

GR6200: MA Workshop in East Asian History (Spring 2018) Tuesday 2.10pm-4pm, Pupin Laboratories Room 424

Instructor: Paul Kreitman (pk2528@columbia.edu)
Office hours: Tuesday 10am-12pm, IAB #933

Goals of the Course:

This graduate workshop focuses on the substance and practice of history writing about East Asia. It is intended for, and limited to, Master's Degree candidates in East Asian history in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures. The course will introduce students to core theoretical issues and methodological approaches within the discipline of History, with specific reference to East Asia. Over the course of the semester, students will craft a short research paper which is intended to serve as the first section of the MA Thesis.

Although there is no prerequisite, some prior knowledge of East Asian history is assumed.

Requirements & Evaluation:

- 1) Active participation in class discussion (**30%**)
- 2) Weekly postings (100-200 words) to Courseworks, **due 11.59pm on Monday. (20%)**
- 3) One individual in-class presentation on the week's readings.
- 4) Development of a thesis topic over the course of the semester, culminating in a ten-page draft chapter or research paper:
 - a. One individual in-class progress report (staggered over the semester)
 - b. 1st report on discussion with advisor (300-500 words) **due Sunday 4th March**
 - c. One annotated bibliography (a combination of approx. 10-20 monographs and 20-40 articles) **due Sunday 18th March**
 - d. First draft of thesis chapter or research paper **due Sunday 8th April**
 - e. Final presentation of research to the class **on Tuesday 17th/24th April**
 - f. Final draft **due Sunday 6th May. (50%)**

Readings:

All books will be available on library reserve in the C.V. Starr East Asian Library; scanned material will be available on Courseworks.

Recommended for Reference:

- Booth, Wayne C. and Gregory G. Colomb and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, 3rd Edition. University of Chicago Press, 2008.
- Burke, Peter ed., *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*. Penn State Press, 2001.
- Carr, E.H. *What is History?* Penguin, 1961.

- Evans, Richard. *In Defence of History*. Granta Books, 2001.
- Green, Anna and Kathleen Troup. *The Houses of History: A Critical Reader in Twentieth-Century History and Theory*. Manchester University Press, 1999.
- Iggers, Georg G. *Historiography in the Twentieth Century*. Wesleyan University Press, 2003.
- Kramer, Lloyd and Sarah Maza, *A Companion to Western Historical Thought*. Blackwell, 2002.
- Tosh, John. *The Pursuit of History*. Pearson, 1999.

Week 1 (16th January) Introduction & Organizational Meeting

Week 2 (23rd January) What is History?

- Tosh, John “The Uses of History,” in *The Pursuit of History*. Pearson, 1999: 1-29.
- Carr, E.H. “The Historian and His Facts,” in *What is History?* Penguin, 1961: 9-35.
- Jenkins, Keith. “What History Is,” in *Rethinking History*. Routledge, 1991. 5-26
- Evans, Richard J. *In Defence of History*. Granta Books, 2001. Ch.3-4

Week 3 (30th January) History as a Social Science

- Marx, Karl. "The German Ideology," in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert C. Tucker W.W. Norton. 1978, 149 (bottom) -155; optional but recommended, 155-62
- E.P. Thompson, “The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century,” *Past & Present* 50 (February 1971): 76-136.
- Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (London: Routledge, 1992 [1905]), Chs. 1-3, 5.

Week 4 (6th February) Micro- and Macro- Approaches

- Geertz, Clifford. *The Interpretation of Culture* Ch.1
- Darnton, Robert. “The Great Cat Massacre” in Darnton, Robert. *The Great Cat Massacre: And Other Episodes in French Cultural History*. Basic Books, 2009.
- Mah, Harold (Spring 1991). "Suppressing the Text: The Metaphysics of Ethnographic History in Darnton's Great Cat Massacre". *History Workshop*. 31: 1–20.
- Armitage, David and Jo Guldi, *The History Manifesto*. Cambridge University Press, 2009

Week 5 (13th February) Orientalism/Colonialism

- Edward Said, “Introduction,” in *Orientalism* (1978), 1-28.
- Ranajit Guha, “The Prose of Counter-Insurgency,” in *Subaltern Studies II* (1983), ed. 45-84

- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” in Guha, Ranajit and Spivak. *Selected Subaltern Studies*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- [Liu, Lydia He. *The Clash of Empires*. Harvard University Press, 2004. Chs.2-3](#)

