

HIST 497: Religion and Revolution in Modern East Asia
CRN: 36445
Winter 2016
Tues, Thurs 12:00-1:20
230 LA

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Course Synopsis

From the ancient Five Pecks of Rice Rebellion to contemporary Tibetan monks' self-immolations, from the medieval Ikko Ikki uprisings to the recent Aum Shrinkyō terrorist attacks, religious rebellion is a common theme in East Asian history. Examining East Asian cases of religious rebellion from the 16th century to the present, this course will ask: Are these religious rebellions to be explained in terms of religious, ethnic, economic, or political motivations? Have historians failed to appreciate the influence of religion on epochal shifts in modern East Asian history? And has religion remained a revolutionary force in modern times, or has secularization muted its powers? Special attention will be paid to the Taiping Rebellion and the Meiji Restoration. Students will write research papers on a case of contemporary religious rebellion.

*Note: This is a discussion-based class requiring your active class participation.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Explain basic doctrines and practices of Chinese and Japanese religions
- Discuss religion's role in major events in modern Chinese and Japanese history
- Evaluate the religious, social, and political factors at work in cases of rebellion and revolution
- Critically examine primary documents
- Conduct independent research
- Develop a clear and well-supported argument on religious rebellion in contemporary East Asia

Assignments and Grading

1. Four Reading Responses (20%)

A 1-page (300-400 words) response to questions posed about primary source readings. Some questions will ask you to explain the content of the readings while others will ask you for your opinion or analysis. Bring a typed copy of your response to class.

2. Exam 1 (20%)

A one-hour written examination held during class, comprised of short-answer questions (e.g. “What factors led to the Shimabara Rebellion?”) and discussions of passages from primary sources (e.g. “Identify and discuss the following passage: ‘The Tao that can be told of is not the eternal Tao; The name that can be named is not the eternal name.’”)

3. Exam 2 (20%)

Same as Exam 1.

4. Research Paper (20%)

A 7-page (double-spaced, 1” margins, 12 pt. font) literature review of a case of religious revival or rebellion in contemporary China or Japan. Recommended topics are listed below. In addition to course readings, your paper should draw upon at least four secondary sources. Your paper should 1) describe the relevant background and events of your chosen topic; 2) present the arguments and conclusions of different scholars; and 3) speculate on the future of this or similar religious revivals or rebellions. A grading rubric will be provided. Students interested in carrying out original research using primary sources should consult with me.

**Students seeking additional help with their writing are encouraged to visit the Teaching and Learning Center’s “Drop-In Writing Lab” (tlc.uoregon.edu/subjects/writing/).*

5. Research Presentation (10%)

During one of our final two classes, you will present your research to the class in an 8-minute presentation followed by a 4-minute Q&A session. A good presentation will: 1) present relevant information and analysis, 2) make efficient use of the time allotted, and 3) be dynamic and engaging. Powerpoint presentations or handouts are permitted but not required.

6. Class Participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class. Come to class having read *and reflected upon* the assigned readings. You should be prepared to speak to a reading’s main arguments and conclusions, note connections to prior readings, and ask specific questions or offer specific critiques. For those who find it difficult to actively join in class discussions, please consult with me outside of class.

**If you need to miss class due to illness or other reasons, please email me as soon as possible so that I can inform you of important class announcements, etc. Multiple absences may negatively affect your participation grade.*

The following grading standards will be used:

A+ Work of the highest distinction, rarely awarded.

A Excellent grasp of material, precise and sophisticated execution of assignment, reasonably free of errors. In addition, where applicable, great originality, depth of insight, and thoroughness of research will characterize work at this level.

B Fulfillment of main criteria of assignment demonstrating good grasp of material, with high level of execution with some room for improvement. Where applicable, work at this level does not contain the same level of originality, insight, or thoroughness of research as work evaluated at the ‘A’ level.

- C Fulfillment of a good portion of the criteria of assignment demonstrating promising but incomplete grasp of material, with fair execution leaving room for improvement. Where applicable, work at this level contains some originality and insight, and research remains rudimentary.
- D Fulfillment of some of the criteria of assignment with poor grasp of material, and poor execution of assignment. Where applicable, work lacks originality, insight, and is deficient in research.
- F Work that fails to fulfill basic requirements of assignment, remains largely incomplete with little grasp of material, and fails to execute required elements properly.

