

## HH1003 Asia-Pacific in Global History: From 1800

Semester 1, AY 2021/22

Academic Unit: 3

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HSS05-22

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SSCTOB2

Online Lecture: Mon,12:30-14:20

Tutorials: Mon, The Hive  
T1: 14:30-15:20 LHS-TR+33  
T2: 15:30-16:20 LHS-TR+33  
T3: 16:30-17:20 LHS-TR+33  
T4: 17:30-18:20 LHS-TR+48

### I. Course Description

The history of Asia, global history, and interdisciplinary history are three key areas of the NTU History curriculum. This course will familiarize you with aspects of each of those key areas and their entanglements. It will provide you with an insight into the historical processes that shaped the modern Asia-Pacific, how these processes were connected to global developments such as colonialism, capitalism and migration. It is intended to introduce students to the history in modern times and to the Asia-Pacific as a region, not just as a collection of disparate nation-states.

For this purpose, the instructor will draw a distinction among “East Asia,” “South Asia,” and “Southeast Asia” through four overlapping chronological phases: under pre-modern Asian connectivity between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries; under Western imperialism in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; the first half of the twentieth century, the two World Wars and decolonization; and during and after the Cold War.

Each week we shall concentrate on East Asia, South Asia or Southeast Asia within this historical framework, examining what changes took place and how people reacted to those changes. The online lectures will address these questions broadly, while the in-person tutorial meetings will provide opportunities for students to respond.

### II. Learning Objectives

1. Investigate and explain the role of a range of broader historical processes in the formation of the political, cultural, and societal formation of modern Asia and how these processes connect to global developments
2. Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources pertaining to the political, cultural, and societal formation of modern Asia

3. Demonstrate an understanding of how to appropriately acknowledge and build upon the work of others
4. Articulate evidence-based historical arguments about the formation of modern Asia in both written and oral form
5. Present historical ideas and evidence regarding the formation of modern Asia in a variety of media

### III. Assessment

- a. **Weekly Online Quizzes (25%).**
  - Except for weeks 1, 2 & 13, there will be online quiz each week on the NTULearn. Altogether, there will be 10 quizzes throughout the semester.
  - The quizzes will be available at 9am on Tuesdays. Please complete before 9am on the following Monday
  - The first quiz will be available 9am Tuesday 24 August & you need to complete by 9am Monday 30 August.
  - Please complete within 30 minutes in ONE SETTING (cannot save and resume).
- b. **Tutorial Participation (10%).**
  - You are required to be present and ready to participate in each tutorial class, having completed the week's readings and attended the lecture on zoom.
- c. **Two Essays (20\*2=40%).**
  - Due dates: Oct 8 11:59pm for Essay 1; Nov 12 11:59pm for Essay 2.
  - 1,000 words, excluding footnotes and bibliography. 5% penalty for less than 800 words; 5% penalty for exceeding 1,500 words.
  - Papers are to be written in response to the discussion questions listed in the syllabus and should be based primarily upon the texts which are required reading each week.
  - You may consult other texts (and we will be happy to suggest relevant items), but you are not required to read any more than the assignments in preparing for discussions or in writing papers.
  - Please submit both in Word document to the NTULearn.
- d. **Final Take-Home Assignment (25%).**
  - The questions will be released on NTU 9am, 15 Nov.
  - The answers are due through Turnitin by 11:59pm, 19 Nov.
  - Open book "exam."
  - Essay questions on broad themes.

### IV. Reference Books

- Rhoads Murphey, with Kristin Stapleton, *A History of Asia*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (London and New York: Routledge, 2014).
- Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (W. W. Norton, 1999).
- Barbara D. Metcalf and Thomas R. Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

## V. Course Schedule:

Week 1 August 9, 2021: National Day

Week 2 August 16, 2021: Introduction

### Lecture

Introduction: background information on the geography and culture of the Asia-Pacific; the politics of the production of knowledge; course outline and assessment.

Further readings:

- Catherine B. Asher and Cynthia Talbot, *India before Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 1-24.
- Metcalf and Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India*, 1-28.
- Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 1-48.

### Tutorial

No meeting this week

Week 3 August 23, 2021: East Asia: A Sinocentric World under Siege?

### Lecture

Keywords: The Manchus, The Opium Wars, Treaty Ports and the Taiping Rebellion

### Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: What motivated peasants and other non-elites in China to participate in collective action during the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Can peasant rebellions ever be nationalistic or are they always localized and traditional in their goals?

Assigned Readings:

- Frederic Wakeman, *Strangers at the Gate* (1966), 3-58.

Further Readings:

- Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, pp. 49-132.
- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 300-309, 327-343.

