Asia in the Modern World

HTS 2062                        Professor Hanchao Lu
Summer 2011                        Georgia Tech
National University of Singapore

This course is a survey of Asian civilizations from the late eighteenth century to the present. Emphasis will be placed primarily on the distinctive aspects of the culture of Asian nations and their modern experiences in a rapidly transformed world. In particular, we will focus on China, Japan, and the so-called Four Mini-dragons (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore) to examine the changes and continuities in Asia's political, economic, and social systems.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Primary Textbooks:


* This book is assigned for writing a take-home book report as part of the final examination. Students may choose one of the alternative readings for the take-home book report:


Carol Henderson, *Culture and Customs of India*, 2002.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Quizzes                        50%
2) Take-home Final Exam            40%
3) Attendance                      10%

Note: In evaluating a student's performance, consideration will also be given to informed participation in discussions.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND READINGS

Mon. June 6
| Lecture 1 | Introduction: Common Cultural Patterns of Asia  
Reading: *China*, 1-10; *Japan*, 1-3 |
|---|---|
| Lecture 2 | Western Encroachments on Asia  
*China*, 123-147 |

**Tu. June 7**

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<tr>
<th>Lecture 3</th>
<th>China in the 19th century</th>
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| Lecture 4 | The End of Chinese Monarchy  
*China*, 148-174 |

**Wed. June 8**

| Lecture 5 | The Republican China  
*China*, 175-193  
*Quiz One* |
|---|---|
| Lecture 6 | The Rising of Communism  
*China*, 193-200 |

**Th. June 9**

| Lecture 7 | The Birth of the People’s Republic  
*China*, 201-214 |
|---|---|
| Lecture 8 | Mao’s China  
*China*, 215-226 |

**Fri. June 10** Fieldtrip  “The Image of Singapore,” a museum on the Santosa inland

**Mon. June 13**

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<th>Lecture 9</th>
<th>The End of Mao’s Era</th>
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| Lecture 10 | Deng Xiaoping and the “Quiet Revolution”  
*China*, 227-260 |

**Tu. June 14**

| Lecture 11 | China Today: The Emergence of the “Chinese Century”?  
*China*, 261-285  
*Quiz Two* |
Lecture 12 Japan before Perry
*Japan*, 119-146

**Wed. June 15**

Lecture 13 Meiji Japan
*Japan*, 147-177

Lecture 14 The Rise of Militarism and WWII
*Japan*, 178-198

**Th. June 16**

Lecture 15 Postwar Japan
*Japan*, 199-230

Lecture 16 The Road toward Modernization: The Mini-Dragons
*Japan*, 261-295

**Mon. June 20**

Lecture 17 Asia in the 21st century
China, Japan, and the “Mini-dragons” Compared
*Quiz Three*

Lecture 18 Review for the Final Examination

**Tu. June 21** Final Examination:
Take-home essays due at 12noon.

The topics and guidelines for the take-home final essays will be available at Lecture 1.

Two fieldtrips in Beijing, dates to be arranged:

Fieldtrip 1 Yuanmingyuan: the ruins of the Qing dynasty summer palace that was burned down by the Anglo-French troops in 1860

Fieldtrip 2 Mao’s Memorial Hall at Tiananmen Square