



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Science Technology and Modernity in East Asia - 46050*

*Last update 31-10-2023*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Asian Studies*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Noa Nahmias*

*Coordinator Email: [noa.nahmias@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:noa.nahmias@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday 14:00-16:00*

*Teaching Staff:*

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Dr. Noa Nahmias

Course/Module description:

*From railroads, telegraphs and population surveys in the early 20th century to cell phones, genetic mapping and the emergence of social media in the 21st century, science and technology have been a critical component in constructing modernity in East Asia. In this course, we examine how new scientific ideas and nascent technologies intersected with political transformation and the emergence of nationalism in China, Japan, and Korea. Following a chronological arc, we will understand the building of scientific infrastructure and how this impacted, and was impacted by, political and social change.*

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- describe the main developments in technological and scientific infrastructure in China, Japan, and Korea from the late 19th century to the 20th century
- connect these developments to political and social change
- understand, evaluate, and question the difference between science and technology
- discuss how nations in East Asia fit into the global narrative of the spread of modern science
- formulate evidence based claims about the course's topics

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecture and discussion

Course/Module Content:

Topics:

1. Science and revolution
2. Science, technology, and globalization - how to translate "science"? is there an East Asian science?
3. Governing technologies (census, civil engineering, radio)
4. Traditional knowledge and scientization - the case of Chinese medicine
5. Popular science: what do children need to know?
6. Science and gender: what do women need to know?

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7. Technologies of destruction: science during world war 2
  8. Socialist science
  9. Technology and new policies in the end of the 20th century
  10. Technological fantasies at the end of the 20th century
  11. Techno-Orientalism
  12. A hyper-technological Asia: return to the Yellow Peril?

Required Reading:

weekly reading of one to two English language articles (30-50pp in total).

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %  
Active Participation / Team Assignment 20 %  
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports  
/ Forum / Simulation / others 30 %

Additional information:

Course assignments and evaluation:  
- weekly participation 20%  
- reading response 15%  
- quiz 15%  
- final take home paper 50%