

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
THE AGE OF IMPERIALISM IN EAST ASIA, 1840-1945
FALL 2010

Course Instructor: Stephen Halsey
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Office Hours: Tue 3:30-5pm/Thu 1-3pm
Office Location: Ashe 617
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Course Number: HIS 511
Room Assignment: Ashe 621

Course Description and Format

This seminar course examines the origins, evolution, and liquidation of imperialism in East Asia in the century after 1840 from a transnational perspective. We will evaluate the integration of China, Japan, and Korea into a global system of nation-states in the nineteenth century, their efforts to adjust to this new order through domestic reform, and the collapse of territorial empires in Asia at the conclusion of the Pacific War in 1945. Lectures and course readings will emphasize three principal thematic elements: the intimate linkages between imperialism and state-making during the modern period, the importance of cultural perceptions and racial ideology in shaping international relations, and the centrality of warfare to the history of the Asia-Pacific region. In the first section of the course, we explore the dissolution of the traditional world order in the mid nineteenth century and the imposition of unequal treaties on China and Japan by the European powers. We then appraise the reform policies undertaken by indigenous governments as colonial competition among Western states intensified in East Asia in the years before 1914. In the final third of the class, we describe the continued development of the Japanese empire after World War One, its eventual clash with the United States, Britain, and France during the Pacific War, and the end of imperialism as an organizing principle of international relations in East Asia in 1945.

Course Requirements

During the course of the semester, students will write **two book reviews of 3-4 pages in length** from the approved list of specialized readings (20%). Your critique will be due at the beginning of class on the day that we discuss your selected topic, although in all cases students will submit the papers between weeks three and eleven. You will also be asked to describe your analysis of the book to your classmates in the form of a short (10 minute) presentation. More specific instructions on the paper will be provided in the form of a handout in class. In addition, students will develop a **research paper of 12-15 pages** (40%) based at least in part on primary documents. Since this course is a seminar, **class participation** will constitute 40% of the final grade.

Student Presentations: Students are encouraged to present their book reviews using Powerpoint software and may desire to practice their talk several times before delivering it to the class. While presentations are not graded, the quality of the student's performance will influence their class participation grade. In addition, each student will present the findings of their research paper during the final week of class. Two days prior to their presentation, students will email their classmates and instructor a rough draft of their final paper or at a minimum a detailed outline including their central research question, thesis statement, and a description of their argument. Each student will have ten minutes to describe the conclusions of their research, and

seminar participants will then have an opportunity to ask questions and offer comments on the presenter's work.

Course Texts

Akira Iriye, *After Imperialism*

John Dower, *War Without Mercy*

Walter LaFeber, *The Clash: US-Japanese Relations Throughout History*

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire*

Additional required course readings are available for download in pdf format on the Blackboard course website.

Late Policy

All work is due at the beginning of class in hard copy form on the date specified in the syllabus. Course papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day that they are late, and extensions will be granted only under exceptional circumstances.

Attendance Policy

You are required to attend each class session and participate in every discussion. Missing more than two class sessions without a viable medical excuse will result in a failing grade for class participation.

Course Schedule

Week One

Aug 31 Course Introduction: The International System in East Asia, 1840-1945

Readings:

J Fairbank, *Chinese World Order*, 1-34, 257-275

I Hsu, *Rise of Modern China*, 92-167

Week Two

Sept 7 Opium Wars and Unequal Treaties, 1839-1860

Readings:

I Hsu, *Rise of Modern China*, 168-219

Week Three

Sept 14 Amassing the Sinews of Power I: China's Self-Strengthening Movement, 1865-1894

Readings:

S Spector, *Li Hungchang and the Huai Army*, xxi-xliii; 25-50; 128-194; 234-258; 270-287; 315-320

Specialized Readings:

T Kennedy, *The Arms of Kiangnan: Modernization in the Chinese Ordnance Industry, 1860-1895*

S Thomas, *Foreign Intervention and China's Industrial Development, 1870-1911*

S Chu, ed., *Li Hung-chang and China's Early Modernization*

A Feuerwerker, *China's Early Industrialization*

W Chan, *Merchants, Mandarins, and Modern Enterprise in Ch'ing China*

P Cohen, *Between Tradition and Modernity: Wang T'ao and Reform in Late Ch'ing China*

Y Hao, *The Commercial Revolution in Nineteenth Century China*

Week Four

Sept 21 Perry's Blackships: Japan and the "West," 1853-68

Readings:

- La Feber, *The Clash*, xvii-xxii, 4-31
- Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 19-53
- Cosenza, ed., *Journal of Townshend Harris*, 436-490

Specialized Readings:

- M Jansen, *Japan and its World*
- M Jansen and G Rozman, ed., *Japan in Transition: From Tokugawa to Meiji*
- A Craig, *Choshu in the Meiji Restoration*
- R Hackett, *Yamagata Aritomo in the Rise of Modern Japan, 1838-1922*
- M Miyoshi, *As We Saw Them: The First Japanese Embassy to America*

Week Five

Sept 28 Amassing the Sinews of Power II: The Meiji State, 1868-1894

Readings:

