East Asian Studies 150g: Introduction to East Asian Studies (Spring 2013)  
(Syllabus updated 1/13/13)

Course head:  
Jacques E. C. Hymans, Associate Professor, USC School of International Relations  
hymans@usc.edu . Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-1:30. Office location: SOS B5.

Teaching assistants:  
Jier Dong: jierdong@usc.edu.  
Kimberly Ordel: ordel@usc.edu.

Lecture time and place:  
Mudd Hall (MHP) 101, W-F 10:00-11:50 AM (usually we will finish up by 11:30)

Discussion sections time and place:  

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<td>SOS B47</td>
<td>WPH 207</td>
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<td>2.W 1:00-1:50pm</td>
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<td>SOS B52</td>
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Course summary and goals:  
This course introduces students to the history, politics, and economics of modern East and South Asia, with a special focus on interactions with the Western powers. We ask the following main question in this course. What political, economic, and social conditions have helped or hindered Asian countries’ quest to achieve economic growth and external power? We focus in particular on four Asian countries: Japan, China, India, and Korea (both North and South). By studying and comparing these four countries’ rocky roads to economic and political development in the modern era, we can better understand the impressiveness and fragility of their recent gains. We can also seek more general insights into the wealth and poverty, and the power and weakness, of nations—insights that might even be relevant when we think about the difficult policy choices facing the contemporary US.

This is a challenging course. Given the breadth of topics that a “survey course” such as this must cover, there is a relatively heavy reading load: about 100 pages of reading per week. Some of you may be unused to having so much reading. In addition, the reading is in the form of academic articles, rather a textbook. These articles are addressed to other academics, so their arguments and vocabulary are not “dumbed down,” and sometimes they assume background knowledge that you may not have. But do not fear. You can do it. And you are not alone. I will attempt to provide that background knowledge and summarize the articles’ main points in lecture, and your TAs will provide ample opportunity to clarify further in section meetings. Almost all articles are available through the USC libraries e-journals system, mostly JSTOR: ask your TA if you have any problem accessing them. (A few readings that are unavailable through USC libraries will be posted on Blackboard.)

The major assignments in the course are two hour exams and the final exam, plus a powerpoint presentation. See the “Grading” section below for more information.
Grading breakdown:
Final exam: 35%
Two hour exams: 15% each, 30% total
Powerpoint project: 15%
Participation in section: 20%
Extra credit: Personal 1-2 page essay about Asia-themed Visions and Voices events on the syllabus: 1% each (can do up to 4)
Notes on grading:
1. About a week prior to each exam, your TAs will provide you with “cheat sheets” of possible ID and essay questions, and also discuss strategies for getting a good grade.
2. The final exam will feature a mix of IDs drawing on material from the last third of the course, and a long essay drawing on material from the entire course. You will receive a list of possible IDs beforehand. The goal on the IDs (people, places, artifacts, events) is to describe what makes it historically important, and offer at least two interesting details about it.
3. The two hour exams will feature IDs drawing on material from the first and second thirds of the course, respectively.
4. The powerpoint project will be a comprehensive introduction to a famous Asian person, place, artifact, or event. You chose what person/thing to study. You will make at least 10 slides, which should speak for themselves. Each slide should feature a mix of text and images. All text and images should be hyperlinked to the web page where you found the information.
5. Grading for section performance depends mainly on constructive in-class questions and comments and regular attendance.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan 16- Introduction to the course, explanation of the syllabus.

I. THE BACKGROUND: EUROPE’S RISE, ASIA’S FALL

A. Economic growth disparity and European imperialism in Asia

Jan 18 -Economic and social contexts

Jan 23 –International dimensions

II. JAPAN’S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1868
A. The emergence of Japan

Jan 25 - Economic and social contexts


EXTRA CREDIT: **Saturday, Jan 26**: Movie screening: “Naked Island” (Japan, 1960), hosted by the movie star Benicio Del Toro. A USC Visions and Voices program event. Free but you need to RSVP after 1/9 at [http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/113/event/897838](http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/113/event/897838)

Jan 30 – International expansion


B. The Pacific War

Feb 1 - Japan goes for broke


Feb 6 - Japan loses [GUEST LECTURER: JOHN MUELLER]

Feb 8 - The Bomb

EXTRA CREDIT: **Friday, Feb. 8**: Theater performance: “FACE” starring Haerry Kim. A USC Visions and Voices program event. Free but you need to RSVP after 1/17 at [http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/113/event/897845](http://web-app.usc.edu/ws/eo2/calendar/113/event/897845)

C. The rebirth of Japan

Feb 13 - Economic and social contexts
Rieko Kage. The Effects of War on Civil Society: Cross-National Evidence from World War II. In Elizabeth Kier and Ronald Krebs, eds., *In War’s Wake* (Cambridge UP, 2010). THIS ARTICLE WILL BE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD.


Feb 15- Losing an empire, finding a role?


III. INDIA AND CHINA’S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE THE 1930s

A. Revolutions in China and India

Feb 20-Two kinds of revolution


Feb 22-HOUR EXAM #1 (SECTIONS I AND II)

B. India and China’s development struggles

Feb 27-India from 1950s-1970s: into the ditch


Mar 1-China from 1950s-1970s: into the abyss

**C. China the phoenix**

Mar 6--Economic and social contexts 1980s-2000s


Mar 8 –Foreign affairs 1980s-2000s [GUEST LECTURER: DANIEL LYNCH]
Daniel C. Lynch. Chinese Thinking on the Future of International Relations: Realism as the Ti, Rationalism as the Yong? *The China Quarterly*, No. 197 (March 2009), pp. 1-21


**POWERPOINT PROJECTS DUE VIA EMAIL BY 9 PM TODAY (3/8).**

**D. India resurgent?**

Mar 13- Economic and social contexts 1980s-2000s


Mar 15-Class canceled. Enjoy your spring break!

Mar 27-Foreign affairs 1980s-2000s


**IV. THE KOREAS’ ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1945**

-Mar 29: North Korea


-Apr 3: South Korea (&Taiwan) [GUEST LECTURER: DAVID KANG]


-Apr 5: No class: study for hour exam #2

-Apr 10: HOUR EXAM #2 (SECTIONS III AND IV)

V. THE US IN ASIA, ASIA IN THE US

A. The American state in contemporary Asia

Apr 12-Amercia in Cold War Asia


Apr 17-America in Post-Cold War Asia


B: Western business and media in contemporary Asia

Apr 19-Material effects [GUEST LECTURER: SAORI KATADA]


Apr 24—Cultural effects


**C. Asia in the contemporary West**

Apr 26—Material effects


May 1—Cultural effects


May 3: Course wrap-up and review

**FINAL EXAM**