Week 4 August 30, 2021: Southeast and South Asia: The Age of Commerce Disrupted?

### Lecture

Keywords: Maritime Trade, Age of Commerce, East India Company (EIC), The Mughal Empire decline and the establishment of British dominance

### Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: Did the arrival of Western imperial powers cause the decline of polities in South and Southeast Asia in the 17<sup>th</sup>

century? Can Western colonialism be exploitative in design but beneficial to the colonies in outcome?

Assigned Readings:

- Jules Ferry, *On French Colonial Expansion* (1884)
- Dadabhai Naoroji, *The Benefits of British Rule* (1871)
- Rudyard Kipling, *The White Man's Burden* (1899)
- "Oxford University accused of backing apologists of British colonialism", *The Guardian*, 22 Dec 2017, <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/dec/22/oxford-university-accused-of-backing-apologists-of-british-colonialism>

Further Readings:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 245-262.
- Anthony J.S. Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680: Volume 1 The Lands Below the Winds* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), 1-10, 62-119, 120-152.
- Anthony J.S. Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce, 1450-1680: Volume 2 Expansion and Crisis* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), 267-303, 326-330.
- C.A. Bayly, *Indian Society and the Making of British Empire* (Cambridge University Press, 1988), Introduction, Chapter 2 and 3. [Available as EBook via NTU Library].

Week 5 Sep 6, 2021: South Asia & Southeast Asia: Resistance and Collaboration

## Lecture

Keywords: Imperial Ideologies; Modern Colonial States; Race, Rule, and Resistance

## Tutorial

Question for Discussion and Essays: How do Asian elites appropriate parts of an imperial idea or technology? Do you consider them nationalists?

Assigned Readings:

- Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-body of a Nation* (1994) 1-19, 62-80.
- King Chulalongkorn's Speech on Reform.
- R. A. Kartini, "Give the Javanese Education!" in *Letters from Kartini* (1992), 529-547.

Further Readings:

- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 266-294, 315-324.
- Barbara D. Metcalf and Thomas R. Metcalf, *A Concise History of Modern India* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), Chapter 3.

Week 6 Sep 13, 2021: Between Traditional and Modern: Business, Race and Class in Colonial Singapore and Malaya

**Guest Lecture by Mr. Jeremy Goh, Research Associate, Nanyang Center for Public Administration (Lee Kuan Yew Global Medal Awardee '2018)**

**Tutorial**

Question for Discussion and Essays: What constitutes “traditional” and “modern” in the economic and business history of Asia?

Assigned Readings:

- Sherman Cochran, *Chinese Medicine Men: Consumer Culture in China and Southeast Asia* (Harvard University Press, 2006) 118-150.
- Tan Kah Kee’s advertisements

*Week 7 Sep 20, 2021: Pan-Asianism and the Japanese Empire*

**Lecture**

Keywords: Modernization, Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere, nationalism, imagined communities, print capitalism,

**Tutorial**

Question for Discussion and Essays: Did the Japanese ideology of Pan-Asianism help Asian countries achieve independence from and equality with the West? Did Japan liberate the people of Asia from Western imperialism?

Assigned Readings:

- “The Japanese Blueprint for Southeast Asia,” in Harry J. Benda and John A. Larkin eds., *The World of Southeast Asia: Selected Historical Readings* (New York: Harper& Row, Publishers, 1967), pp. 219-223. [on NTULearn]
- Subhas Chandra Bose, “To Delhi, to Delhi” and “Give me blood, and I promise you freedom” (1944)
- Pramodya Ananta Toer, *The Mute’s Soliloquy* (NY: Hyperion East, 1999), “Death in a Time of Change” and “Working for the Japanese,” pp. 153-191.

Further Readings:

- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 11-223.
- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 359-370.
- Benedict Anderson, “Japan: ‘The Light of Asia,’” in Josef Silberstein ed., *Southeast Asia in World War II: Four Essays* (New Heaven, CT: Yale University Southeast Asia Studies, 1966), pp. 13-50.
- Fukuzawa Yukichi, *Datsu-A Ron* (1885)
- Pang Yang Huei, “A Tangled Web of Wartime Collaboration & Survival in Singapore: A Chinese Farmer’s Experience,” in *Reflections and Interpretations, Oral History Centre 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Publication*.

*Recess Week*

Week 8 Oct 4, 2021: Science in Asia

**Guest Lecture** by Ms. Jan Yap, MA candidate, History Programme, NTU

**Tutorial**

Question for Discussion and Essays: How do science and nationalism relate to each other?

