

Grading guideline EXFAC03-EAST Spring 2024

Question 1

“Describe the role of Japan in China's history between the 1890s and 1945. Discuss the ways in which Japanese imperialism affected China and the significance of Japanese modernization models for Chinese.”

The answer should include a discussion of the significance of the 1894-5 Sino-Japanese War, the influence of Meiji models on both reformers (Liang Qichao) and revolutionaries, the significance of the experience of study in Japan for such towering figures as Lu Xun, the role of the Twenty-One Demands/Shandong Question as a catalyst for the growth of modern nationalism in China and the puppet state of Manchukuo/the 1937-45 Japanese invasion. We have it all in our obligatory readings.

Question 2

“What is the meaning of the term "Anthropocene"? What are the main controversies surrounding this term? In what three ways can this concept be applied to the study of East Asia, according to Hudson? Give one example of each.”

The answer must include:

- a) A definition of Anthropocene that makes sense (e.g., geological era in which every ecosystem and organism on earth is affected by human activity, aka our present age of planetary crisis).
- b) At least one of the two major controversies, preferably both: 1) serious disagreement among scientists about when the Anthropocene started; 2) disagreement about the name itself (not all humans are guilty), leading some to propose alternatives (e.g., Capitalocene).
- c) As Hudson writes on p. 942: "Placing Asia in the Anthropocene requires us to consider at least three topics: the role of Asia in histories of the Anthropocene, the social-ecological vulnerabilities generated by and experienced in Anthropocene Asia today, and the question of how the Asian experience might be used to build responses to the Anthropocene." They may quote this, or they may paraphrase it, but at least they should explain a bit and give one example of each to show that they understand what it means.

Question 3

“What are the similarities and differences between feminist movements in South Korea, Japan, and China in the post-war era? Compose your answer by drawing on the lectures and at least two compulsory readings from the course.”

SIMILARITIES:

- East Asian feminist movements to share the struggles against public patriarchy, cultural misogyny, and gender-based violence.
- Feminist movements in East Asia centred on criticism on gender inequality and the advancement of women's rights in politics, work, maternal care, despite different political contexts.
- East Asian feminist movements face a similar pressure from a low-fertility society and a reproductive dilemma.
- In the contemporary era, East Asian feminist movements start to build a degree of transnational connection in for instance the Me-too movement, the anti-marriage and reproduction values, through online social media.

DIFFERENCES:

- East Asian feminist movements in both its contemporary and modern times had different positioning facing the state/government and other mainstream social movements. Students can use example of Japanese feminist movement's critique against their male counterparts in the New Left and student movement in 1960s; Chinese feminists' initial integration into and later divorce from the state-led socialist revolution; Korean feminist movements' (Minjung Undong) alignment with the worker's movements in 1980s.
- All three countries have some variants of radical feminism, and they have slightly different agenda and strategies (Uman Ribu in 1970s Japan, 6B4T movement in Korea today, young feminist activist in China today).
- Different gender ideologies – with Chinese socialist feminists emphasising that men and women are the same and others focus on gender differences.
- Both Japan and Korean feminist movements ties democratic movements.