

Modern and Contemporary East Asian History

Code: 101542
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
East Asian Studies	OB	3
Spanish and Chinese Studies: Language, Literature and Culture	OT	4

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

Specifically, this subject requires prior knowledge obtained through the following subjects: History of Asia, Premodern History of East Asia.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The purpose of this subject is for students to learn about and analyse the history of East Asia (China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan) from the mid-Nineteenth century to the present. The subject covers fundamental historical events, as well as historical and cultural relations and interaction between the countries in question.

Competences

East Asian Studies

- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Developing self-learning strategies.
- Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
- Following the characteristic code of ethics of the professional practice.
- Having interpersonal skills.
- Knowing and comprehending the pre-modern, modern and late modern history of East Asia.

- Knowing, understanding, describing, analysing, and assessing the history, thought and literature of East Asia.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Respecting the gender equality.
- Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.
- Working in teams in an international, multilingual and multicultural context.

Spanish and Chinese Studies: Language, Literature and Culture

- Act with ethical responsibility and respect for fundamental rights and duties, diversity and democratic values.
- Demonstrate skills that facilitate teamworking.
- Recognise the bases of the history of East Asia in general and China in particular, and interpret the historical and cultural relations and interactions between Europe and Asia.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Use techniques for compilation, organisation and use of information and documentation with precision.

Learning Outcomes

1. Describe, analyse and valorise the history, thought and literature of East Asia.
2. Develop critical thought and reasoning and know how to communicate them effectively in both your own and in a third language.
3. Develop strategies for autonomous learning.
4. Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
5. Developing self-learning strategies.
6. Ensure quality standards for your own work.
7. Ensuring the quality of one's own work.
8. Evaluate the result obtained in the process of searching for documentation and information and to update knowledge of the history, literature, language, thought and art.
9. Explain the explicit or implicit code of practice of one's own area of knowledge.
10. Following the characteristic code of ethics of the professional practice.
11. Having interpersonal skills.
12. Identify and describe the processes and events of pre-modern, modern and contemporary history.
13. Identify the need to mobilise cultural knowledge to be able to translate.
14. Know and understand the pre-modern, modern and contemporary history of East Asia.
15. Knowing and comprehending the pre-modern, modern and late modern history of East Asia.
16. Knowing, understanding, describing, analysing, and assessing the history, thought and literature of East Asia.
17. Make document searches in the languages of East Asian countries.
18. Possess interpersonal skills.
19. Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
20. Recognise the need to mobilise cultural knowledge to be able to interpret.
21. Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
22. Respecting the gender equality.
23. Use different tools for specific purposes in the field of history.
24. Working in interdisciplinary and intercultural groups.
25. Working in teams in an international, multilingual and multicultural context.

Content

I: Imperialism in Asia

Topic 1. From the First Sino-Japanese War to the Russo-Japanese War (1894-1905)

II: Nationalism in East Asia

Topic 2. China: (1900-1937)

- Two Chinas: the Kuomintang (KMT) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) until the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937.

Topic 3: Japan (1900-1937)

- Japan between 1920 and 1941: the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, the development of Japanese fascism and the Japanese imperial plan.

Topic 4: Korea (1910-1945)

- Japanese colonization

III: The Second World War in Asia (1937-1945)

Topic 5. The Second World War in China

Topic 6. The Second World War in Japan, Korea and Taiwan

IV: Cold War (1947-1991)

Topic 7. The Second Chinese Civil War (1946-1949)

Topic 8. The Korean War (1950-1953)

Topic 9. China under Mao (1949-1976):

- The establishment of the People's Republic of China (1949-1952)
- The first Five Year Plan (1953-1957)
- The Hundred Flowers Campaign (1956-1957)
- The Great Leap Forward (1958-1965)
- The Cultural Revolution (1966-1976)

Topic 10. Korea (1952-1989):

- South Korea: military dictatorships (1953-1988)
- North Korea: Kim Il-sung (1948-1994)

Topic 11. Japan (1945-1990)

- US occupation (1945-1952)
- The 1955 system and socio-economic development (1955-1990)

Topic 12. Vietnam and Taiwan (1955-1988):

- Vietnam War (1955-1975)
- Taiwan: the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek (1949-1975) and Chiang Ching-kuo (1975-1988).

V: From the end of the Cold War in Asia to the present (1991-today)

Topic 13. China after Mao:

- The limits of the reformism of Deng Xiaoping (1979-1997) and Tiananmen incident (1989)
- Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and the rise of the socialist market economy (1993-2013)

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	50	2	10, 16, 15, 4, 19, 21, 22, 11, 25, 24, 7
Type: Supervised			
Exercise, essays, tutorials	25	1	16, 15, 3, 5, 4, 19, 21, 7
Type: Autonomous			
Study, papers reading	63	2.52	10, 8, 16, 15, 14, 1, 5, 4, 2, 9, 19, 12, 13, 20, 21, 23, 7

- Lectures.
- Debates and discussions.
- Reading and understanding historical texts.
- Learning to compile historical information.
- Conducting reviews and drafting analytical papers.
- Individual study.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Exams	30%	4	0.16	10, 8, 16, 15, 14, 1, 5, 2, 4, 9, 19, 12, 23, 7
Group assignment	40%	2	0.08	10, 8, 16, 14, 15, 1, 5, 4, 2, 9, 17, 19, 12, 13, 20, 21, 22, 11, 18, 25, 24, 23
Individual assignment	30%	6	0.24	10, 16, 15, 5, 3, 19, 21, 23, 7, 6

Continuous assessment

Students must provide evidence of their progress by completing various tasks and tests. These activities are detailed in the table at the end of this section of the Study Guide.

Review

When publishing final marks prior to recording them on students' transcripts, the lecturer will provide written notification of a date and time for reviewing assessment activities. Students must arrange reviews in agreement with the lecturer.

Missed/failed assessment activities

Students may retake assessment activities they have failed or compensate for any they have missed, provided that those they have actually performed account for a minimum of 66.6% (two thirds) of the subject's final mark and that they have a weighted average mark of at least 3.5.

The lecturer will inform students of the procedure involved, in writing, when publishing final marks prior to recording them on transcripts. The lecturer may set one assignment per failed or missed assessment activity or a single assignment to cover a number of such activities. Under no circumstances may an assessment activity worth 100% of the final mark be retaken or compensated for. In case of retaking, maximum grade will be 5 (Pass).

Classification as "not assessable"

In the event of the assessment activities a student has performed accounting for just 25% or less of the subject's final mark, their work will be classified as "not assessable" on their transcript.

Misconduct in assessment activities

Students who engage in misconduct (plagiarism, copying, personation, etc.) in an assessment activity will receive a mark of "0" for the activity in question. In the case of misconduct in more than one assessment activity, the student involved will be given a final mark of "0" for the subject. Assessment activities in which irregularities have occurred (e.g. plagiarism, copying, impersonation) are excluded from recovery.

Activities:

- Exam: 30%
- Group work: 40%
- Comprehensive work: 30%

Single assessment:

This subject doesn't contemplate single assessment.

Bibliography

GENERAL

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CHINA

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JAPAN

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COREA

- CUMINGS, B.: *Korea's place in the sun. A modern history*, Norton, New York y London, 1997.
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TAIWAN

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Software

No software will be used.

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan/Spanish	second semester	morning-mixed