

## HIS 6934: 0005 “The History of Science in East Asia”

Professor Annika A. Culver

BEL 404: Thursdays 9:00-11:45 a.m.



Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849)

What is the history of science? **What is the history of science in East Asia? Science is the study of making order, categorizing, and explaining the natural world, which in East Asia, intersected with philosophical ideas from Confucianism, like 究理 [“investigating (natural) principles”].**

In early Qing (1644-1911) China, Jesuits brought western technical science via mechanical items like clocks, while the Dutch introduced new observational devices to Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868). Indigenous Chinese and Japanese scholarly traditions provided a useful base for explosions of knowledge from the 17th to 18th century, concurrent with the Age of Exploration, European Enlightenment, and rapid urbanization, where Beijing and Tokyo were the world’s largest metropolises with over 1 million people. The technological revolutions of the nineteenth century, including transportation, amplified knowledge networks, and brought Asians and Westerners into hubs of innovation and technology transfer. These accelerated in the twentieth century, with World War II and the Cold War providing both stimuli and impediments to scientific progress. **We will read works by leading East Asia historians on wide-ranging forms of scientific study ranging from zoology, ornithology, ecology, anthropology, to physics, and about the scientists themselves, focusing on topics from the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the present. *Scientific exploration, imperialism, and gender will also be explored, along with scientific nationalism.***

**Please email Professor Annika A. Culver ([aculver@fsu.edu](mailto:aculver@fsu.edu)) with any questions.**