

List II, Hilary Term, Available to all JS Students and to SS NMS Students

HIU34586 Making Knowledge and Technology in East Asia

Assessment: Essay 1 40% / Essay 2 60%



Kobayashi Kiyochika's *Yushima moto Seidō no kei* ('View from the Yushima Seidō') 1879

This module explores the history of knowledge and technology in East Asia – the area now predominantly within the nation-states of China, Mongolia, Japan, and North and South Korea – in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Regarded today as a global scientific and technological powerhouse, the historical picture of the region is also undergoing a substantial shift. The module will help students critically engage with this dynamic field.

We will explore major trends and transformations over the past two centuries, and examine East Asia's historical role in changing global systems of power, trade, and the cross-cultural exchange of information, tools, and ideas. With emphasis on the scale and scope of the region's vast diversity and interconnectivity, we will discuss a wide variety of case studies that allow us to examine topics like data collection, surveillance, pollution, and technocracy in historical perspective, and ask big questions about the complex and unpredictable ways that knowledge systems and technologies move and change over time.