

Contemporary History of East Asia (from 1945)

Code: 106181
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Contemporary History, Politics and Economics	FB	1

Contact

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Teachers

Chiao-In Chen Hsieh

Teaching groups languages

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

Prerequisites

Have not been established, nevertheless:

- Most of the subjects are taught in English. A B2 level of English of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is required, although there is no specific test of English proficiency level is held to access the degree

Objectives and Contextualisation

The objective of this subject is to know and analyze East Asian history (China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan, mainly) from 1945 to the present. The subject analyzes on the bases of the historical discipline, as well as the historical-cultural relations and interactions between these countries, based on the geographical and chronological framework of the East Asian region.

This subject mainly involves lectures, reading and understanding historical texts, learning to compile historical information, conducting reviews and drafting analytical papers, and individual study. All activity deadlines are indicated in the subject's schedule and must be strictly adhered to.

In this subject, it will use an egalitarian and non-exclusive language which allows women to be visible, thereby breaking stereotypes and sexist prejudices. Therefore, our emphasis will be placed on modifying the generalized androcentric approach.

Competences

- Assess the social, economic and environmental impact when acting in this field of knowledge.
- Distinguish between and analyse the type of relations that have been established over the last century among the different social, political and economic agents on national, regional and international frameworks.
- Distinguish between governmental decision-making systems in different social and political contexts from the mid-twentieth century to the present day in state-, substate and suprastate frameworks.
- Explain and summarise knowledge acquired in English language at an advanced level.
- Identify the role in the present of the different social memories referring to conflictive pasts, differentiating between the concepts of history and memory.
- Manage and apply data to solve problems.
- Recognise and contextualise texts referring to recent contemporary history.
- 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.
- Work cooperatively in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams implementing new projects.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analysing the various historiographical perspectives in the different periods of history.
2. Applying the necessary abilities in order to assess and spread historical knowledge.
3. Assessing and critically solving the historiographical problems of war studies.
4. Be familiar with the basic bibliography on historical evolution of governmental systems in the countries of reference for the subject.
5. Capacity to continue future learning independently, acquiring further knowledge and exploring new areas of knowledge.
6. Communicating in your mother tongue or other language both in oral and written form by using specific terminology and techniques of Historiography.
7. Demonstrate capacity to adapt to changing environments.
8. Demonstrate initiative and work independently when required.
9. Demonstrate motivation regarding the quality of the work performed and sensitivity regarding the consequences on the environment and society.
10. Developing the ability of historical analysis and synthesis.
11. Distinguishing the relation between historiographical theory and practice.
12. Engaging in debates about historical facts respecting the other participants' opinions.
13. Express an opinion based on the nature, perspective and rigour of texts referring to the course content.
14. Identifying the main and secondary ideas and expressing them with linguistic correctness.
15. Know different cases of memories in conflict between different places in different states.
16. Know different cases of memories in conflict between different places in the same state.
17. Make a brief comparison of national and/or regional cases within the same international framework.
18. Make a critical comparison of the evolution of the large regional areas that are covered in the subject.
19. Make comparisons between the evolution of governmental systems within a supranational regional area.
20. Make comparisons between the levels of regional autonomy within a state.
21. Organise work in relation to good time management and planning.
22. Recognising and implementing the following teamwork skills: commitment to teamwork, habit of cooperation, ability to participate in the problem solving processes.
23. Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and take decisions based on that information.

24. Understand regional specificities within states.
25. Value ethical commitment in professional practice.
26. Work in teams respecting all points of view. Use the specific vocabulary of history correctly.

Content

Introduction: Aftermath of Chino-Japanese War in East Asia

Topic 1: Born of new nations in East Asia

Chinese Civil War and the New China

National Division and the Korean War (1945-53)

Japan under occupation

Cold War (1947-1991)

Topic 2: China under Mao(1949-1976):

Installation 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 (1965-1976)

Topic 3: Japan and Korea (1952-1989):

Economic development and political stability

South Korea: the dictatorship of Park Chung-hee (1962-1979)

North Korea: Kim Il-sung (1948-1994)

Topic 4: Vietnam and Taiwan (1955-1988):

Vietnam War (1955-1975)

Taiwan: the dictatorship of Chiang Kai-shek (1949-1975) and Chiang Jingguo (1975-1988).

From the end of the Cold War in Asia until today (1991 -present)

Topic 5: China's post-maoism:

The Limits of reformism of Deng Xiaoping (1979-1997) and the events of Tiananmen (1989)

The China under Jiang Zemin (1993-2003)

Hu Jintao and the departure of the socialist market economy (2003-2013)

Topic 6: South Korea and Taiwan from the 90's:

The Asian economic crisis (1997)

The struggles on the street: the process of democratization in South Korea and Taiwan.

Topic 7: Japan from the 80's:

The financial and real estate bubble (1980-1990)

The long economic recovery

After the earthquake disaster and Fukushima nuclear crisis (2011)

Japanese reborn and the expectation of Tokyo 2020 Olympic games

Topic 8: New Chinese Dream: China under Xi Jinping (2013-now)

World's factory and its economic growth

Xinjiang, Hong Kong and China's irredentism reclaim on Taiwan

Topic 9: East Asian women's lives through history

East Asian women's changing role after WWII and the Confucianism tradition

Democracy and the Status of Women

Conclusion: Covid-19 in East Asia

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	45	1.8	18, 17, 24, 6, 15, 16, 10, 11, 19, 20, 13, 12
Reading and understanding historical texts.	5	0.2	1, 5, 18, 17, 24, 15, 16, 10, 11, 4, 19, 20
Type: Supervised			
Conducting reviews and drafting analytical papers.	30	1.2	1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 4, 13, 14, 9, 21, 12, 22, 23, 26, 25
Type: Autonomous			
Individual study	38	1.52	3, 5, 18, 17, 24, 15, 16, 7, 8, 19, 20, 21

- 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

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Group work	40%	15	0.6	1, 2, 6, 15, 16, 10, 4, 13, 14, 9, 21, 12, 22, 26, 25
Individual assingment	20%	15	0.6	1, 5, 18, 17, 24, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 21, 23
Writing exams	40%	2	0.08	1, 3, 18, 17, 24, 6, 10, 4, 19, 20, 13, 14, 23

Continuous assessment

Students must provide evidence of their progress by completing various tasks and tests. These activities are exam, 40%; comprehensive work, 40%; Reflection exercises in class, 20%.

Review

On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.

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"

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 1/3 of the assessment items.

Misconduct in assessment activities

In the event of a student committing any irregularity that may lead to a significant variation in the grade awarded to an assessment activity, the student will be given a zero for this activity, regardless of any disciplinary process that may take place. In the event of several irregularities in assessment activities of the same subject, the student will be given a zero as the final grade for this subject.

Classification as "not assessable"

Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 1/3 of the assessment items.

Bibliography

GENERAL

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Software

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
(PAUL) Classroom practices	50	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	50	English	second semester	afternoon