

**Title: Survey of East Asian History**

**History 1601E, Section 570**

**Subtitle: East Asian History from 1600 to 1960.**

**Time, Date and Location: Tuesday, 10:30AM-12:30 PM, in SA 060**

**Thursday, 10:30 AM-11:30 PM, in BH109**

Please note that lecture locations can change with very little notice before the beginning of term.  
So be sure to check again before class begins.

**Instructor:** Dr. Adam Bohnet, Assistant Professor, Department of History. **Office:** South Annex 059. E-mail: abohnet@uwo.ca. **Office Hours:** Thursday 11:30-12:30. **Phone:** 519-433-3491, extension 4580.

**Course description:** This course discusses the history of China, Korea and Japan (with perhaps excursions to a few nearby countries) from 1600 until modern times. The course emphasizes that although they are independent nations, their histories are intertwined both with each other and with the wider world.

**Course objectives:**

1. To be able to pursue later research and reading on East Asian history (whether or not it was an aspect which we discussed in class).
2. For students without a background in East Asian languages, to gain familiarity and comfort with place names and personal names in East Asian languages
3. To gain a broader understanding of world history as a whole.
4. To improve critical reading and writing skills.

Textbooks:

1. Jonathan Lipman, Barbara Molony and Michael Robinson. *Modern East Asia: An Integrated History*. Toronto: Pearson, 2012.
2. Kang Hang, Kenneth R. Robinson and Jahyun Kim Haboush, trans., *A Korean War Captive in Japan, 1597–1600: The Writings of Kang Hang*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013.
3. Yi T'aejun, Janet Poole, trans. *Eastern Sentiments*. New York: Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, 2009.

Office Hours and E-mail: My office is South Annex 059. I will be there during my office hours Thursday, 11:30-12:30. I will often be there at other times as well, and will usually be willing to talk to students (especially if my door is already open). If I am too busy right then, I will ask you to come by later - so it doesn't hurt to ask!

I will also respond to student questions by e-mail. I will try to respond promptly within a day, but students should allow for two days for a response.

Do be sure to make it clear in the subject line that you are a student in my course. Please note that non-UWO e-mail may go missing.

I will do my best to assist students in all matters academic, but for those matters which exceed my professional competence, please note that King's has an extensive array of services available to help students with personal and academic issues. Please make full use of these services - you are paying for them anyway! For information, see [www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services](http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services).

**OWL:** All students in this class must sign up for the OWL page. Certain assignments have to be submitted via the OWL page. I will make announcements on OWL which you may find useful. I will post some of my Powerpoint slides and other resources to the OWL Lesson page as well.

**Internet Sources:** There are a number of on-line sources which students may find useful. I will provide a list of such resources during class. However, do not rely on unapproved Internet resources - including Wikipedia, tourism websites, and government information sheets - for assignments and exams.

**Language:** The only language students need for this class is English, which is the language of the lectures and the readings, but I also encourage students to make full use of all their talents, including knowledge of languages other than English.

I endeavour to make my classes accessible both to unilingual English-speakers with little knowledge of East Asian history and to those who speak English as a foreign language but who have considerable experience of the world outside of London.

It is my experience that students who are enthusiastic to learn about East Asian history do much better than students who think they know it all. It is also my experience that students who struggle to write good essays in English frequently write better essays than those who think that they can rely on their native fluency in English.

### **Marking Scheme:**

1. 10% Reading Journal
2. 20%: Midterm [November 4]
3. 20%: First written assignment [December 2]
4. 20%: Second written assignment, final draft [April 9]
5. 30%: Final Exam - in April exam period

*Reading Journal (10%) Readings Journal (10%):* Every week, a link will be provided on the OWL website for this course. The response is to be posted before Tuesday's class. Students may post their responses to the week's readings at that link. Generally, students are encouraged to post responses to the more substantial readings, and not merely list a few uninteresting details in

the textbook. If possible, students should ask questions, draw connections, raise doubts and express disagreement with the arguments within the text. I am not concerned with what students notice or discuss, but do not want simple lists of information.

