

Asia In the Modern World

HTS 2062
Fall 2026
TTh 12:30pm-1:45pm
Classroom: TBA

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Office Hours: TTh 11am-12:20 pm, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm and by appointment.

Course Content

This course is a survey of Asian history from the late eighteenth century to the present. Emphasis will be placed primarily on the distinctive aspects of Asian nations and their modern experiences in a rapidly transformed world. In particular, we will focus on China, Japan, and Western colonization and postwar independent movements in Asia, including those in India, Israel, and the so-called Four Mini-Dragons (also known as Four Little Tigers: South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore), to examine the changes and continuities in Asia's political, economic, and social systems.

This course will help students master the stated course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

Course Attributes:

Social Science Requirement, Country and Region Requirement for the International Plan (IP), East Asia Certificate, and the non-U.S. requirement for HTS majors.

Statement on Inclusion:

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

REQUIRED READINGS:

The following books are available at the bookstore or Amazon.com:

1. Jonathan Clements, *A Brief History of China* (Tuttle Publishing, 2019).
2. Brett L. Walker, *A Concise History of Japan* (Cambridge University Press, 2015, 2018).
3. <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/history-of-israel> *

* Recommended further readings for Israel: Daniel Gordis, *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn* (Ecco; Reprint edition, 2017)

Documentaries

Film: *Birth of Israel: Birth of a Nation* (BBC documentary)

Film: *A World Away: India*

Film: *China: A Century of Revolution*

Film: *The Red Capitalism*

Film: *The Meiji Revolution*

Film: *Reinventing Japan*

Note: All films are supplementary to the required readings and subjected to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

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| 1) Quizzes | 60% |
| 2) Take-home Final Exam | 30% |
| 3) Attendance | 10% |

In evaluating a student's performance, consideration will also be given to informed participation in discussions.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS, TOPICS, AND READINGS

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|--------|---|
| Week 1 | August 25 & 27 Asia in General: Geography and People https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/asia-human/ |
| Week 2 | September 1 & 3 Legacies of Empire: Colonization and Independence https://www.clearias.com/modern-indian-history/#:~:text=Modern%20Indian%20history%20refers%20to,player%20in%20the%20global%20economy. |
| Week 3 | September 8 & 10 Legacies of Empire: Israel https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/history-of-israel |
| Week 4 | September 15 & 17 (Quiz I) Later Imperial China Jonathan Clements, Chapter 7 |
| Week 5 | September 22 & 24 Opium War and Its Aftermath Jonathan Clements, Chapter 8 |
| Week 6 | September 29 & October 1 |

Reform and Revolution
Jonathan Clements, Chapter 9

Fall Break: October 5-6

- Week 7 October 8 (Quiz II)
War and Revolution
<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/chinese-rev>
- Week 8 October 13 & 15
Mao's Era
Jonathan Clements, Chapter 10
- Week 9 October 20 & 22
The Rising of a Global Power
Jonathan Clements, Chapter 11
- Week 10 October 27 & 29 (Quiz III)
US-China Relations
<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2024/07/china-under-siege/key-issues-china-us-relationship>
- Week 11 November 3 & 5
Tokugawa Japan
Walker, Chapters 6-8
- Week 12 November 10 & 12
Meiji Restoration
Walker, Chapters 9-10
- Week 13 November 17 & 19
War and Peace
Walker, Chapters 11-13
- Week 14 November 24 (Quiz IV)
Economic Miracle
Walker, Chapters 14-15
- Happy Thanksgiving!
- Week 15 December 1 & 3
The Pacific Century
- Week 16 December 8

Review for Final Examination

Students will have the topics and guidelines for the take-home final exam in Week 14. The exam is due during the final examination week, December 10–17, 2026. Exact day/time TBA.

In all examinations, the Georgia Tech Honor Code will be strictly followed. For policies regarding the honor code, see <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>.