General Information

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Module Convenor</th>
<th>Dr Alessio Patalano, Dr Nicola Leveringhaus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>Appointment Only</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Details</td>
<td>Office: K 6.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module Credit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>Standard Year (Sem 1 &amp; 2)</td>
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Information that can be found in this module handbook are:

- Aims of the module
- Learning outcomes
- Teaching methods
- Assessment and key link to student handbook
- General reading
AIMS

War shaped East Asia’s modern history and defined its emergence in the international system. Since the first half of the 19th century, for one hundred and fifty years, wars of Empire, national survival, civil wars and total wars, oversaw the emergence of the region’s main modern state actors and their foreign and security agendas. The module introduces the modern and contemporary history of East Asia by examining the conflicts that defined regional security from the first Opium war to the end of the Cold War. It explores a series of core issues that affected (and continue to affect) the region, including: the European encroachment in China and the collapse of the Chinese Empire; the Meiji reforms and the Japanese modernisation; the Russo-Japanese war and the rise of the Japanese Empire; the expansion and demise of the Japanese Empire and its impact on East Asia; the emergence of the United States as the main regional power; the consolidation of the Chinese Communist Party in China and of the Kuomintang in Taiwan; the impact of the Cold War on Japanese security; Mao’s China and its role in the Korean and Vietnam wars, Japan’s role in the Cold War in East Asia, and the historical origins of maritime territorial disputes.

Geographically, the module covers the area of the Eurasian continent stretching from the Sea of Okhotsk to Singapore, with a particular focus on the countries historically influenced by the Chinese civilisation, China, Japan, the two Koreas, Taiwan, and Southeast Asia. In examining the various conflicts, it draws upon the geopolitical notions of continental and maritime East Asia developed by authors like Alfred Mahan, Halford Mackinder, and Nicholas Spikman, to offer a wider framework of strategic analysis. For each case, the module further investigates the security priorities underpinning national strategies, the impact of key political figures that defined them, and the impact of military modernisation and technology in their pursuit.

The aims of the module are:

▪ To introduce students to key events in modern East Asian history as case studies in history and strategic studies.
▪ To explore the role of war and conflict in the development of East Asia as a part of the international system.
▪ To develop a critical understanding of the impact of East Asian maritime geography on national strategies, diplomatic action, and on the preparation and the conduct of war.
▪ To articulate Japan’s core contribution to the transformation of modern East Asia.
▪ To investigate the roles of personalities, technology, and ideology in the transformation of East Asian state actors, notably Japan and China.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the module students will have:

▪ Developed a critical approach to strategic issues in the study of East Asia, enabling them to analyse both controversial historical events and the work of the scholars who have written about them.
▪ Acquired analytical skills that will benefit students working on all aspects of War Studies, notably empowering them with the ability to assess issues of strategy and security in a specific
Regional context.

- Refined the ability to assess critically the importance of maritime geography in the evolution of the international politics and strategic interactions in East Asia.
- Consolidated the knowledge base necessary to engage critically with the role and impact of history on the contemporary security politics of East Asia.
- Expanded the understanding of the impact of the Japanese Empire and its aftermath on the evolution of East Asian security.

**TEACHING METHODS**

The module will be taught by a combination of lectures, seminars with students presentations and role play activities, a film screening session, a guided visit to the Asian collections of the British Museum, and a one-day simulation.

**Employability Skills**

This module will empower students with the ability to appreciate East Asian cultural and historical specificities, to follow and assess security and political affairs of East Asia, and to consider any professional position requiring robust East Asian research and analysis skills, both within and outside the region.

**ASSESSMENT & KEY LINK TO STUDENT HANDBOOK**

<table>
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<th>Type of work</th>
<th>Word limit</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>% of Final Mark</th>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>14 November 2019</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>19 December 2019</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>02 April 2020</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Key information such as listed below can be found under the student handbook link

- Assessments deadlines and penalties
- Extension requests (Mitigating Circumstances)
- Exams timetable
- Plagiarism and Turn-it-in
- Marking Criteria and Procedures

https://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/warstudies/handbook/index.aspx

**GENERAL READING**
Background Reading on East Asian History and Military Developments:

Background Reading on East Asian Geopolitics:

Recommended Reading on Chinese and Japanese Modern and Contemporary History:
For short, sharp, and snappy books:

For a less short, but similarly sharp and slightly more in-depth literature:

Classic Monographs:

Periodicals
The following publications are useful and available as E-Journal from King’s Library or on the web, free of charge:
Students are also encouraged to consult digital archives accessible through King’s College Library system, as well as external archives relevant to the module, most notably the Cold War International History Project (http://www.wilsoncenter.org/program/cold-war-international-history-project).

