

Course: **WAR AND REVOLUTION IN MODERN EAST ASIA SINCE 1800**
Instructor: Kyle E. David
Course level: Lower-level undergraduate
Enrollment: 20 – 30+

What is modern East Asia? How did China, Japan, and Korea's encounters and responses to the West differ? Why was it that China—the economic and cultural frontrunner at the dawn of the nineteenth century—lost out to Japan, which became the region's dominant imperial power? Whereas traditional histories tend to stop short of national boundaries, this course will explore East Asia as an integrated whole. Students will explore how the region participated in and responded to large-scale, global processes such as imperialism, industrialization, war, and revolution. The textbook assigned for this course is Jonathan Lipman's *Modern East Asia: An Integrated History*. Primary sources are taken from a wide variety of sources, and will be available electronically on the course website.

In addition to quizzes, a mid-term, and final exam, students will complete a symposium project on the topic of war and memory. By the end of week two, students will select a contemporary cultural flash point including but not limited to the Nanjing Massacre, US detonation of atomic bombs in Japan, or the Korean War. On their selected topic, students will collect a range of primary source materials to analyze and scrutinize. Such sources may include: government decrees, accounts by foreign observers, clips from newspapers and soldiers' diaries, and documentary film footage and photography. Using these sources, students will assess the historical accuracy and intention of present-day texts, which include speeches, monuments, artwork, and excerpts from textbooks. The primary objective is to research how the nations of contemporary Asia have—over time—remembered and constructed specific historical narratives. Groups will present their findings at a student symposium during the last week of the semester.

- Week 1: What is modern East Asia?
- Week 2: Lands and Languages of East Asia
- Week 3: Ming-Qing China, Chosŏn Korea, and Tokugawa Japan (1600 – 1800)
- Week 4: The Great Divergence (early 1800s)
- Week 5: Internal Contradictions, External Pressures (1800 – 1860s)
- Week 6: Traditionalist Reforms and the Origins of Modernity (1860s – 1895)
- Week 7: Meiji Japan Rises, Qing and Chosŏn Fall (1895 – 1912)
- Week 8: World War I and the Wilsonian Moment (1910 – 1920s)
- Week 9: Triumphs, Revolutions, and Hard Times (1910 – 1931)
- Week 10: The Fifteen-Year War and Anti-Japanese War of Resistance (1931 – 1945)
- Week 11: Occupations, Settlements, and Divisions (1945 – 1953)
- Week 12: War and Memory in East Asia
- Week 13: Reconstruction and Divergent Development (1953 – late 1970s)
- Week 14: Social Transformations and Economic Growth (mid-1970s – early 1990s)
- Week 15: Social Protest and Authoritarian Responses (1980s)
- Week 16: Globalization with East Asian Characteristics (early 1990s to the Present)