This class explores East Asian history from a maritime perspective rather than from a land-based/nation-based one. In doing so, we expand our notions of what constitutes “Japanese history” or “Chinese history.” By recognizing that bodies of water, such as the East China Sea, were actually conduits instead of barriers, we discover a vibrant area full of international contacts, seafaring peoples (pirates included), and cultural exchange. We will examine seemingly peripheral space and people, such as Koxinga or the island domain of Tsushima, to gauge major sea changes in the political, social, economic life of a larger area linked together by maritime connections. In short, we will be looking at what the seas brought to East Asia and what East Asia brought to the seas.

**Required Reading**
Texts posted on Blackboard

**Evaluation**
Attendance (10%), Two map quizzes (5% each), a midterm (30%), a final exam (30%), and two short papers (4-5) pages based upon readings (10% each)

**Week 1: Early Contacts**
Day 1: Introduction and Reorienting Perspectives
Day 2: Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade/The Southern Shift
Day 3: Hakata: The International Gateway
Day 4: Terror from the Seas: The Mongol Invasions of Japan

**Week 2: The Medieval East Asian Maritime Network and State Interference**
Day 5: Reversing Course: Ming Taizu, Zheng He, and the Impact of Maritime Restrictions
  - Paper on Ennin Due
  - Documentary: Chinese Treasure Fleet
Day 6: Dwarf Pirates: *Wakō*, the Noshima Sealords, the Matsura-tō, and the Freedom of the Seas
Day 7: Portuguese Traders and Jesuit Missionaries
Day 8: The Imjin War: The Repercussions of Japan’s Failure at Overseas Expansion
Week 3: Early Modern Stability and Upheaval
Day 9: Midterm
Day 10: Koxinga and Dutch Colonialism
Day 11: Sakoku Reexamined
    Paper on Mendes Pinto Due
Day 12: Enter Europe…With Guns and Drugs

Week 4: Modern/Contemporary Developments
Day 13: Nanshin and Kaigun: Japan Takes to the Seas
    Movie: Otokotachi no Yamato (男たちの大和)
Day 14: China’s Return to the Seas/ Modern Pirates
Day 15: Contemporary Japan: The Toxic Archipelago, Lifestyles, 3-11, and Territorial Disputes

Final Exam