

South Carolina Honors College 328: Decolonization in Asia

Spring 2022 Tuesday/Thursday Credit Hours: 3

Section HO1 6:00-7:15pm FLINN 102



INSTRUCTOR:

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What are the politics of decolonization? Does the quest for national self-determination tell us what the nation will determine to do? This course examines two types of answers to these questions through the history of opposition to colonialism in China, Thailand (Siam), and Vietnam. The first answer involved strengthening the state through modernization and consolidating national identity through enforcement of elite culture – the reinvigoration of an old society. The second answer involved class revolution against traditional elites and foreign oppression – the creation of a new society. Both answers were transnational phenomena in Asia, and, although they predate 20th century conflicts between the capitalist and socialist blocs, they substantially set the terms of the violent civil wars that made up the Cold War. Beginning with elite nationalism in the early 20th century, this course tracks the evolution of these responses to colonization, their eventual

Cold War alignments, and their points of overlap around modernization, state building, and struggles to create national and international alliances against imperialism. This course will help students assess the ambiguity of anti-colonialist claims, which continue to animate international politics in Asia through projects like China's Belt and Road Initiative. It will also provide them with the tools to evaluate popular Western concerns about a 'new Cold War'. No prior knowledge of East or Southeast Asian history is required.

PREREQUISITES:

There are not prerequisites for this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts among anti-colonial intellectual and political leaders in China, Siam/Thailand, and Vietnam from the early 20th century to the end of the Cold War.
2. Recognize parallels in forms of political thought in different countries in East and Southeast Asia and communicate the similarities and differences in oral presentations and written essays.
3. Develop skills necessary to read, understand, and compare primary sources within their historical context
4. Recognize the rudimentary issues of the historiography of Asia during this period and understand how changing questions are related to changing geopolitics.
5. Construct a basic argument on the historical issues in China, Thailand, or Vietnam and support the argument with primary and secondary sources.



REQUIRED TEXT:

All texts for this course will be provided under the corresponding module on Blackboard. Students are not required to purchase a text for this course.

OFFICE HOURS & COMMUNICATION:

Due to the continuing threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, I require that masks be worn at all times during visits to my office. My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 11:45am

to 2:30pm or by appointment on Wednesdays. In email communications, students are required to use their official UofSC email account. Between Mondays and Thursdays, please allow 24 hours for me to respond to an email. Emails received before 5:00pm on Friday will be answered as promptly as possible. Emails received after 5:00pm on Fridays or over the weekend will receive a response the following Monday.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

All assignments should be completed on Blackboard except for reading presentations. Reading presentations will be graded live in class. Abstracts will be graded weekly. Midterm essays and

final paper essays will be grade by hand. Please allow one week to receive your midterm essay grade and 72 hours to receive your final paper essay grade.



Reading Presentations:

In groups of two, each student must present a summary of the readings to be discussed twice during the semester. You can decide on the division of labor in presenting on your own, but each pair of presenters is required to meet with me via Blackboard Collaborate or in person at least one day prior to their presentation. In our meeting, you will bring an outline of your presentation, and I will check to make sure you have understood the text and provide guidance. Presentations should summarize the main ideas of the text and discuss the evidence the author is using. Your presentation should end with at least two discussion questions you will pose to your classmates. Presentations should be no shorter than 10 minutes and last no longer than 15 minutes. The length of student-led discussion will be open ended, but I will slowly intervene in make sure that all necessary topics are covered.

Abstracts:

Beginning with Module 1.1, students will write an abstract summarizing the reading for the week. Each abstract should be a minimum of 200 words and a maximum of 250 words. Abstracts are due the day **before** we meet to discuss the reading in class.

The first sentence of each abstract should be a distillation of the author's main argument in the assigned reading. The remainder of the abstract should be dedicated to summarizing how the author supports their argument, what evidence they use, and whether there are any problems in the argument. The last sentence of each abstract should be a discussion question for the class.

Abstracts are still due even when a student is presenting the readings. However, when you are presenting the readings, it is acceptable to simply turn in the outline of your presentation instead of a formal abstract.

