

Syllabus
ECONOMY, SOCIETY, AND POLITICS IN ASIA
SOCI 406 & HIST 426
Spring 2021
(Updated on 15 February 2021)

Class time: Monday & Wednesday, 2:30 PM-3:45 PM

Location: Online course (via Zoom)

Instructor: Burak Gürel

Office hours: Wednesday, 10:30-12:30 (by appointment, via Zoom)

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Teaching assistants:

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Course description

This course examines the economic, social, and political change in major Asian countries from the nineteenth century until today from a comparative and historical perspective. It discusses capitalism, modernization, colonialism, nationalism, socialism, developmentalism, and neoliberalism with reference to the experiences of China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

Course requirements

Attendance and Participation: Unless you have a legitimate excuse, you are expected to attend all classes. If there is an extenuating situation preventing you from coming to class, please inform me in advance. Missing more than three classes **with or without** a legitimate excuse would significantly decrease the possibility of your successful finishing of this course. Each student is expected to participate in class discussions actively.

Position papers: Each student is required to write a total of five position papers on the reading materials of the weeks of her/his own choosing. The length of each position paper should be **between 700 and 1000 words**. Position papers should be submitted (**via email** to the instructor **and** teaching assistants) **before Monday at 10 AM each week**. Position papers about the reading materials of previous weeks are **not** going to be accepted.

Final paper: Each student is expected to write a research paper related to the course content. Final papers should **not** exceed 8,000 words (**including** the bibliography). You should use the author-date system of Chicago-style source citation.

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

The bibliography of the final papers should contain **at least ten sources** that are **not** included in the course syllabus.

Students are required to submit a **paper proposal** (three double-spaced pages **maximum**). This

proposal should include an explanation of the content of the proposed paper (two double-spaced pages **maximum**) and a **preliminary** bibliography (one page). The content part of the proposal should explain the proposed paper's 1. research question(s), 2. hypothesis/hypotheses, and 3. outline (of subsequent sections). The instructor may either immediately approve your proposal or ask for specific revisions before approval.

The deadline for the submission of the paper proposal: **12 April 2021**.

The deadline for the submission of the final paper: **10 June 2021** (Early submissions will be graded earlier. There will not be any extensions of this deadline).

Grade distribution

Participation: 15%

Position papers: 25% (5% for each paper)

Final paper proposal: 15%

Final paper: 45%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Grade range
A	90-100
A-	87-89
B+	83-86
B	80-82
B-	77-79
C+	73-76
C	70-72
C-	67-69
D+	64-66
D	60-63
F	0-59

Policy on Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious offense and is not tolerated.

Reading List & Schedule

Week 1. Introduction (February 15 & 17)

Week 2. Asia Before and After the Rise of the West (February 22 & 24)

Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century*, London & New

York: Verso, 2007, pp. 76-77, 314-344.

Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient: Global Economy in the Asian Age*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, pp. 84-92, 104-117, 126-130.

Ho-fung Hung, *The China Boom: Why China Will Not Rule the World*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2016, pp. 15-42.

Week 3. Rising Japan within Declining Asia (March 1& 3)

William John Macpherson, *The Economic Development of Japan, 1868-1941*, Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995, pp. 17-36.

William Gerald Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism, 1894-1945*, Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press, 1987, pp. 27-40, 85-100, 142-155, 198-219.

Week 4. Chinese Revolution (March 8 &10)

Lucien Bianco, *Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-1949*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1971, pp. 1-26, 82-139, 199-208.

Week 5. Transformation of China in the Mao Era (March 15 &17)

Maurice Meisner, *Mao's China and After: A History of the People's Republic*, New York: The Free Press, 1999, pp. 352-375, 413-426.

James E. Nickum, "Labor Accumulation in Rural China and Its Role since the Cultural Revolution," *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, Vol. 2, No. 3, 1978, pp. 273-286.

Ho-fung Hung, *The China Boom: Why China Will Not Rule the World*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2016, pp. 43-51.

Felix Wemheuer, *A Social History of Maoist China: Conflict and Change, 1949-1976*, Cambridge & New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019, pp. 15-47.

Week 6. Chinese Capitalism (March 22 &24)

Joel Andreas, "Changing Colours in China," *New Left Review*, No. 54, 2008, pp. 123-142.

Chris Bramall, *Chinese Economic Development*, London & New York: Routledge, 2009, pp. 469-496.

