



## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The most important aspect of one's intellectual life is reading books, for books are the only source of creativity and peace. "In omnibus requiem quaesivi, et nusquam inveni nisi in angulo cum libro." The following seven books have most influenced my own thinking about East Asia, which largely reflect in my lecture, so I highly recommend these books if you are serious about studying East Asia.

1. Edward Said, *Orientalism* (Vintage, 1978). This is perhaps *the* most important book about the West's encountering "the Other," the European and American common approach to non-Western cultures and regions. It is a foundational text in postcolonial studies, but everyone should read it in order not to fall into the pitfall of ethnocentric provincialism. From Said's masterful analysis, you learn how seemingly innocuous discourses about "others" are deeply ingrained in historically embedded power relationships.
2. Feng Youlan (Fung Yu-lan), *A Short History of Chinese Philosophy* (Free Press, 1948). This classic is a short version of his monumental *A History of Chinese Philosophy* [ ]. Fung was a preeminent scholar in the twentieth century China and wrote this profound interpretation of various Chinese schools of philosophy in a clear and concise manner. This is a must read to comprehend (or at least to feel) the vast spiritual world of East Asia.
3. Masao Maruyama, *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics* ([ ] Oxford, 1963), and *Studies in the Intellectual History of Tokugawa Japan* [ ] (Princeton, 1974). When he's still in the University of Tokyo, Maruyama's influence was so absolute that people often called him a "*Tenn*" (emperor) of the Japanese academics." These two books are erudite, rigorous, and insightful, indispensable to understand the crux of modern and contemporary Japan. You also learn about great Western thinkers, such as Karl Marx and Max Weber, in a new way from his recondite but interesting interpretations.
4. Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy* (Princeton, 2001). Pomeranz's study has changed the direction of economic history, pioneering a new empirical critique of Eurocentrism. One important implication from his work is that the historical origin of capitalism is contingent, neither European nor Asian.
5. Anthony Reid, *Southeast Asia in the Age of Commerce*, two volumes (Yale, 1988 and 1995). This is a landmark study of Southeast Asia from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. In a very Braudelian style, Reid presents a vivid picture of rich cultures and material conditions under which most people had prospered in Southeast Asia before Europeans came.
6. Paul Cohen, *Discovering History in China* (Columbia, 1996). In the same vein as Said, Cohen reveals ideological assumptions immanent in academic writing about China and East Asia, and he also criticizes cultural essentialism that exaggerates the difference between the West and Asia.
7. R. Taggart Murphy, *Japan and the Shackles of the Past* (Oxford, 2014). This is the most acute analysis in English about Japanese politics. Murphy's explanations are brutally perceptive and very Orwellian. What does the Japanese ruling elite (or any ruling elite) do when it rules?

History is the cornerstone. For the succinct history of East Asia, read excellent Holcombe's *A History of East Asia* (Cambridge, 2017). For China, Fairbank's *China: A New History* (Harvard, 2006) is a classic; Spence's *The Search for Modern China* (Norton, 2017) is comprehensive. For Japan, Marius Jansen's *The Making of Modern Japan* (Harvard, 2002) is magisterial; Andrew Gordon's *A Modern History of Japan* (Oxford, 2020) is an ideal textbook; John Dower's *Embracing Defeat* (Norton, 2000) is a (

## REQUIREMENTS

This on-line course is based on both synchronous and asynchronous methods. This means that we will have a virtual class meeting via Zoom for 12:00-1:20 pm on Tuesday. Students will take a quiz during the class time for 12:00-1:20 pm on Thursday. Power Point slides will be posted after virtual class meetings on Tuesdays, so that students should read them as well as the required readings to prepare for weekly quizzes and exams. Hence, students are expected to join virtual class meetings on Tuesdays, take weekly quizzes on Thursdays, read the Power Point slides as well as the required readings, and write a final paper (see below). This is an on-line course that moves rapidly, so it is extremely important to pay close attention to the course schedule and check the course Moodle regularly.

### **1) Attendance** (13% = 13 virtual class meetings excluding the first one × 1% for each class)

As in-person classes, it is imperative to join virtual class meetings regularly in which the texts, topics, and categories are discussed, problematized and critiqued. Attendance will be taken for each class. Students may earn credit for their attendance at each class, while repeated and unexcused absence will cause deduction in student's total grade. Do not record a virtual class meeting under any circumstances, as you do not record an in-person class meeting without permission. I will hold virtual office hours for 9:00-10:00 am on Wednesdays, or by appointment (you are more than welcome to meet with me virtually if you have any questions or concerns). The best way to contact me for a short question is by email. I will make every effort to answer your question in a timely manner usually within 24 hours.

### **2) Weekly quiz** (30% = 10 weekly quizzes × 3% for each quiz)

A weekly quiz consists of three short questions about concepts, theories, historical facts, etc. Each question requires an answer with two to five sentences. It will be posted on Moodle at 12:00 pm on Thursday. Students have one hour and twenty minutes to complete and turn it in by 1:20 pm on the same day.

### **3) Three examinations** (33% = 10% for the 1<sup>st</sup> exam + 10% for the 2<sup>nd</sup> exam + 13% for the final; the final is not cumulative)

An exam consists of four or five essay questions. Each question requires an answer with four to seven sentences. The exam will be posted on Moodle at 12:00 pm on the exam day. Students have one hour and twenty minutes to complete and turn it in by 1:20 pm on the same day. The final exam will be held during the official final exam time. The details about the test will be discussed in class later. As a3 (i)8 (y)-3 (.)-1 (0.68 Tw -28 t)6 (h)4 (l)TJ( ) ( e)1(y)-3 ( m)1 (i)-1 3 (t)2 (h f)-3 (o)-33 (t)2 (.)-1 ( S) (t)2 ,0.00



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