videos on PBS.

Lipman, Molony and Robinson, chapter 13.

Week 14: Today’s Asia

Readings to be determined with students.

Week 15: Final Exam.