Each reading response should be approximately 250 words. Students may submit a reading response each week, but will only receive marks for the best 8 reading responses, with a grade of 1.25 for each reading response. I will not mark late reading responses, give extensions for reading responses, or accept reading responses in any form other than via electronic submission to OWL.

### Midterm and Final:

There will be one midterm in class on November 5. There will also be a final during final exam period in April.

Tests will be a mix of fill-in-the-blanks, short-answer questions and identification questions. The final exam will be similar, but may involve one essay question.

I follow the policy of King's Department of History in preventing the use of any electronic aids during the tests. I also follow policy in allowing absences from tests only if documentation establishing extenuating circumstances is provided before the test. Even when extenuating circumstances are established, students will be required to write make-up tests, which because of the difficulty of writing new exams that are fair to all students, will always be more difficult and marked more harshly.

Cheating (looking at somebody else's work, writing answers on your hand, having answers sent to your cell-phone) is very unlikely to improve your mark even if not detected, and will result in very severe consequences to both your mark and academic career if detected. See the King's University College Statement on Academic Dishonesty, attached.

Take-home Written Assignments: There are two short (6-8 pages) written assignments, each worth 15%. They will be due December 5, 2014 and April 10, 2015. Further details will be provided shortly. See the policy regarding plagiarism in attached sheet.

Note also that, in accord with the regulations of the Department of History, all assignments will be penalized 5% for the first day late, and 1% for each following day. No assignment will be accepted a week after the due date.

Finally, please note that students are encourage to use the Writing Centre at King's, if they do so they should include the name of the writing centre teacher who helped with writing. This is acceptable because the Writing Centre only helps students improve their writing, and leaves the student's voice unfiltered. However (and this is important). **Students must not have their papers edited.** I much prefer to read slightly clumsy English to reading something that doesn't sound like the student wrote it at all.

### Reading Schedule

**September 4:** Introduction to class.

**Second Week:** September 9-11: Introduction to Early Modern East Asia with focus on Chosŏn Korea and Warring States Japan. **Readings:** Lipman, pp. 14-27 and 45-65.

**Third Week:** September 16-18: The Imjin War. Review Lipman, pp.45-65. Kenneth Swope, "Crouching Tigers, Secret Weapons: Military Technology Employed During the Sino-Japanese-Korean War, 1592-1598," *The Journal of Military History* 69, no. 1 (Jan. 2005): 11-41.

**Fourth Week:** September 23-25. Primary sources for the Imjin War - with focus on Kang Hang's *A Korean War Captive in Japan*, translated by Robinson and Haboush. Read pages 1-39 before coming to class, and bring the book with you to class.

**Task:** Introduce the essay.

**Fifth Week** (September 30-October 2): Economic and social transformation of the Ming period. The Ming in the World Economy. **Readings:** (1) Lipman, 28-45; (2) Timothy Brook, "The Merchant Network in 16th Century China: A Discussion and Translation of Zhang Han's "On Merchants," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, Vol. 24, no. 2 (1981): 165-214.

**Sixth Week (October 7-9):** The rise of the Manchu and the Qing conquest. **Readings:** (1) Lipman, 66-79; (2) Passage from Lynn Struve, *Voices from the Ming-Qing Cataclysm: China in Tiger's Jaws* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993), pp. 6-27.

**Seventh Week (October 14-16):** Chosŏn Korea in crisis. Lipman, pp. 79-87. **Readings:** (1) Ji-Young Jung, "Widows' Position and Agency in the Late Chosŏn Dynasty," *Journal of Korean Studies* 14, no. 1 (2009): 61-82.

**Eighth Week (October 21-23):** Consolidation of Japan and the Floating World. **Readings:** (1) Lipman, 88-101; (2) "Ihara Saikaku's Books of a Floating World" in Haruo Shirane, ed. *Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology, 1600-1900* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002), pp. 82-92.

