

ASH 3931: Asia and Capitalism

Instructor: Prof. James Gerien-Chen

Email: jgerienchen@ufl.edu

Class Meeting Times: T 5:10–6:00; R 5:10–7:05

Phone Number: (352) 392-0271

Classroom: Keene-Flint 119

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30–5:30 and by appointment (in-person and via Zoom; see Canvas)

Course Description

From consumer products, supply chains, and labor practices to high tech and social media, Asia is at the center of contemporary discussions about the future of capitalism. This course will help you gain a historical understanding of how ideas about and practices of capitalism have developed in Asia, as well as a theoretical understanding of the changing role that “Asia” has played in the development of economic thought and history writing over roughly the past 200 years. You will also gain a historical perspective on contemporary debates on economic issues, policymaking, and geopolitics.

We will engage such questions as: What is capitalism, and how does it shape how we think about Asian and world history? Why did the Industrial Revolution happen in England and not in China? Was capitalism’s supposed belated development in Asia the result of cultural factors or colonialism? Did capitalism in Japan develop from internal factors or as a response to Western imperialism? Did Japanese colonialism benefit or deter development in postcolonial South Korea and Taiwan? Is there an “Asian mode” of capitalism?

Course Objectives

This upper-level course will pursue several inter-related objectives. You will:

- Think analytically about the history of, and historical writing about, capitalism in national, regional (East Asian), and global contexts.
- Engage in historical research and analysis, evaluating secondary scholarship and primary sources in a variety of contexts.
- Craft historical questions and arguments, developing skills in written and oral communication.

Covid Statement

These continue to be unusual, unpredictable, and often very stressful times. History classes are built around a classroom community, and this semester relies on our collective willingness to teach and learn from each other. I also recognize that you may be encountering, or may throughout the semester encounter, challenges beyond the classroom. I recognize the strain that these challenges may place on you and truly care about your mental and physical health. I encourage you to reach out to me at any time to discuss concerns or questions you might have about the class or otherwise, or if you are finding it challenging to keep up with class attendance and assignments, participate in discussion, or otherwise.

Required Texts

Last updated: January 5, 2022

Andrew Liu, *Tea War: A History of Capitalism in China and India* (Yale, 2020)
MURATA Sayaka, *Convenience Store Woman*. trans. Ginny Tapley Takemori (Grove Press, 2018)
CHI Ta-wei, *The Membranes*. trans. Ari Larissa Heinrich (Columbia, 2021)

Students are expected to keep up with reading assignments, which average about 50–100 pages per week. All other readings will be made available on Canvas or through the UF Libraries. Additional primary source documents not listed on the syllabus may be distributed from time to time as necessary.

Course Format

Our class will meet **synchronously (live)** during the assigned time. If you will have difficulties attending class, please let me know. Tuesday meetings will generally feature a mixture of lecture and discussion, while we will devote Thursday primarily to small group work and discussion, with supplemental lecture as necessary.

To accommodate the current conditions of the coronavirus pandemic, if conditions such as quarantine, illness, or other personal health concerns require you to attend remotely, there will be a **synchronous, online option via Zoom (“HyFlex”)** for the **first two weeks of class only (January 6–January 13)**. During this period, you may attend via Zoom, but only with advanced notice. The HyFlex attendance option, available for at least the first two weeks of the semester, is meant to allow for students who cannot attend class in-person because of quarantine or other related health concerns to participate fully in classroom activities **After this period, all class meetings will default to the primary modality (face-to-face only), unless I determine otherwise. I will reevaluate the availability of the HyFlex option to take into account student need for a remote option to accommodate quarantine needs and health and other personal concerns. Students should not expect the course to have a HyFlex component through the duration of the semester.**

Course Communication

Please come to office hours! I enjoy getting to know you outside of the classroom, and office hours are an especially good way to discuss your interests and concerns with the class, assignments, your major, and more.

The university requires that office hours must be held in person this semester, but we are allowed to offer you an option to meet via Zoom. I prefer meeting via Zoom but will not penalize you for attending office hours in person. If my scheduled office hours do not work for your schedule, please do not hesitate to email me to set up another time to meet.

Please check your UF email regularly, as I will use it to communicate with you about course announcements, reading suggestions, what to expect in class, etc.

Please email me directly at jgerienchen@ufl.edu. Messages sent via Canvas do not always get forwarded to my Inbox. I will typically get back to you within 24 hours; if you do not hear back within 48 hours, please feel free to send me a reminder. I may be slower to respond over the weekend.

Assignments and Grading

History classes thrive on discussion, critique, and learning from one another. The class' success, and what we each get out of it, depend on our collective efforts to complete all reading assignments and come to meetings prepared to engage course materials and each other's ideas. That said, I recognize that personal, institutional, and societal circumstances are unusual and may continue to change throughout the semester. Please understand that I will make adjustments to the syllabus and assignments as necessary.