Assigned Readings:

- Hiromi Mizuno, *Science for the Empire: Scientific Nationalism in Modern Japan* (Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2009), 143-172.
- Jiri Hudecek, “Ancient Chinese Mathematics in Action: Wu Wen-Tsun’s Nationalist Historicism after the Cultural Revolution,” *East Asian Science, Technology and Society* 6, no. 1 (2012): 41–64.

Week 9 Oct 11, 2021: East Asia: The Cold War & Maoism

**Lecture**

Keywords: The Korean War, Land Reform, the Great Leap Forward, Cultural Revolution

Assigned Reading:

**Tutorial**

Question for Discussion and Essays: What were the goals of the Communist Revolution in China? Was the revolution successful in achieving these goals?

Assigned Readings:

- Anita Chan, Richard Madsen, and Jonathan Unger, *Chen Village: Revolution to Globalization* (University of California Press, 2009), 13-37, 103-140.

Further Readings:

- Felix Wemheuer, *A Social History of Maoist China: Conflict and Change, 1949-1976* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).
- Andrew Walder, *China Under Mao: A Revolution Derailed* (Harvard University Press, 2015). [E-Book via NTU library]
- Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 382-409.

Week 10 Oct 18, 2021: The Asian Economies: Urbanization, Migration and Capitalism

**Lecture**

Keywords: neoliberalism, Deng Xiaoping and Reform and Opening in China, the Asian Tigers, export-processing zones

**Tutorial**

Question for Discussion and Essays: What kind of “developments” do internal and international migration bring to individuals and Asian nations?

Assigned Readings:

- Leslie Chang, *Factory Girls* (Random House, 2008), Chapters 2 & 3.

- Andrew Liu, “How Asia Got Crazy Rich: Toward a Materialist History of Crazy Rich Asians,” *N+1*, September 14, 2018, <https://nplusonemag.com/online-only/online-only/how-asia-got-crazy-rich/>
- Sunil S. Amrith, *Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2011), 117-150.

Week 11 Oct 25, 2021: Art and History

**Guest Lecture by Ms. Rie Ong, NUS Museum and Mr. Hu Yun, Artist**

Question for Discussion: How does art encapsulate memory and history?

Assigned Reading:

- War Drawings and Posters from the Ambassador Dato’ N. Parameswaran Collection, [https://nus.edu.sg/museum/pdf/2015/Vietnam1954-1975\\_Brochure.pdf](https://nus.edu.sg/museum/pdf/2015/Vietnam1954-1975_Brochure.pdf)

Further Reading:

- Viet Tham Nguyen, *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (Harvard University Press, 2016), 4-22. [E-Book via NTU library]

Week 12 Nov 1, 2021: Southeast Asia: Political Violence and Chinese Identities

**Guest Lecture by Ms. Tintin Wulia, Artist/ Researcher, University of Gothenburg, and Mr. Randy Mulyanto, Staff Reporter, Agence France-Presse (AFP)**

Keywords: 1965-1966 mass violence in Indonesia

**Tutorial**

Question for Discussion and Essays: How did the Cold War change racial identities in Asia? Was Southeast Asian political activity during the Cold War formed around a common national community, or was it formed against an ideology (such as communism or capitalism)?

Assigned Readings:

- Randy Mulyanto, “The Chinese who fled Sukarno’s Indonesia to build a new Bali under Mao,” *South China Morning Post*, Nov 16, 2019, <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3037931/chinese-who-fled-sukarnos-indonesia-build-new-bali-under-mao>
- Tintin Wulia, “The Name Game,” *Inside Indonesia*, October 12, 2008, <https://www.insideindonesia.org/the-name-game>
- Vincent Bevins, “How ‘Jakarta’ Became the Codeword for US-Backed Mass Killing,” *The New York Review of Books*, May 18, 2020, <https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2020/05/18/how-jakarta-became-the-codeword-for-us-backed-mass-killing/>
- Ngoei Wen-Qing, “World War II, Race, and the Southeast Asian Origins of the Domino Theory,” *Sources and Methods*, April 2017,

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/world-war-ii-race-and-the-southeast-asian-origins-the-domino-theory>

Further Readings and Videos:

- Tiffany Tsao, “Monsters Made, Not Begotten,” *The Margins*, August 2020, <https://tiffanytsao.com/selected-writings/monsters-made-not-begotten/>
- John Roosa, *Buried Histories: The Anticommunist Massacres of 1965-1966 in Indonesia* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020), pp. 1-27. [E-Book via NTU library]
- “A Thousand and One Martian Nights,” Tintin Wulia (2017), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxbSnwEw1Io>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCq8j\\_33Y60](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCq8j_33Y60)

*Week 13 Nov 8, 2021 Review Session*