Among other resources available online:

Specialist Libraries in London
In addition to KCL library, there are three other excellent libraries in London with comprehensive sections on East Asian affairs:
- The British Library of Political and Economic Science (ie., the LSE library);
- The Library of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS);
- The Library of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

Students will be able to obtain readers tickets for the LSE/SOAS library free of charge, which means that they can use the library but they cannot take books out on loans. Forms to access the libraries can be downloaded from their respective websites. For the IISS library, the Department has institutional membership that usually entitles students to use the library. However, there are fixed numbers of student tickets available, therefore students are strongly advised to go to the departmental office early to have their names included in the list.
### Weekly Lecture Topics and Reading List

#### Lectures Term 1 (23 September – 06 December 2019)

**Week 1:** Military History, Strategy and the Study of East Asia  
**Core:** Bruce Vandervort, “War in The Non-European World”, in M. Hughes and W.J. Philpott, Palgrave Advances in Modern Military History (New York, Palgrave: 2006), 195-213.

**Week 2:** Japan in EA History  

**Week 3:** Samurai and The Warrior Tradition in Japan  
**Core:** D.C. Jaundrill, Samurai to Soldier: Remaking Military Service in 19th Century Japan (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2016), 1-13, 73-104.

**Week 4:** Civil War: The Bakumatsu and the Meiji Restoration  

**Week 5:** Reshaping Regional Order: The First Sino-Jpn War  

**Week 6:** Reading Week

**Week 7:** EA Strikes Back: The Russo-Jpn War  

**Week 8:** Japanese Strategy from WWI to the New World Order  
**Core:** F.R. Dickinson, World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930, 103-143.

**Week 9:** Japan’s War from China to the Pacific  

**Week 10:** War in the Pacific: End of Empire  

**Week 11:** Legacies of Empire – Japanese Rearmament in the Cold War  

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### Lectures Term 2 (13 January – 27 March 2020) **[please note lectures will be]**
Lectures Term 2 (13 January – 27 March 2020)

**Week 12: China in EA History**

**Week 13: Sun Tzu, Sun Bin and the Question of Strategy in China**

**Week 14: The Taiping Rebellion and the Qing Dynasty**

**Week 15: The Carving up of China**

**Week 16: Reading Week**

**Week 17: WWI and Republican China**

**Week 18: The Battle for China, from civil war to fighting the Japanese**

**Week 19: Atomic age in Asia**

**Week 20: Communist China and the Korean War**

**Week 21: Border Conflicts (Sino-Indian war and Sino-Soviet conflict)**


**Week 22: China’s Vietnam War**
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Weekly Seminar Topics and Reading List</th>
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<td><strong>Term 1 (23 September – 06 December 2019)</strong></td>
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N.B.: In preparation of the seminars please ensure to read the core item for the week plus at least two additional items from the recommended list.

**Seminar 1-2: What is War in Contemporary East Asia?**
Please consider the statements below to articulate an answer.

**Core**
Statement by President Xi Jinping, 03 September 2015: [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-09/03/c_134583870.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2015-09/03/c_134583870.htm)

**Recommended**

**Seminar 3: How ‘Secluded’ Japan was under the Tokugawa regime?**

**Core**

**Recommend**

**Additional**
Seminar 4: The Samurai: Masters of War, or Glorified Bureaucracy?
As a preliminary core reading students should also try to acquaint themselves with the main texts upon which the literature on the samurai is drawn:

Core

Recommended

Additional

Seminar 5: Japan’s Imperial Armed Forces - A New Beginning?
Core

Recommended
- John Curtis Perry, ‘Great Britain and the Emergence of Japan as Naval Power’, *Monumenta...

**Additional**

**Seminar 6: What were the strategic drivers behind Japan’s wars with China and Russia? Discuss.**

**Core**

**Recommended**

**Additional**
- Dennis and Peggy Warner, *The Tide at Sunrise* (Fletcher & Son: 1974).

**Seminar 8: What were the Japanese aims for political order in East Asia after WWI (and until 1937)?**
Core

Recommended
- Yoichi Hirama, ‘Rising Sun in the Mediterranean: Second Special Squadron, 1916-18’ (available at [http://hiramayoishi.com/yh_e_papers_Italy.html](http://hiramayoishi.com/yh_e_papers_Italy.html)).

Additional

Seminar 9: What were the drivers of Japanese expansions in China?
Core

Recommended
- Louise Young, Japan’s Total Empire: Manchuria and the culture of wartime imperialism (Berkeley: California UP, 1998), chapters 1-2.