Full assignment guidelines will be provided in advance and posted on Canvas. You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

Attendance and Participation	10%	
Perusall Annotations	10%	Weekly on Wednesday, 11:59pm
Short Essay 1 (1.5-2 pgs)	10%	January 28
Short Essay 2 (2-3 pgs)	10%	February 11
Short Essay 3 (5 pgs)	15%	March 15
Analytical summary (secondary)	5%	Saturday of Week 5, 6, or 7 (choose 1)
Annotated Bibliography	10%	March 31
Final Presentation	5%	April 12, 14 (Week 14, in class)
Final Paper (7-10 pgs)	25%	April 25

Grading Scale

93.3-100%	A	73.3-76.6%	C
90-93.2%	A-	*70-73.2%	C-
86.7-89.9%	B+	66.7-69.9%	D+
83.3-86.6%	B	63.3-66.6%	D
80-83.2%	B-	60-63.2%	D-
76.7-79.9%	C+	Below 60	E

*A grade of C- does not count as a passing grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or basic distribution requirements.

For more information in UF's grading systems and policies, please see the [UF Undergraduate Catalog](#).

Extensions

You are allowed a one-time, no questions asked 48-hour extension on any written assignment during the semester (not including the midterm or the final). To take advantage of this opportunity, you must email the instructor via email at least 24 hours prior to the assignment deadline. If you anticipate difficulties in meeting subsequent deadlines, please contact the instructor right away to discuss extensions.

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Late written work graded on the letter scale will be penalized 1/3 letter grade for each day it is late. Without prior discussion, I will not accept work more than one week late. Should you have a university excused absence, contact me beforehand. For unforeseen emergencies, contact me as soon as possible after your absence to make make-up arrangements.

Perusal annotations submitted after the deadline will not be graded for credit.

Policies and Expectations

Attendance and Makeup Policy

Attendance is mandatory in all class sessions. To accommodate unexpected circumstances, you are allowed three unexcused absences throughout the semester, no questions asked (the double session on Thursday counts as two classes). Unexcused absences beyond this will adversely affect your grade. Students who miss more than 50% of class meetings cannot pass the course.

For extended absences related to the coronavirus pandemic, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at Attendance Policies.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Classroom Etiquette

Students are expected to arrive to class on-time. Students should use electronic devices (laptops and tablets) only to take notes or reference assigned texts and materials. Please refrain from using electronic devices for texting or other personal reasons during class.

Zoom Presence Policy

Your participation grade will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and participation in class activities. The HyFlex attendance option, available for at least the first two weeks of the semester, is meant to allow for students who cannot attend class in-person because of quarantine or other personal and/or health concerns to participate fully in classroom activities. The pedagogical approach of this course depends heavily on student engagement and interaction. Therefore, following the CLAS policy for HyFlex implemented during the Spring 2021 semester, students joining via Zoom are required, at a minimum, to participate through the audio function of Zoom. Your video presence is invited and highly encouraged, especially for discussion and small-group activities.

Statement Regarding Course Recording

For lecture-based sessions: Our lecture-based class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to and for use of enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate via Zoom with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

For discussion-based sessions: Participation in our class is fundamental since improving oral conversation skills is a key objective of the course. Discussion sessions will not be recorded by the instructor and may not be recorded by students.

Student recordings: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The [Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> or 352-392-8565) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter

which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available from the [Gatorevals website](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via the evaluation system. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at the [public results website](#).

Date	Readings and Assignments	Deadlines and Reminders
UNIT I: SETTINGS AND FRAMEWORKS		
Week 1: Introduction		
January 6	No readings	
Week 2: Settings and Frameworks I		
Jan 11, 13	Adam Smith, <i>The Wealth of Nations</i> , Book I, selections.	
Week 3: Settings and Frameworks II		
Jan 18, 20	Karl Marx, "Communist Manifesto" and <i>Capital Vol. 1</i> , Part VIII, "Primitive Accumulation" (Chapters 26–33)	
Week 4: Capitalism and/in Modern Literature		
Jan 25, 27	YOKOMITSU Riichi, "Machine" (1930) MU Shiyong, "Shanghai Foxtrot" (1932) KANG Kyong-ae, "Salt" (1934)	January 18: Short Essay 1 due

UNIT II: MAJOR DEBATES		
Week 5: Weber, Modernization Theory, and Japan		
February 1, 3	Max Weber, <i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> , selections Robert Bellah, <i>Tokugawa Religion: The Values of Pre-Industrial Japan</i> , selections Recommended: Walt Rostow, <i>Stages of Economic Growth</i> Victor Koschmann, "Modernization and Democratic Values: The 'Japanese Model' in the 1960s" Sebastian Conrad, "'The Colonial Ties are Liquidated': Modernization Theory, Post-War Japan, and the Global Cold War" David Howell, "Proto-Industrial Origins of Japanese Capitalism," <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> Simon Partner, "Nimble Fingers," in <i>Assembled in Japan: Electrical Goods and the Making of the Japanese Consumer</i>	Analytical summary due (Week 5, 6, or 7)
Week 6: Tracing the Colonial Origins of Capitalism in Postwar Korea		
Feb 8, 10	Carter Eckert, <i>Offspring of Empire: The Koch'ang Kims and the Colonial Origins of Korean Capitalism, 1876–1945</i> , selections Stephan Haggard, David Kang, and Chung-in Moon, "Japanese Colonialism and Korean Development: A Critique"	February 11: Short Essay 2 due Analytical summary due (Week 5, 6, or 7)