**Ninth Week (October 28):** Midterm Review

**October 30-31 - Study Break**

**Tenth Week** (November 4-6): **Midterm on November 4.**

**November 6:** Qing Empire in the Eighteenth Century. **Readings:** Lipman, 102-116.

**Eleventh Week (November 11-13):** Chosŏn during the Eighteenth Century. **Readings:** Lipman, 117-125; (2) Stories from Yu Chaegon, *Things Heard and Seen in Ordinary Villages*, as translated by Adam Bohnet.

**Twelfth Week (November 18-20):** Edo during the Eighteenth Century. Readings: Lipman, 125-137. Theme: Was Japan a Closed State? **Readings:** (1) Ronald P. Toby, "Carnival of Aliens.

Korean Embassies in Edo-Period Art and Popular Culture, *Monumenta Nipponica* 41, no. 4 (Winter, 1986): 415-456.

**Thirteenth Week (November 25-27):** Rise of the West. The Great Divergence and the Opium wars. **Readings: (1)** Lipman, pp. 134-152

**Fourteenth Week (December 2):** Opium Wars continued. **First Essay due.**

## **Second Term:**

**First Week (January 6-8):** The Taiping Uprising. **Readings: (1)** Lipman, pp. 134-152.

**Second Week (January 13-15):** Opening of Japan and Meiji period. **Reading: (1)** Lipman, pp. 160-187; **(2)** Takashi Fujitani, *Splendid Monarchy* (UC Press, 1996), pp. 155-164.

**Third Week (January 20-22):** Self-Strengthening in China and late Chosŏn decline. **Readings: (1)** Lipman, 188-196, pp. 152-159 and pp. 196-207.

**Fourth Week (January 27-29):** Korea between Empires. **Readings: (1)** Lipman, 232-243; **(2)** Boudewijn Walraven, "Cheju 1901: Records, Memories and Current Concerns," **Korean Histories** 1.1 (2009), 3-33.

**Fifth Week (February 3-5):** Korea under colonial rule. **Reading: (1)** Lipman, pp. 267-279; Ken Kawashima, "The Obscene, Violent Supplement to State Power: Korean Welfare and Class Warfare in Interwar Japan," *Positions: East Asian Cultures Critique* 17 no. 3 (Winter 2009): 465-487.

**Sixth Week (February 10-12):** Japan: Democracy and Empire. **Reading:** Lipman, pp. 244-257.

## **Reading Week**

**Seventh Week (February 24-26):** Fall of the Qing and the Rise of the Republic. **Readings:** Lipman, pp. 222-232.

**Eighth Week (March 3-5):** China under the Warlords - Cultural and Political Ferment. **Readings: (1)** Lipman, pp. 257-267; **(2)** Bryna Goodman, "The New Woman Commits Suicide:

The Press, Cultural Memory and the New Republic," *Journal of Asian Studies* 64, no. 1 (February 2005): 67-101.

**Ninth Week (March 10-12):** Nationalists and Communists in China. **Readings: (1)** Lipman, pp. 293-304.

**Tenth Week (March 17-19):** Militarism in the Japanese Empire. **Reading: (1)** Lipman, 280-317 (includes some review of earlier lectures). Watch Japanese propaganda films in class.

**Eleventh Week (March 24-26):** World War II in East Asia - Atrocities of War. Comfort Women. **Readings: (1)** Passages from Keith Howard, ed., *True Stories of Korean Comfort Women* (London: Cassel, 1995), 65-69 plus passages from Haruka Tayo Cook and Theodore F. Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History* (New York: Diane Pub Co, 1992); **(2)** passages from Timothy Brook, ed., *Documents on the Rape of Nanking* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1999).

**Twelfth Week (March 31-April 2):** **Readings: (1)** Lipman, 318-355; **(2)** Lydia H. Liu, "Shadows of Universalism: The Untold Story of Human Rights around 1948," *Critical Inquiry* (Summer 2014), pp. 385-417.

**Thirteenth Week (April 7):** Last day of classes. Wrap up and review.