PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites to taking History 2460. History 2460 is open to all students. A background in East Asian history or languages is not necessary. This course fulfills the Tier II Cross-Cultural Perspectives requirement.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Introductory survey of the history of Asia from India to Japan, beginning in the mid-19th century. Emphasis on the rise of modern nationalism, economic development, and social and cultural achievements.

METHODS OF COURSE INSTRUCTION:

All material for this course is print-based. Instructor and students communicate and exchange materials through postal mail.

TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES:

The following two texts are required for this course:


Note: You will read portions of Modern East Asia as part of (nearly) every lesson in this course; it will be your main textbook. Over the course of this class, you will read most of this textbook.


Note: You will be required to read all of Nothing to Envy for Lesson 12.

NUMBER OF LESSONS:

The course has 14 lessons, including one midcourse examination and one final examination. The topics include:

- Lesson 1: Foundations—Introduction to East Asian Language, Geography, and Ideas
- Lesson 2: Traditional Elites in China, Japan, and Korea, 1600–1850
- Lesson 3: East Asia and Early Modern Globalization, 1492–1868
- Lesson 4: Foreign Imperialism and Domestic Reform, 1868–1898
- Lesson 5: Revolution and Imperialism, 1898–1937
- Lesson 6: The Great East Asian War, 1931–1945
Lesson 7: Midcourse Examination Information
Lesson 8: Cold War “Stability” in East Asia, 1945–1960s
Lesson 9: Cold War “Instability” in East Asia, 1960s–1991
Lesson 10: Japan, 1900s to the Present
Lesson 11: The Koreas, 1990s to the Present
Lesson 12: Everyday Life in Today’s North Korea
Lesson 13: China, 1990s to the Present
Lesson 14: Final Examination Information

TYPES OF WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:
Each lesson will require you to submit one written assignment for assessment. These assignments will take the form of short essays (a minimum of three paragraphs of five sentences each) based on the textbook or supplemental reading. The written assignment for Lesson 12 will be a longer writing assignment based on Barbara Demick’s _Nothing to Envy._

GRADING CRITERIA:
Your course grade will be computed according to the following formula:

- Midterm Exam: 20%
- Comprehensive Final Exam: 30%
- Nothing to Envy Writing Assignment (Lesson 12): 20%
- 11 Lesson Writing Assignments (Lessons 1–6, 8–11, 13): 30%