

## **ASH 3931 Global Asia Summer 2019**

**Dr. Selda Altan**

**20 Keene Flint Hall**

**Office hours: Tuesday 11-12.30 / Thursday 11-12.30**

### **Introduction**

While globalization has become a popular term in humanities only within the last 30 years, Asian societies have been interacting both with each other and with the rest of the world long before Europeans dominated Asia in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to these pre-modern interactions as the building blocks of early modern and modern empires as well as contemporary globalization. As we study ancient trade routes and commercial hubs across Asia, we will learn how commercial and cultural interactions evolved with the arrival of European merchants and missionaries, analyze the impact of 19<sup>th</sup> century colonialism on the modernization of Asian societies, and discuss the anti-colonial movements and revolutions as Asia's gateways to modern global world order.

Although Global Asia refers to an expansive territory from East to West Asia, including the Middle East, our discussions will center on China, Japan, and India. For the post-Cold War period (1980s onward), our emphasis will shift to China's role in the global economy. While politics and economy are the main axes of the course, we will have many opportunities to explore social and cultural currents in Asia. At the end of the semester, students will have a historical understanding of contemporary globalization, supported by various structural approaches to political economy.

### **Expectations**

- Students are expected to attend class on time, having completed the readings and ready with comments and questions to share with the class. Lateness is distracting to class members and arriving more than ten minutes late will count as an absence.
- If you fail to attend a class for a valid reason, please do not email the instructor to learn what content you have missed. Instead, ask your classmates for class notes and assignments.
- You can use tablets and laptops only for note-taking purposes. If other activity is detected, the student will not be allowed to use technology for the remainder of the semester.

- You can send emails to the instructor at any time, but do not expect a response after 6 pm or on weekends. Office visits are highly encouraged during the office hours but if you have a conflict, please ask for an appointment for a time that works for you.
- If you need any special accommodations, please contact the Dean of Students Office (<https://dso.ufl.edu>) or the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu>) and inform the instructor about your special needs.

## Grading

20% Participation and Attendance

30% Response papers (x3)

20% Class activities

30% Final exam (take home)

**Participation and Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every day. You will lose points after three excused absences (including the final class) regardless of your class performance. Participation is graded not solely on the quantity but also on the quality of comments.

**Response papers:** Students will write three 500-word response papers based on questions given by the instructor. The response papers must be submitted on the following Monday via Canvas, before the class.

**Class activities:** There will be occasional class activities throughout the semester. Because their dates are not indicated on the syllabus, regular class attendance is highly recommended.

**Final exam:** During the last week of classes, students will have a take-home exam. Students will answer a question with a 1,500-word essay. A bibliography and proper citations will be part of your grade. Submission will be online and no late work is accepted unless a medical emergency is documented.

## Weekly Plan

**Week 1:** Where and what is Global Asia?

Methodological discussion: World system theory.

1 July Introduction

2 July Geography

- 3 July People
- 4 July No class
- 5 July What was unique about Asia?

**Read**

Andre Gunder Frank, "The Centrality of Central Asia," *Studies in History*, 1992.

**Suggested**

J. Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System, AD 1250-1350*, 1989.

**Week 2: Post-Mongolian Asia (1600-1800)**

Methodological discussion: The birth of capitalism

- 8 July Post-Mongolian state formations in Asia
- 9 July Ming economy in the Asian age
- 10 July Asia after the discovery of the New World
- 11 July Asia transformed
- 12 July Where was capitalism born?

**Read**

E. Balazs, "The Birth of Capitalism in China," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 1960.

**Suggested**

Ho Fung-hung, "A Market without Capitalism, 1650-1850" in *China Boom*, 2016.  
John Lee, "Trade and Economy in Preindustrial East Asia, c. 1500-c. 1800: East Asia in the Age of Global Integration," *Journal of Asian Studies*, 1999.

**Week 3: Clash of modern empires in Asia (1800-1900)**

Methodological discussion: Imperialism, colonialism, and modernization theory

First response paper due 15 July 2019, 9 am.

- 15 July British colonialism in India
- 16 July Imperialist rivalry in Qing China
- 17 July Japanese modernization
- 18 July Asian modernisms compared
- 19 July Asia or Orient?

**Read**

Sebastian Conrad, "The Colonial Ties are Liquidated': Modernization Theory, Post-War

Japan and the Global Cold War,” *Past & Present*, 2012.

**Suggested**

Fabio Lanza, *The End of Concern: Maoist China, Activism, and Asian Studies*, 2017.

E. Said, *Orientalism: Western Conceptions of the Orient*, 1978.

**Week 4:** Anti-colonialism in Asia (1900-1945)

Methodological discussion: Marxism and Communism

Second response paper due 22 July 2019, 9 am.

- 22 July Gandhi, Nehru, and Indian independence
- 23 July China’s revolutionary path
- 24 July Japanese empire building
- 25 July The Second World War in Asia
- 26 July What was the appeal of communism in pre-war Asia?

**Read**

Germaine A. Hoston, *The State, Identity, and the National Question in China and Japan*, 1994, chapters 8-10.

**Suggested**

Kevin Anderson, *Marx at the Margins: On Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Non-Western Societies*, 2016.

**Week 5:** Asia in the postcolonial age (1945-1980)

Methodological discussion: Postcolonial theory and identity politics

Third response paper due 29 July 2019, 9 am.

- 29 July Japan after the War
- 30 July Post-colonial India
- 31 July Mao and Revolutionary China
- 1 August Cold War politics and culture in Asia
- 2 August Is Asia uniformly postcolonial?

**Read**

Aitav Acharya, “Asia Is Not One,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 2010.

**Suggested**

Arif Dirlik, “Postcolonial Aura: Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism,” *Critical Inquiry*, 1994.

**Week 6: US-China Relations and the Future of Globalization**

Methodological discussion: The end of history or a new Cold War?

5 August Economy and Society in post-Reform China. Exam prompt.

6 August No class.

Take-home exam due 7 August 2019, 9 am.

7 August China's Belt and Road Initiative

8 August US-China trade war

9 August Concluding remarks

**Read**

F. Fukuyama, "The End of History," *National Interest*, 1989.

J. Stiglitz, "After Neoliberalism," *Project Syndicate*, May 2019.

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/after-neoliberalism-progressive-capitalism-by-joseph-e-stiglitz-2019-05>

N. Roubini, "The Global Consequences of a Sino-American Cold War," *Project Syndicate*, May 2019.

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/united-states-china-cold-war-deglobalization-by-nouriel-roubini-2019-05>