- La Feber, *The Clash*, 32-45
- Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 54-120, 139-162
- Fukuzawa, *Outline of a Theory of Civilization*, chapter two

Specialized Readings:

- C Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period*
- G Wilson, *Patriots and Redeemers in Japan: Motives in the Meiji Restoration*
- D Wittner, *Technology and the Culture of Progress in Meiji Japan*
- C Howe, *The Origins of Japanese Trade Supremacy*
- K Kim, *The Age of Visions and Arguments, Parliamentarianism and the National Public Sphere in Early Meiji Japan*
- R Rosenstone, *Mirror in the Shrine: American Encounters with Meiji Japan*
- D Westney, *Imitation and Innovation: The Transfer of Western Organizational Patterns to Meiji Japan*
- D Keene, *Emperor of Japan, Meiji and his World*
- W Beasley, *The Meiji Restoration*

Week Six

Oct 5 The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) and the Open Door Policy

Readings:

- La Feber, *The Clash*, 45-64
- Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 121-138
- M Hunt, *Making of a Special Relationship*, 143-226

Specialized Readings:

- P Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910*
- J Dorwart, *The Pigtail War: American Involvement in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95*
- S Lone, *Japan's First Modern War*
- W Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism, 1894-1945*
- P Duus and R Myers, eds., *The Japanese Informal Empire in China*
- M Hunt, *Frontier Defense and the Open Door, Manchuria in Chinese American*

Relations, 1895-1911

D McKee, *Chinese Exclusion Versus the Open Door Policy, 1900-1906*

K Larsen, *Qing Imperialism and Choson Korea, 1850-1910*

A Dudden, *Japan's Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power*

Week Seven

Oct 12 The Boxer Debacle and the New Policies (1900-1911)

Readings:

La Feber, *The Clash*, 65-73

P Cohen, *History in Three Keys*, 3-58

T Coates, *Siege of the Peking Embassy*, 141-146; 150-156; 183-189; 226-233;
246-288

Specialized Readings:

J Esherick, *Origins of the Boxer Uprising*

W Duiker, *Cultures in Collision: The Boxer Rebellion*

S MacKinnon, *Power and Politics in Late Imperial China*

R Schoppa, *Chinese Elites and Political China*

M Rankin, *Elite Activism and Political Transformation in China*

Week Eight

Oct 19 The Russo-Japanese War, 1904-05

Readings:

La Feber, *The Clash*, 73-87

Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 163-181

Iriye, *Pacific Estrangement*, 91-201

Specialized Readings:

I Nish, *Origins of the Russo-Japanese War*

P Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910*

R Esthus, *Double Eagle and Rising Sun: The Russians and Japanese at Portsmouth in 1905*

D Schimmel, *Toward the Rising Sun, Russian Ideologies of Empire and the Path to War with Japan*

S Ericson, ed., *The Treaty of Portsmouth and its Legacies*

J Westwood, *Russia Against Japan, 1904-05*

Week Nine

Oct 26 The Great War and China's May Fourth Movement

Readings:

La Feber, *The Clash*, 99-127

Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 182-206

Lu Xun, *The True Story of Ah Q*, 1-65

Specialized Readings:

E Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment: Self-Determination and the International Origins of Anticolonial Nationalism*

V Schwarcz, *Intellectuals and the Legacy of the May Fourth Movement*

T Weston, *Beijing University, Intellectuals, and Chinese Political Culture, 1898-1929*

W Yeh, *Provincial Passages: Culture, Space, and the Origins of Chinese Communism*

Week Ten

Nov 2 The Search for a New Order: The Washington Naval Conference and its Aftermath

Readings:

Iriye, *After Imperialism*, 1-88

La Feber, *The Clash*, 128-159

Specialized Readings:

I Nish, *The Alliance in Decline*

R Dingman, *Power in the Pacific*

N Bamba, *Japanese Diplomacy in a Dilemma*

W Morton, *Tanaka Giichi and Japan's China Policy*

Week Eleven

Nov 9 The Manchurian Crisis and the Expansion of the Japanese Empire, 1931-1937

Readings:

La Feber, *The Clash*, 160-182

L Young, *Japan's Total Empire*, 3-114

Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 234-241

Specialized Readings:

S Ogata, *Defiance in Manchuria*

R Mitter, *The Manchurian Myth*

I Nish, *Japan's Struggle with Internationalism, Japan, China, and the League of Nations*

P Duara, *Sovereignty and Authenticity*

C Thorne, *The Limits of Foreign Policy, The West, the League, and the Far Eastern Crisis of 1931-33*

R Myers, *The Japanese Economic Development of Manchuria, 1932-45*

G McCormick, *Chang Tso-lin in Northeast China, 1911-1928*

Week Twelve

Nov 16 The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-41

Readings:

La Feber, *The Clash*, 182-214

Tsuzuki, *Pursuit of Power*, 242-291

Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution*, 299-336

Week Thirteen

Nov 23 The Pacific War, 1941-45

Readings:

La Feber, *The Clash*, 214-256

Dower, *War Without Mercy*, 3-94; 293-318

Week Fourteen

Nov 30 Student Presentations

Readings:

Student Paper Drafts and Outlines