Week 6 (20th February) Modernity

- Garon, Sheldon. “Rethinking Modernization and Modernity in Japanese History: A Focus on State-Society Relations.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* (1994): 346–66.
- Conrad, Sebastian. “What Time is Japan? Problems of Comparative (Intercultural) Historiography.” *History and Theory* 38, no. 1 (1999): 67–83.
- Dirlik, Arif. “Social Formation in Representations of the Past: The Case of ‘Feudalism’ in *Twentieth-Century Chinese Historiography*,” *Review* 19 (Summer 1996): 227-267.
- Woodside, Alexander. *Lost Modernities*. Harvard University Press, 2009. Introduction

Week 7 (27th February) Nation and State

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism, New Edition*. Verso, 2006. Introduction
- Scott, James C. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. Yale University Press, 2010. Ch.1-2
- Skinner, Quentin. “A Genealogy of the Modern State”, British Academy Lecture, 13 May 2008
- Mitchell, Timothy. “The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics.” *American Political Science Review* 85, no. 01 (1991): 77–96.

FIRST REPORT ON DISCUSSION WITH ADVISOR (300-500 WORDS) **DUE 4TH MARCH**

Week 8 (6th March) Transnational/Global Approaches

- Botsman, Dani, “Freedom Without Slavery? ‘Coolies’, Prostitutes and Outcasts in Meiji Japan’s ‘Emancipation Moment’” in AHR (December 2011)
- Conrad, Sebastian. *What is Global History*. Intro
- Duara, Prasenjit. “Bifurcating Linear History: Nation and Histories in China and India”. *Positions* 1:3 (Winter 1993)
- Adelman, Jeremy. “What is global history now?” in *Aeon* (2 March 2017)

NO CLASS ON 13TH MARCH - SPRING RECESS

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY **DUE 18TH MARCH**

Week 9 (20th March) Thesis Workshop

Meet individually with me to discuss your thesis proposals. Please prepare an annotated bibliography of approximately 10-20 monographs (or 20-40 journal articles) and upload to Courseworks **by 11.59pm on Sunday 18th March**.

Week 10 (27th March) Monograph Case Study

- Schlesinger, Jonathan. *A World Trimmed With Fur: Wild Things, Pristine Places, and the Natural Fringes of Qing Rule*. Stanford University Press, 2017

Week 11 (3rd April) Research case studies:

- Sample EALAC MA Thesis 1
- Sample EALAC MA Thesis 2
- Kreitman, Paul. "Attacked by Excrement: the political ecology of night soil in wartime and postwar Tokyo" forthcoming in *Environmental History* (April 2018)

FIRST DRAFT OF THESIS CHAPTER OR RESEARCH PAPER **DUE 8TH APRIL**

Week 12 (10th April) Peer review session (read and comment on each others' draft thesis chapter or research paper)

Week 13 (17th April) In-class presentations

Please upload a project abstract (max 250 words) to Courseworks **by 11.59pm on Sunday, 15th April**.

Week 14 (24th April) In-class presentations

Please upload a project abstract (max 250 words) to Courseworks **by 11.59pm on Sunday, 22nd April**.

FINAL DRAFT **DUE 6TH MAY (50%)**

Appendix: [M.A. Thesis Requirements](#)

The student must, under the supervision of the M.A. thesis advisor, write an M.A. thesis that makes significant use of sources in the East Asian target language.

The M.A. thesis receives a total of 4 credits, which are divided between 1) EAAS GR6990: “M.A. Thesis Research” (2 credits) followed by 2) EAAS GR6991: “M.A. Thesis Writing” (2 credits). Both courses are taken for a letter grade.

1) The student is required to register for EAAS GR6990: “M.A. Thesis Research,” offered in two segments from the Spring to the Fall semester, in conjunction with the methodology course. The student is required to work with his/her advisor closely to develop the thesis proposal and bibliography. The thesis proposal, in six pages, should describe the main argument, methodology, scope of sources, and scholarly contributions of the thesis, and it should be accompanied by a bibliography.

2) The M.A. thesis, which should be between 30 and 60 pages, must be approved by the advisor with a letter grade and submitted to the M.A. Program Director. Students are required to register for EAAS GR6991: “M.A. Thesis Writing” in order to receive credits for the thesis and to meet with their M.A. thesis advisors at least twice each semester.