Mid-Term Essay:

In lieu of a mid-term exam, students will write a five-page essay answering the following question: *Why are the politics of anti-colonial nationalism ambiguous?* No outside research is necessary to complete this essay. Instead, students should build their answer on the readings and examples covered in class. Essays should be written using Chicago style footnotes, 12-point Times New Roman font, and double spacing.

Final Paper Essay:

In lieu of a final exam, students will write a final paper project analyzing either a conservative or leftist approach to decolonization in one of the countries covered in this course (China, Thailand [Siam], or Vietnam). How you approach the subject is up to you, but you must use at least three primary sources (speeches, memoirs, translated archival documents, etc.). You must also cite nine academic secondary sources: four from class, five from outside class. Your final papers should be 12 double-spaced pages (not including the bibliography) and use Chicago Style footnote citation. Each student is required to meet with me once before April 5 to discuss their paper.

Assignments

Reading Presentation x 2	100 points each (total 200 points)
Abstracts x 10	20 points each (total 200 points)
Mid-Term Essay (due Feb. 20)	300 points
Final Paper Essay (due May 3)	300 points

Grading Scale:

A	1000-900
B+	899-870
B	869-800
C+	799-770
C	769-700
D+	669-660
D	659-600
F	599-0

LATE WORK:

There are two conditions under which late work will be accepted:

1. The student contacts me with proof of a reasonable excuse for why the work was not completed on time (ex., doctor's note, proof of car accident, unexpected technical issue, etc.). In this case, the student must suggest a new deadline within one week of the original deadline, and no points will be deducted.
2. The student cannot provide proof of a reasonable excuse for why the work was not completed on time. In this case, 5% will be deducted from the assignment's total available points for each day the assignment is late, including weekends. For example, a midterm essay that is two days late will have 30 points (10%) out of 300 deducted.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This course does not have an attendance policy. However, it is necessary to attend lecture regularly to succeed on exams and writing assignments. Both exams and writing assignments will require students to use information outside of the textbook given only through lecture. If you are unable to coordinate with a classmate to get notes from a day when you were absent, please let me know and I will help you find a volunteer.

TECHNICAL PROBLEMS W/ COURSE WEBSITE:

Students are expected to provide themselves with the necessary equipment to complete this course, which includes both a computer with stable internet connection and software for reading assigned materials (usually just Adobe Reader or any other PDF software). I personally prefer Mozilla Firefox browser, but Google Chrome will likely work just as well. I do not own an Apple computer and do not know how well Safari works with the course website's applications. Any technical problems students have should be directed toward USC's Division of Information Technology. No assignment may be turned in as a Pages file.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

You are expected to practice the highest possible standards of academic integrity. Any deviation from this expectation will result in a minimum academic penalty of your failing the assignment and will result in additional disciplinary measures. This includes improper citation of sources, using another student's work, and any other forms of academic misrepresentation.

The first tenet of the Carolina Creed is "I will practice personal and academic integrity."

Below are some websites for you to visit to learn more about UofSC policies:

1. Carolina Creed: <http://www.sa.sc.edu/creed>

2. Academic Responsibility: <http://www.sc.edu/policies/staf625.pdf>
3. Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity:
<https://www.sa.sc.edu/academicintegrity/>
4. Information Security Policy and Standards:
https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/division_of_information_technology/security/policy/universitypolicy/

DISABILITY SERVICES:

Student Disability Resource Center (<http://www.sa.sc.edu/sds/>): The Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) empowers students to manage challenges and limitations imposed by disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me to discuss the logistics of any accommodations needed to fulfill course requirements (within the first week of the semester). In order to receive reasonable accommodations from me, you must be registered with the Student Disability Resource Center (1705 College Street, Close-Hipp Suite 102, Columbia, SC 29208, 803-777-6142). Any student with a documented disability should contact the SDRC to make arrangements for appropriate accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Welcome: Introduction to the Course
Jan. 11

Readings: None

Module 1
Definitions and Theoretical Grounding

Module 1.1: The Functionalist Explanation
Jan 13 & 18

Reading: - Ernest Gellner (1983) *Nations and Nationalism*, pp. 1-38

Abstract: Jan. 12

Module 1.2: Capitalism and Ages of Imperialism
Jan. 20 & 25

Reading: Alex Callinicos (2009) *Imperialism and Global Political Economy*, pp. 103-187

Abstract: Jan 19. (Select only one of the two assigned chapters for your abstract.)

