

## **HIS 378 US-East Asian Relations**

MW 8:30-9:50, in HSSC N2175

Prof. W. Luo

Office hours in Mears 312: M&W 2-4pm and by appointment

[luoweiwei@grinnell.edu](mailto:luoweiwei@grinnell.edu)

### **Course Description:**

Civilizations do not clash, empires do. This seminar explores the history of U.S. East Asian relations from the nineteenth century to the present day, beginning with U.S. entrance into Asia as a colonial power and end with the legacy of the Cold War. It juxtaposes the perspectives, interests, and arguments of U.S. and East Asian actors to understand this social, political and cultural history. This seminar investigates the global dimension of U.S. Asian interactions: how did transnational and international forces between U.S. and Asian societies and governments shape key dynamics of the global twentieth century? Why was there unprecedented support for U.S. overseas expansion in this period? And how did U.S. and Asian migrants, lobbyists, NGOs and other private actors develop a sustained impact on global politics?

### **Readings:**

All reading assignments will be provided on Pweb as PDFs

### **Requirements:**

- a) The seminar paper (50%.) This paper will be a 20-30-page research paper (6000-7500 words) based on work with primary and secondary sources. Detailed grading rubric will be posted under Assignments on PWeb.
- b) Class participation (20%.) You are expected to attend class on time and participate actively throughout the semester. All readings are to be completed prior to class period for which they have been assigned. You should come to class prepared to discuss them in detail.
- c) Paper proposal and peer comment (20%.) You will be required to write a five-page (double spaced) proposal for your seminar paper, which will be due on March 31 (15%). You will read and give feedback on your small group proposals (5%), which are due on April 8.
- d) Presentation of your research (10%) Toward the end of the semester you will give a brief (10 min) presentation of your research result.

### **Grading Scale:**

93-100% A  
90-92% A-  
87-89% B+

83-86% B  
80-82% B-  
77-79% C+

70-76% C  
60-69% D  
below 60% F

### **Policies**

**Academic honesty:**

extensions of 24 hours on 1 writing assignment without penalty except the final paper If you have 2 or more late submissions (regardless of reasons) you will incur grade deduction on the assignment depending on the amount of time lapsed. You are encouraged to come to talk to me about ways to make up for the grade.

### **Schedule**

*\*The reading assignments are subject to change*

#### **Week 1 Introduction**

Jan 2 Introduction

#### **Week 2 Method**

Jan 7 You are writing a seminar paper... what does that mean?

Watch the linked video on "expert writing" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtlzMaLkCaM>) and complete the assignment (Pweb)

David, Howell, *Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-century Japan* (California, 2005), pp. 20-44; 131-153.

Larsen, Kirk W. *Tradition, Treaties, and Trade: Qing Imperialism and Choson Korea, 1850-1910*. Chapter 3 "Treaties and Troops: Bringing Multilateral Imperialism to Korea".

#### **Week 4 Inter-relations, Intervention, and Migration**

##### Feb 10 Problematic Encounters

Warren Cohen, "Challenge to the West" in *East Asia at the Center*

Israel, "Alice in Wonderland: Through the China Looking Glass and What America found There", in: *Progressivism and the Open Door: America and China, 1905-1921*, pp. 3-30.

Manela E. "Dawn of a New Era: The 'Wilsonian Moment' in Colonial Contexts and the Transformation of World Order, 1917-1920."

##### Feb 12 What's On the Move

Sunil Amrith, "Asia's Great Migrations, 1850-1930" in *Migration and Diaspora in Modern Asia*

Frieden, Jeffrey A. "The Economics of Intervention: American Overseas Investments and Relations with Underdeveloped Areas, 1890-1930" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 31, no. 1 (1989): 55-80.

#### **Week 5 Wars and Peace**

##### Feb 17 Japan and WWII

Akira Iriye, "War, Peace, and U.S.-Japanese Relations"

Yamamoto et al. *Race, Rights, and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment* (excerpts)

Alexander Buhk. "Japan's History Textbooks Debate: National Identity in Narratives of Victimhood and Victimization"

##### Feb 19 The Cold War

Brooks, "Introduction," "New York and San Francisco: Politics in the Political Capitals of

Chinese America,” in: *Between Mao and McCarthy: Chinese American Politics in the Cold War Years*

Nicholas D. Anderson, "America's North Korean Nuclear Trilemma," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 40, no. 4 (Winter 2018), pp. 153-64.

**Spring Break (March 16-27)**

**Weeks 9-13: Individual and Small Group Meetings** (to be scheduled with me)

**Week 14: In-class presentations**

Final Paper due (May 21 5pm)