



Image: *The Horrifying Inspection* by Huang Rong-can, 1947

Winter 2022

JSIS A 588 /
HSTAS 590

Tu 1:30-4:20p

In-person instruction

SLN: 22190 (JSIS A 588)

22191 (HSTAS 590)

Making Modern Taiwan

James Lin, Jackson School of International Studies

Taiwan has recently been called by a major publication as “the most dangerous place on Earth.” However, these popular portrayals of Taiwan are largely told from the perspective of outsiders looking in. This graduate reading seminar is focused on understanding modern Taiwan from the inside out through an interdisciplinary survey of Taiwan Studies.

“Making Modern Taiwan” introduces graduate students to key themes that have defined Taiwanese history, politics, society, and culture. How has Taiwan been shaped by empire, capital, ideas, and movements of people? How have these forces resulted in contested issues today such as identity, democratization, and development? How has Taiwan imagined the world and its own place within it?

Each week explores a different topic through assigned academic books, encompassing migration, colonialism, ethnicity/race, urban spaces, the Cold War, political economy, indigenous peoples, memory, labor, and gender. Readings and discussions will emphasize understanding Taiwan both as a case study for broader social science and humanities theories, as well as a site of unique social and political phenomena.

This course is cross-listed with History as HSTAS 590.

James Lin is Assistant Professor of Taiwan Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies and Associate Chair of the Taiwan Studies Program. He teaches modern Taiwan history, interdisciplinary Taiwan Studies, and thematic courses on development, science, environment, food, state, and society.

Questions? Please email jylin@uw.edu



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