

Department of History and Art History
George Mason University

Spring 2010
Wednesday 4:30-7:10 pm
Robinson B124
Office hours: W 3:25-4:20 pm

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HIST 387-006: History of Taiwan

Course Description:

Taiwan has a rich history, with its strategic geographic location attracting a succession of pirates, colonial powers, and settlers driven by poverty and chaos in China to this fertile land originally populated by Austronesian peoples.

Today, Taiwan is an international flashpoint, the one place where the possibility of war between major powers exists. This course will explore the factors that have created this complex situation: claims to sovereignty over the island over the course of centuries, the post-World War II matrix of decolonization and self-determination, shifting U.S. policy toward the island, and the drive for democracy with its attendant heightened sense of a unique Taiwanese identity developed over the past decades.

This course is designed to familiarize students with the history and people of Taiwan and its success in transforming itself from an authoritarian, underdeveloped country into a free and vibrant democracy. The course will also explore the complex triangular relationship among Taiwan, China and the United States.

The first part of the course will survey the history of Taiwan and will cover the original inhabitants, the Dutch occupation, the Koxinga period, the Manchu (Ch'ing) era, Japanese colonial rule, and the Republic of China on Taiwan after World War II. The second and third parts will focus on the democracy movement as well as explore Taiwan's relationship with China and the U.S.

Required Texts

Richard Bush, *At Cross Purposes: US-Taiwan Relations Since 1942*, M.E.Sharpe, 2004.

Jonathan Manthorpe, *Forbidden Nation: A History of Taiwan*, Palgrave/MacMillan, 2009.

Denny Roy, *Taiwan: A Political History*, Cornell University, 2003.

Additional articles will be assigned and given to students or posted at the website.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class attendance and participation (15%). Regular class attendance and active participation in class discussions are expected of all students. Although the class will be conducted primarily in a lecture format, students are invited to contribute their thoughtful comments in the class.
2. Term paper (25%). Each student is required to write a 10-15 page paper on any historical or contemporary issue regarding Taiwan. The paper must be typed, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and 12 pt. Font. No disks or email attachments will be accepted. The paper is due on the last day of class. Students may consult with the instructor to formulate a paper topic. Students are required to submit topics, outlines, and bibliography on the dates specified in the syllabus.
3. Class presentation (20%). Toward the end of the semester, each student is required to give a 20-minute oral presentation on the paper s/he writes. The date of presentation will be announced in class.
4. Take-home final examination (20%). The examination questions will be distributed during the last day of class.
5. Tests (20%).

Honor Code and Plagiarism Statement:

*To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.***

For details on how the honor system at GMU works, please see:

http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/index.htm#honor_system_and_code

Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center at (703) 993-2474 for assistance.

Use of Cell Phones During Class

As a courtesy to the instructor and to fellow students, please turn off your cell phones during the class or switch them to a silent mode.

Class Schedule and Assignments

For details of administrative deadlines, please consult GMU Spring 2010 Academic Calendar.

Date	Topics	Assignment
01/20	Introduction, course requirements, and introduction to Taiwan today: its geography, people, political system, and economy	Roy, 1-10 Bush, 3-8 Handouts
01/27	Why Taiwan matters.	Manthorpe, 1-20 Handouts
02/03	Taiwan's prehistory and the Chinese historical records of Taiwan	Manthorpe, 21-52
02/10	The European colonial occupation of Taiwan and the Dutch rule	Roy, 11-16 handouts
02/17	The first Chinese government: the rise and fall of Cheng's kingdom	Roy, 15-19 Manthorpe, 53-109
02/24	The Manchu (Ch'ing) rule of Taiwan	Roy, 19-31 Manthorpe, 111-155
03/03	Sino-Japanese war and the secession of Taiwan to Japan. The Republic of Taiwan	Manthorpe, 141-186 Roy, 32-54
03/08-14	Spring Break	
03/17	Nationalists Administer Taiwan Term Paper topic due	Roy, 55-151 Bush, 9-39
03/24	The democracy movement	Roy, 151-178 Bush, 179-218 handouts
03/31	The consolidation of democracy Term Paper outlines and bibliography due	Roy: 179-226 handouts
04/07	Democracy and its discontents	Manthorpe, 227-270 Roy, 227-240 Handouts-
04/14	US-Taiwan Relations	Bush, 85-178
04/21	US-Taiwan Relations	Bush, 178-244
04/28	Class presentations. Last day of class. Term paper due	
05/05	Final Test	

