Undergraduates may do a paper of either of the types described below. Papers must be typed, double-spaced. Papers 5-7 pages in length are due uploaded on Canvas by 11:59 PM on June 3rd. Be sure to format the paper using Word or as a PDF (don’t do html editing). Late papers are marked down a tenth for each day late for a maximum of 3 tenths. Notice that I have set Canvas to accept papers from May 27th at 12:AM until June 10th at 8:am. This is because I know some papers will be late, but I still want you to be able to upload them. I will accept papers uploaded between June 3rd and June 10th, but after 11:59pm on June 3rd they will be counted as late.

Be sure to look at the style sheet at the bottom of this handout before turning in your paper.

A. Select a work of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese fiction (can include 3 hours of film, or a collection of works of literature) from the period after 1945 comprising at least 100 pages of reading beyond the assigned readings for class and that has modernization, migration, social values, or multiculturalism, or social change as one of its themes. Use the material in the work to discuss how the values or institutions of the society in question interact with the new problems created by modernization and/or social change that have been discussed in class. Try to situate the literary work in relationship to the real social changes actually discussed in class, but be sure to also take into account that fiction is a work of imagination that may not be strictly accurate. Thus be sure to consider the writer’s literary purpose—social satire? Political criticism? Exaggeration to elicit sympathy? Criticism of local and/or foreign culture?). Locate your work of fiction in relationship to the required readings of the course, as well as lectures and appropriate supplementary material such as book reviews (secondary studies of your author or modern literature) you feel is appropriate. (Supplementary material can count toward the 100 page goal).

B. Find a topic about post 1945 China, Japan, Korea, or Vietnam related to the course about which you want more in-depth knowledge. Select non-fiction readings of at least 100 pages beyond what is assigned for class on this topic and write a persuasive essay explaining how your reading expands, corrects, or updates the material of the course. Make sure your essay is organized around a thesis that you wish to persuade your reader is correct.


Style Sheet

(1) Papers should be typed double-spaced with one inch margins on either side.

(2) Put your name and the title of the paper on a separate title sheet. Please don't use fancy binders, they just make it difficult to stack the papers together.

(3) Be sure to organize your paper around a thesis: a statement that in principle could be right or wrong that you want to persuade your reader is indeed right. Once the thesis is stated in the first paragraph, the rest of your paper should consist of reasons why this thesis should be correct.

(4) You will have to give some space in your paper to describing the literature your have read. This is normal, but devote no more than one-third of your paper in an exposition of the most important content of your readings. Devote the rest of your paper to your argument and to
relating the readings to the concerns of the course. Try to attain a clear and unified point of view in your paper.

(5) Be sure to reference quotes and ideas taken from others, whether these are textbooks, your readings, or other sources. Anything not referenced is expected to be original. You may use any standard reference style--e.g. footnoting as in the MLA style sheet, or references in parentheses as is done in social science writing. If you chose the latter style you must append a bibliography.

(6) Foreign words should be underlined or put in italics. Korean words should be rendered in the McCune-Resichauer System, Japanese in Hepburn and Chinese in Pinyin.

(7) Papers are graded on the clarity of your exposition of the content of your readings, skill with which you relate your readings to the course, and the care and quality of the writing.

(8) Quality of writing and clarity of thought are inseparable, so use some care in your writing. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. will all be taken into consideration in grading the paper. Some specific things I look for in papers are listed below.

1. Do you have a title and a thesis sentence which announce the theme of your essay?
2. Do your introduction and conclusion stand in some logical relationship? That is, does the last paragraph conclude the thoughts introduced in the first paragraph?
3. Does each paragraph in your essay develop some major point that contributes to your overall argument?
4. Do you have examples or evidence for each judgment or generalization you make, or have you logically demonstrated why this generalization should be true?
5. Do you have a clear style with grammatical sentences, and proper use of historical and other words?
6. Did you proofread your paper to correct typos, errors of spelling and the like?