

# HH1003 Asia-Pacific in Global History: From 1800

Semester 2, AY 2025-26

Asst Prof Florence MOK

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HSS05-24

**Lecture:** Wednesday,

13:30-15:20

SS2-B2-05 LT+23

## I. Course Description

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 insight into the historical processes that shaped the modern Asia-Pacific and how these processes were connected to global developments such as colonialism, capitalism, migration and labour problems. It is intended to introduce students to history in modern times and to the Asia-Pacific as a region, not just as a collection of disparate nation-states. For this purpose, the instructor will draw a distinction among “East Asia,” “South Asia” and “Southeast Asia” through four overlapping chronological phases: under pre-modern Asian connectivity between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries; under Western imperialism in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; under the two World Wars in the first half of the twentieth century; and during the Cold War. Each week, we shall concentrate on different geographical focuses within this historical framework, examining what changes took place and how people reacted to those changes. **The lectures will address these questions broadly, while the tutorial meetings will provide opportunities for students to respond.**

## II. Learning Objectives

1. Investigate and explain the role of a range of broader historical processes in the formation of the political, cultural and societal aspects 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.

## III. Assessment

### a. Online Quizzes (25%)

In **weeks 8–12**, there will be an online quiz each week on NTULearn. The quizzes will be available **from 12:00 p.m. on Thursdays**. Please complete them **before 12:00 p.m. on the**

**following Wednesday**. Each quiz must be completed within 30 minutes in **one sitting** (cannot save and resume).

**b. Tutorial Discussion (10%)**

You are required to actively participate in each tutorial class having completed the week's readings.

**c. One Essay (40%)**

1,500 words. Papers are to be written in response to the discussion questions listed in the syllabus and should be based primarily on the required readings for each week. You may consult other texts (we will be happy to suggest relevant items) but this is not required.

**Due date: 12:00 p.m., March 11**. Please submit as a Word document on NTULearn.

**d. Final Take-Home Assignment (25%)**

The questions will be released on NTULearn **on April 15 at 12:00 p.m.** The answers are due through Turnitin by **12:00 p.m. on April 22**.

**IV. Teaching Programme**

Week	Topic
1	Introduction
2	East Asia: The Qing Empire and the Opium Wars
3	How to Write an Academic Essay at the University Level
4	Southeast and South Asia: The Age of Commerce Disrupted?
5	Asia under High Imperialism: Resistance and Collaboration
6	Public Holiday- no class
7	Migration, Indenture and the Plantation in Southeast Asia (19th - 20th centuries)
8	Southeast Asia: From WWII to Independence
9	Colonial Identity to Nation-building - Creating Asian (Colonial) States
10	Chinese Civil War, Migration and Displacement across Asia
11	Asia's Cold War
12	Decolonization without Democratization?
13	Revision session

**V. Reference Book**

Rhoads Murphey, with Kristin Stapleton, *A History of Asia*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (London and New York: Routledge, 2014).