Module 1.3: Classes and Nations in Decolonization
Jan. 27

Reading: - Aijaz Ahmad (1992) *In Theory*, pp. 3-9 & 17-42

Abstract: Jan. 26

Module 2
China: Models for Anti-Colonialism in Asia

Module 2.1 The Chinese Revolutions: 1911 to 1949
Feb. 1 & 3

Reading: - Rebecca Karl (2020) *China's Revolutions in the Modern World*, pp. 25-109

No abstracts or presentations



Module 2.2 Chinese Marxism
Feb. 8 & 10

Reading: - Arif Dirlik (2005) *Marxism in the Chinese Revolution*, pp. 75-104
- Theodore de Bary, ed. (2008) *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, vol. 2, pp. 721-739 (see PDF on Blackboard for specific sections within this text to read)

Abstract: Feb. 7 (Only write on the Dirlik chapter.)

Module 2.3 China's Conservative Revolutionaries
Feb. 15 & 17

Reading: - Brian Tsui (2018) *China's Conservative Revolution*, pp. 26-67
- Theodore de Bary, ed. (2008) *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, vol. 2, pp. 692-698

Abstract: Feb. 14 (Only write on the Tsui chapter)

Module 3
Thailand (Siam): The Modernizing Monarchy

Module 3.1 Reform, Revolt, and the Rise of the Military
Feb 22 & 24

Reading: - Chris Baker & Pasuk Phongpaichit (2014) *A History of Thailand*, pp. 104-198

No abstracts or presentations

Mid-Term Essay Feb 20 at 11:59PM

Module 3.2 Conversative Thought on Reform
March 1 & 3

Readings: - Thongchai Winichakul (2000) “The Quest for ‘Siwilai’: A Geographical Discourse of Civilizational Thinking in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth-Century Siam”, pp. 528-549
 - Benjamin A. Batson (1974) *Siam’s Political Future*, pp. 42-50, 55-59, 97-102

Abstract: Feb. 28 (Only write on the Thongchai article.)

Module 3.3 The Failed Communist Revolution
March 15 & 17

Readings: - Craig J. Reynolds & Hong Lysa (1983) “Marxism in Thai Historical Studies”, pp. 77-104
 - Andrew Turton, Jonathan Fast, & Malcolm Caldwell, eds. (1978) *Thailand, Roots of the Conflict*, pp. 158-168

Abstract: March 14 (Only write on the Reynolds & Lysa article.)

Module 4
Vietnam: The Second Generation of Anti-Colonialism

Module 4.1 The Indochina Wars
March 22 & 24

Reading: - Ben Kiernan (2017) *Viet Nam*, pp. 343-451

No abstracts or presentations

Module 4.2 Vietnamese Communism &
 Internationalism
March 29 & 31



Readings: - Tuong Vu (2019) "In the Service of World Revolution: Vietnamese Communists' Radical Ambitions through the Three Indochina Wars", pp. 4-30
- Ho Chi Minh (1967) *Ho Chi Minh on Revolution*, pp. 63-72

Abstract: March 28 (Only write on the Vu article.)

Module 4.3 Restoring the National Morality
April 5 & 7

Readings: - Jessica M. Chapman (2013) *Cauldron of Resistance*, pp. 116-145
- Paul K. T. Sih, ed. (1957) *Democracy in East Asia*, pp. TBD ('Democratic Development in Vietnam' section by Ngo Dinh Diem)

Abstract: April 4 (Only write on the Chapman chapter.)

Module 5

What was Third World Anti-Colonialism and What Remains?

Module 5.1 *Orientalism* and its Critics
April 12 & 14

Readings: - Edward Said (1978) *Orientalism*, pp. 1-28
- Vivek Chibber (2020) "Orientalism and its Afterlives", pp. 1-16

Abstract: April 11 (Only write on the Chibber article)

Module 5.2 Three Worlds Theory and the End of Revolution
April 19 & 21

Readings: - Aijaz Ahmad (1992) *In Theory*, pp. 287-318
- Mao Zedong (1998) *On Diplomacy*, p. 454

No Abstracts

Final Paper Essay May 3 at 11:59PM
