



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 456 - History and Culture of Taiwan

Weiting Guo

This course explores major social, economic, political, and cultural changes and continuities in Taiwan from the seventeenth century to the present. While some periods will be covered more selectively due to time constraints, special emphasis is placed on the post-World War II era, when Taiwan underwent a profound “great transition” and became a democratic polity. The course aims to provide students with a critical approach to history and a broad foundation in Taiwanese history and culture, while stimulating further interest in Taiwan’s society, the evolution of its democracy, and its place in the contemporary world. By the end of the course, students will understand Taiwan’s distinctive historical path and be able to discuss its achievements and challenges with clarity and accuracy.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Taiwan: A New History, edited by Murray A. Rubinstein, Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1999, 2007.

Statecraft and Political Economy on the Taiwan Frontier, 1600–1800, by John R. Shepherd, Stanford University Press, 1993.

Cold War Island: Quemoy on the Front Line, by Michael Szonyi, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Assignments

Two Recorded Video Responses to Canvas Discussion Prompts | 20%

One English-Translated Source Analysis Assignment | 20%

Midterm Examination | 25%

Final Examination | 35%