Additional

**Seminar 10: Could Japan win WWII?**

**Core**


**Recommended**

- Edward J. Drea, Japan’s Imperial Army: Its Rise and Fall, 1853-1945 (Kansas, 2009), chapter 10.

**Additional**


**Seminar 11: Did Japan renounce war forever? Discuss.**

**Core**
Recommended


Additional


Term 2 (13 January – 27 March 2020)

Seminar 12: To what extent was China a tributary power in East Asia?
Core

**Recommended**

- Barry Buzan and Yongjin Zhang, Contesting International Society in East Asia (Cambridge University Press, 2014), especially chapters 2 and 3
- Kang, David C., East Asia before the West: Five Centuries of Trade and Tribute (Columbia University Press, 2010), chapters 1 and 8.

**Additional**

- Peter Worthing, A Military History of Modern China: From the Manchu Conquest to Tian’anmen Square (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2007).

**Seminar 13: Does China have a unique strategic culture?**

**Core**

Alastair Iain Johnston, Cultural Realism Strategic Culture and Grand Strategy in Chinese History (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995) (NOTE this is focused on the earlier Ming period China) – Introduction and conclusion

**Recommended**

- Andrew Wilson, ‘The Chinese Way of War’ in Thomas G. Mahnken and San Blumenthal (eds.), Strategy in Asia (Stanford, 2014) (NOTE: this chapter covers more than Qing China).
- Jonathan Spence, The Search for Modern China (W.W.Norton & Company, 1999), chapters 7 and 10 especially on background.

**Additional**

- Nicola di Cosmo (ed.), Military Culture in Imperial China (Harvard, 2009), especially chapters 10
Seminar 14: What was the impact of the Taiping rebellion on China’s imperial system?

Core

Recommended
• Bruce Elleman, Modern Chinese Warfare, 1795-1989 (Routledge, 2001), chapter 3.
• Scott Platt, Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War (Atlantic Press, 2012).

Additional
• Jack Gray, Rebellions and Revolutions China from the 1880s to 2000 (OUP: 2003), chapter 3.
• Jonathan D. Spence and David Lindroth, God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan (W.W.Norton, 1996).

Seminar 15: To what extent did Western adventurism contribute to the modernisation of China?

Core

Recommended
• Jonathan Spence, The Search for Modern China (W.W.Norton & Company, 1999), chapters 7 and 10 especially.

Additional
• Shogo Suzuki, Civilization and Empire: China and Japan’s Encounter with European International Society(2009).
• C.M. Turnbull, ‘Formal and Informal Empire in East Asia’ in Robin W. Winks, (ed.), the Oxford

**Seminar 16: The Chinese Republic was destined to fail. Discuss.**

**Core**

**Recommended**

**Additional**
Isabella Jackson, Shaping Modern Shanghai (CUP: 2017), introduction.
Hans van de Ven, War and Nationalism in China, 1925-45 (Routledge, 2012).

**Seminar 17: Was Communist victory in the Chinese Civil War inevitable?**

**Core**

**Recommended**
Rana Mitter, China’s War with Japan, 1937-1945, the struggle for survival (London: Allen Lane, 2013)

**Additional**
Diana Lary, China’s Civil War, a social history 1945-49, (New Approaches to Asian History) (Cambridge, 2015).
Benjamin David Barker, ‘What if the Kuomintang had won the Chinese civil war? The Diplomat, 24
Seminar 18: Did the atomic bombings end WWII in Asia?

Core

Recommended

Additional
Matthew Jones, After Hiroshima, the United States, Race and nuclear weapons in Asia, 1945-65 (Cambridge, 2010), chapters 1 and 2.

Seminar 19: What were the strategic reasons for China’s involvement in the Korean War, and what role did this war have in shaping the wider security architecture of East Asia?

Core

Recommended
Andrew Scobell, China’s Use of Military Force: Beyond the Great Wall and the Long March (Cambridge: CUP, 2003), chapter 4.
Allen S. Whiting, China crosses the Yalu: The decision to enter the Korean War (Stanford University Press, 1960).
Shu Guang Zhang, Mao’s military romanticism: China and the Korean War, 1950-1953 (Univ Pr of Kansas, 1995).
Podcast: Hans van der ven, China at War, CWIHP, 26 March 2018 https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/china-war (see his book, China at War: Triumph and Tragedy
in the Emergence of the New China, chapter 14).

Additional
Mark Ryan, Chinese Attitudes Toward Nuclear Weapons: China and the United States During the Korean War (East Gate, 1989).

Seminar 20: Were China’s border conflicts with India and the USSR in the 1960s inevitable?
Core

Recommended

Additional
Seminar 21: Was China’s 1979 war with Vietnam a strategic miscalculation?

Core

Recommended

Additional