Classroom Conduct

Students are expected to be respectful and attentive during classtime. Please work together to cultivate a classroom dynamic in which everyone feels comfortable voicing their opinions and questions.

Laptops are permitted for classroom purposes (e.g. taking notes, consulting electronic readings). Please refrain from web browsing, email, Facebook, etc.

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO's 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu.

Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves honorably on all assignments and exams. Any incident of suspected academic misconduct will be confronted and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards. For writing assignments, please keep in mind that failure to provide citations for sources you are using is a form of plagiarism. For further information on how to properly cite sources and avoid plagiarism, go to: <http://researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism/>

The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students' obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act.

Readings

Required:

- DuBois, Thomas David, *Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia*. New York: Cambridge University Press (2011).
- Reilly, Thomas H., *The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom: Rebellion and the Blasphemy of Empire*. Seattle: University of Washington Press (2004).
- Wilson, George M., *Patriots and Redeemers in Japan: Motives in the Meiji Restoration*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (1992).

All other readings will be uploaded to Canvas.

Reference Sources:

- *Cambridge History of China, Vols. 1-15*. Edited by Dennis Crispin Twitchett and John King Fairbank. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978-. (online access through UO library catalog)
- *Cambridge History of Japan, Vols. 1-6*. Edited by John Whitney Hall et al. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988-1999. (online access through UO library catalog)
- *Cambridge Encyclopedia of China*. Edited by Brian Hook and Dennis Crispin Twitchett. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. (Knight Library Reference DS805.K633 1983) (see also *Encyclopedia of Modern China*)
- *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan*. Tokyo; New York: Kodansha, 1983. 9 Vols. (Knight Library Reference DS805.K633 1983)
- *Introducing Chinese Religions* by Mario Poceski. London; New York: Routledge, 2009. (on reserve in Knight Library)
- *Introducing Japanese Religion* by Robert Ellwood. London; New York: routledge, 2008. (on reserve in Knight Library)

Recommended Research Topics

China:

- Cultural Revolution's persecution of religion
- Falun Gong
- Uyghur Muslim uprising
- Tibetan Buddhist protests
- Rise of Christianity
- Confucian revival

Japan:

- Right-wing Shinto nationalism
- Yasukuni controversies
- Aum Shinrikyō attack
- Soka Gakkai and Komeitō
- Kofuku no Kagaku
- Socially engaged Buddhism

Class Schedule

*Reading assignments are subject to change. I will notify you of changes at least one class period in advance.

Introductions 29 March	
Religion and Revolution 31 March	Lincoln, "Religion, Rebellion, Revolution" and "Theses on Religion and Violence"; Dubois, 1-14
Chinese Religion 5 April	Dubois, 15-36; <i>Analects, Mencius, Lao Tzu</i> , and <i>Chuang Tzu</i> excerpts *Reading Response due
Red Turban Rebellion 7 April	Dubois, 36-52; Maitreya Sutra
Ikko Ikki Rebellions 12 April	Dubois, 53-71; <i>War and Faith</i> excerpts; "Assault on Mount Hiei"
Shimabara Rebellion 14 April	Dubois, 72-93; "An Account of the Rising at Ximabara" *Reading Response due
Akō Vendetta 19 April	Dubois, 94-122; Akō Vendetta readings
White Lotus Rebellion 21 April	Dubois, 123-137; Naquin, <i>Shantung Rebellion</i> excerpt *In-Class Examination
Taiping Rebellion 26 April	Dubois, 137-141; Reilly, 3-18 Recommended: "The Taiping Rebellion"
28 April	Reilly, 19-77
3 May	Reilly, 78-149
Boxer Rebellion 5 May	Dubois, 142-151; <i>Siege in Peking</i> excerpt; <i>War of the Civilizations</i> excerpt *Reading Response due
Meiji Restoration 10 May	Dubois, 151-160; Wilson, 1-27; Hirata Atsutane and Ōkuni Takamasa excerpts Recommended: "The Meiji Restoration"
12 May	Wilson, 29-75; Aizawa Seishisai excerpts *Reading Response due
17 May	Wilson, 77-131
19 May	*In-Class Examination
World War II 24 May	Dubois, 161-193; "Fundamentals of Our National Polity"
Contemporary China and Japan 26 May	Dubois, 194-223 Recommended: Poceski, 253-69; Ellwood, 200-11
31 May	*Presentations
2 June	*Presentations