

History Programme  
Academic Year 2019-2020, Semester 1  
*Subject to change*

## **HH1003**

### **Asia-Pacific in Global History: From 1800**

**Academic Units: 3 AUs**

**Instructor: Asst. Prof. Els van Dongen**

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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

##### **Content**

The history of Asia, global history, and interdisciplinary history are three key areas of the NTU History curriculum. This course will familiarize you with aspects of each of those key areas and their entanglements. It will provide you with an insight into the historical processes that shaped modern Asia, how these processes were connected to global developments such as the expansion of European imperialism, and how they played out in specific areas. To allow you to reflect on interactions from various angles, the course is structured both *geographically* and *thematically*. In addition, the course builds up critical thinking skills gradually by drawing on *textbook* chapters in the first half, followed by *academic* readings in the second half of the course. The first half of the course discusses developments from 1800 onwards in the regions of East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, but it also pays attention to cross-regional developments. The second half of the course is concerned with developments in Asia with an emphasis on the themes of trade and commodities; wars and national independence; migrations; everyday life; and visions of empire. In the lectures and tutorials, we will also engage with different types of sources, such as maps, historical artefacts, documents, and photographs to help you build analytical historical skills.

##### **Learning Objectives**

- (1) Investigate and explain the role of a range of broader historical processes in the formation of the political, cultural, and societal formation of modern Asia and how these processes connect to global developments
- (2) Analyze and interpret primary and secondary sources pertaining to the political, cultural, and societal formation of modern Asia

- (3) Demonstrate an understanding of how to appropriately acknowledge and build upon the work of others
- (4) Articulate evidence-based historical arguments about the formation of modern Asia in both written and oral form
- (5) Present historical ideas and evidence regarding the formation of modern Asia in a variety of media

### Requirements and Expectations

- You are expected to attend the weekly lectures and tutorials, to read the assigned materials before each class, and to take part in discussions.
- Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.
- If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.
- You are expected to be on time; marks will be deducted from the participation mark for late arrival.
- Slides, if available, will only be posted on NTULearn after class.
- Important information regarding the course and assignments will be communicated via NTULearn.
- Note that NTU's Policy on Student Code of Conduct applies.
- All work must be your own. Plagiarism of any material from outside sources for written work or presentations or in the final exam will result in automatic failure of the entire course.

### Required Reading

We use the following textbook for the **first six weeks** of the course for the purpose of building up a basic understanding of the subject: **Murphey, Rhoads, with Kristin Stapleton. *A History of Asia*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge (Global edition; Seventh Edition), 2016.** (This is the same textbook as used in *HH1002 Asia-Pacific in Global History: Pre-1800*). **This book is available in the NTU bookshop.**

### PRELIMINARY COURSE OVERVIEW

Week	Topic	Readings
	<i>Part I: Geographical focus</i> (maps)	<i>Textbook chapters and sections</i>
1	Introduction: Trade and Empire in Asia	Murphey
2	East Asia Part I (18 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century)	Murphey
3	East Asia Part II (early 20 <sup>th</sup> century-today)	Murphey
4	South Asia Part I (18 <sup>th</sup> -early 20 <sup>th</sup> century)	Murphey
5	South Asia Part II (early 20 <sup>th</sup> century-today)	Murphey
6	Southeast Asia	Murphey
7	Revision Part I & Questions; Clicker Quiz	Lecture: No new readings for this week. Instead, go

		over the readings and notes of the previous weeks and prepare questions. Tutorials: <i>*Presentations workshopping—Bring own sources to class for discussion*</i>
	<i>Part II: Thematic focus</i>	<i>Academic book chapters and articles</i>
8	Trade and Commodities (artefacts)	Tagliacozzo; Bosma, Ulbe, and Webster; Beckert
9	Migrations (documents)	Fisher; Graeme; Chan
10	Empire and Everyday Life (photographs)	Bailey; Baxter; Leong-Salobir
11	Presentations 1 OR Visions of Empire: Debates and Representations (museums; sites of memory) [depending on class size]	Barringer and Flynn; Aldrich; McKinney
12	Presentations or Presentations 2 [depending on class size]	
13	Review, Wrap up, Exam Prep	

## PART I: REGIONAL APPROACH

In the first six weeks, we will cover the broad overview of developments in the lectures based on the textbook readings. The “further reading” suggestions are for you to explore topics in more depth. They will not be used for discussion in class. Note that the textbook also contains a plethora of suggested further reading in each chapter.

For the *lectures*, From **Week Two** onwards, please post **one question/reflection** about the lecture readings on the **NTULearn Discussion Forum** and **respond to/comment on one classmate’s question/reflection**, which you find under the **Content** section (under **Course Tools**).

In the *tutorials* from **Weeks Two to Six**, we will go in more depth by engaging with an academic piece of writing, other secondary readings or visual materials, or primary sources, about which the instructor will pose **questions** for you to prepare. The questions will be posted in the **Content** section of the course site on NTULearn, where you can also find the readings. We will start with the tutorial readings questions in **Week Three** to give you some time to adjust to the format and readings, but please do prepare the tutorial readings for Week Two for discussion in class.

## PART TWO: THEMATIC APPROACH

In Part Two, from **Week Eight** onwards, we will go more in depth and rely on academic materials only. The tutorials in this part of the course will revolve around these academic readings, and they will be based on questions and exercises related to these materials. Hence, there will be no extra tutorial readings for this second part of the course. We will, however, follow the same preparation mode as in the first part of the course: you are asked to pose **one question/formulate one reflection and to respond** to one question/reflection for the lecture part on the discussion forum and I will provide you with questions as a guidance for the tutorial preparation.

### STUDENT ASSESSMENT

(a) Class participation	5%
(b) Group research and presentation	25%
(c) Individual research essay	20%
(d) Final examination	50%

#### (a) Class participation (5%)

Students are asked to post **one question/reflection** about the readings on NTULearn (**Content, Course Tools, Discussion Forum**, see the thread for that week) and to respond to/comment on the question/reflection of one classmate before class each week. The questions should be there by **8 pm** the day before the class; the responses/comments by **9 am** the day of class. A clicker quiz will be held in Week Seven. Please download the Turning Point App (clickers software) on your phones. Instructions can be found here:

<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/cits/lisa/clickers/Pages/default.aspx>

#### (b) Group research and presentation (25%)

The class will be divided into smaller groups, who will each prepare a group presentation based on group research. Building on the broader overview gained in part one of the course, using a primary source/primary sources, the presentation needs to engage critically with course themes and answer a question in the form of an argument. You need to consult the instructor regarding the presentation before deciding on a final topic. Further details will be provided in class.

The presentation will be marked as follows:

10% group mark (see below); 10% individual mark (individual presentation performance graded by instructors); 5% peer assessment (subject to adjustment of instructor)

The group mark will be based on the following components:

- 1) Organization (20%)
- 2) Analysis (30%)
- 3) Use of sources (30%)
- 4) Teamwork (10%)

5) Presentation format (10%)

**(c) Individual research essay (20%)**

For the research essay, students will be asked to answer a research question. They will be able to choose from **four questions** provided by the instructor. The questions will be made available in Week 6.

Word limit: 1500 words, excluding notes, bibliography and other materials. Further details will be provided in class.

Deadline for submission of the essay is **Sunday, 17 November 2019**.

**(d) Written examination (50%)**

The course will offer revision and time for questions in week Seven and in the final week to help you prepare for the exam. 25% of the exam mark will be based on key historical events and concepts from the first six weeks.