	<p>Atul Kohli, “Japanese Colonialism and Korean Development: A Reply”</p> <p>Recommended: Gregg Brazinsky, “Koreanizing Modernization: Modernization Theory and South Korean Intellectuals”</p>	
Week 7: The Great Divergence: Why Didn’t the Industrial Revolution Happen in China?		
Feb 15, 17	<p>Kenneth Pomeranz, <i>The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy</i>, selections</p> <p>Philip Huang, “Development or Involution in Eighteenth-Century Britain and China? A Review of Kenneth Pomeranz’s <i>The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making the Modern World Economy</i>”</p> <p>Recommended: Robert Brenner, “The Origins of Capitalist Development: A Critique of Neo-Smithian Marxism” Immanuel Wallerstein, “The West, Capitalism, and the Modern World-System,” in <i>China and Historical Capitalism</i> Andre Gunder Frank, “The Development of Underdevelopment” Niall Ferguson, <i>Civilization: The West and the Rest</i> David Ludden, “Modern Inequality and Early Modernity: A Comment for the AHR on Articles by R. Bin Wong and Kenneth Pomeranz”</p>	<p>Analytical summary due (Week 5, 6, or 7)</p>
Week 8: Globalizing the History of Capitalism: Labor, Race, Gender		
Feb 22, 24	<p>Andrew Liu, <i>Tea War: A History of Capitalism in China and India</i>, Introduction and Chapters 1-4</p> <p>Recommended: Andrew Liu, “Notes Toward a More Global History of Capitalism: Reading Marx’s Capital in India and China,” <i>Spectre Journal</i></p>	
Week 9: Globalizing the History of Capitalism: Labor, Race, Gender		
March 1, 3	<p>Liu, <i>Tea War</i>, Chapters 5-7 and Conclusion</p> <p>Recommended: “Where is the working class? It’s all over the world today”: Jairus Banaji in conversation with Sheetal Chhabria and Andrew Liu Jairus Banaji, “The Fictions of Free Labour: Contract, Coercion, and So-Called Unfree Labour” Satyasikha Chakraborty, “‘Nurses of Our Ocean Highways’: The Precarious Metropolitan Lives of Colonial South Asian Ayahs,” <i>JWH</i></p>	

	Arunima Datta, <i>Fleeting Agencies: A Social History of Indian Coolie Women in British Malaya</i>	
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SPRING BREAK

UNIT II: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Week 10: Learning from and Fearing Japan in the 1980s

March 15, 17	<p>Bruce Cumings, "The Origins and Development of the Northeast Asian Political Economy: Industrial Sectors, Product Cycles, and Political Consequences"</p> <p>Ezra Vogel, <i>Japan as Number One: Lessons for America</i></p> <p>Weiming Tu, "Confucian Traditions in East Asian Modernity: Exploring Moral Authority and Economic Power in Japan and the Four Mini-Dragons"</p> <p>David Roh, Betsy Huang, Greta Niu, eds. <i>Techno-Orientalism: Imagining Asia in Speculative Fiction, History, and Media</i>, Introduction</p> <p>Colleen Lye, <i>America's Asia: Racial Form and American Literature</i>, Introduction</p> <p>Recommended: Bruce Cumings, "Webs with No Spiders, Spiders with No Webs: The Genealogy of the Developmental State" in Meredith Woo-Cumings, ed. <i>The Developmental State</i></p>	March 15: Short Essay 3 due
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Week 11: The "(South) China Miracle"

March 22, 24	<p>Selections from: Ching Kwan Lee, <i>Gender and the South China Miracle</i></p> <p>Leslie Chang, <i>Factory Girls: From Village to City in a Changing China</i></p> <p>Pun Ngai, <i>Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace</i></p> <p>Recommended: Francis Fukuyama, "Exporting the China Model"</p>	
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Week 12: Gender, Work, and Social Reproduction in Contemporary Japan

Mar 29, 31	MURATA Sayaka, <i>Convenience Store Woman</i>	
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	Tithi Bhattacharya, "What is Social Reproduction Theory?" (Youtube video)	
	Anna Tsing, "Supply Chains and the Human Condition"	
Week 13:		
April 5, 7	CHI Ta-wei, <i>The Membranes</i> Recommended: Jennifer Robertson, "Robo Sapiens Japanicus: Humanoid Robots and the Posthuman Family," <i>Critical Asian Studies</i>	
Week 14: Conclusions		
April 12, 14	Student Presentations	
Week 15: Conclusions		
April 19	Conclusion	April 25: Final paper due