Eli Friedman, "Why China is Capitalist," 15 July 2020. <https://spectrejournal.com/why-china-is-capitalist/>

Burak Gürel, "Semi-private Landownership and Capitalist Agriculture in Contemporary China,"

Review of Radical Political Economics, Vol. 51, No. 4, 2019, pp. 650–669.

Week 7. Japan in the post-WWII era (March 29 & 31)

Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1982, pp. 305-324.

Simon Partner, “Taming the Wilderness: The Lifestyle Improvement Movement in Rural Japan, 1925-1965,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 56, No: 4, 2001, pp. 487-520.

Peter J. Katzenstein, “Japan, Technology and Asian Regionalism in Comparative Perspective,” in Giovanni Arrighi, Takeshi Hamashita and Mark Selden (eds.), *The Resurgence of East Asia: 500, 150 and 50 Year Perspectives*, London & New York: Routledge, 2003, pp. 214-258.

SPRING BREAK (APRIL 5-9)

Week 8. Trajectories of South Korea and Taiwan (April 12 & 14)

Kristen E. Looney, *Mobilizing for Development: The Modernization of Rural East Asia*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2020, pp. 49-116.

Samuel P.S. Ho, “Economic Development and Rural Industry in South Korea and Taiwan,” *World Development*, Vol. 10, No. 11, 1982, pp. 973-990.

Manuel Castells, “Four Asian Tigers with a Dragon Head: A Comparative Analysis of the State, Economy, and Society in the Asian-Pacific Rim,” in R. P. Appelbaum & Jeffrey Henderson (eds.), *States and Development in the Asian-Pacific Rim*, London: Sage, 1992, pp. 37-45 (**not the entire article, just this assigned part**).

Week 9. The Colonization and Decolonization of India (April 19 & 21)

Perry Anderson, *The Indian Ideology*, London & New York: Verso, 2013, pp. 7-46.

Francine Frankel, *India's Political Economy: A Gradual Revolution*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2005, pp. 28-70.

Week 10. Persistent Underdevelopment of the Indian Economy (April 26 & 28)

Gunnar Myrdal, *Asian Drama: An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations/ Volume II*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1968, pp. 1356-1384.

Utsa Patnaik, “The Agrarian Question and Development of Capitalism in India,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 21, No. 18, 1986, pp. 781-793.

Burak Gürel, “The Role of Collective Mobilization in the Divergent Performance of the Rural Economies of China and India (1950-2005),” *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 5, 2019,

pp. 1021-1046.

Week 11: Caste, Class, and Inequality in India (May 3 & 5)

Alpa Shah and Jens Lerche, “Tribe, Caste and Class – New Mechanisms of Exploitation and Oppression,” in Alpa Shah, Jens Lerche, Richard Axelby, Dalel Benbabaali, Brendan Donegan, Jayaseelan Raj, Vikramaditya Thakur, *Ground Down by Growth: Tribe, Caste, Class and Inequality in Twenty-First Century India*, London: Pluto Press, 2018, pp. 1-31.

K.P. Kannan, “Macro-Economic Aspects of Inequality and Poverty in India,” in Alpa Shah, Jens Lerche, Richard Axelby, Dalel Benbabaali, Brendan Donegan, Jayaseelan Raj, Vikramaditya Thakur, *Ground Down by Growth: Tribe, Caste, Class and Inequality in Twenty-First Century India*, London: Pluto Press, 2018, pp. 32-48.

Ashwini Deshpande and Rajesh Ramachandran, “Dominant or Backward? Political Economy of Demand for Quotas by Jats, Patels, and Marathas,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 52, No. 19, 2017, pp. 81-92.

Week 12. Religious Communalism and Hindu Nationalism in India (May 10)

Christopher Alan Bayly, “The Pre-History of ‘Communalism’? Religious Conflict in India, 1700-1860”, *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 1985, pp. 177-203.

Imtiaz Ahmed, “Political Economy of Communalism in Contemporary India,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 19, No. 22-23, 1984, pp. 903-906.

Christophe Jaffrelot, “The Fate of Secularism in India,” in *The BJP in Power: Indian Democracy and Religious Nationalism*, Milan Vaishnav (ed.), Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2019, pp. 51-62.

Week 13. Presentations and discussions of the final paper projects (May 17)

Week 14. Presentations and discussions of the final paper projects (May 24 & 26)