

Far Eastern History I

Fall 2016
21:510:297

Monday, 2:30 - 3:50 pm
Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:20 pm
Hill Hall 107

Instructor: Daniel Asen
Office hours: Monday 4-5pm, and by appointment, Conklin Hall 328

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1. Course Description

This course is a survey of East Asian history (China, Japan, and Korea) from ancient times to ca. 1600 AD. We will examine the emergence of classical Chinese civilization, its impact on East Asia during ancient and medieval times, and the rise of distinct forms of political and social organization and cultural life in Korea and Japan during the early modern period. We will also investigate the political, economic, and cultural ties that have defined regional interactions within East Asia and connected this region to the wider world of Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas. While our approach will be chronological, we will also examine thematic issues that include political institutions and ideology, intellectual thought, education, gender, family, everyday life, and popular culture. Students will gain the factual knowledge necessary to understand contemporary East Asia within its long-term historical development and will apply their knowledge to analyze a range of historical documents, scholarly works, and other media.

2. Learning Goals

1. Develop an understanding of the events, institutions, ideas, and figures that shaped the course of East Asian history up to ca. 1600 AD. The first half of our course will largely focus on the development of classical Chinese civilization and the establishment of a unified empire. We will then turn to the ways in which early Korea and Japan emerged as distinct polities in dialogue with Chinese institutions and cultural and religious practices. Finally, we will examine the divergent paths that these societies took during the early modern period and the regional and global patterns of trade, diplomacy, and war that defined their interactions.

2. Understand East Asian history in global context. Throughout the entire period that this class covers East Asia had significant contacts with states, merchants, invaders, and monks and priests from all across Asia and Europe. In early times, these connections occurred through the Silk Road, a series of routes across central Asia. The Mongols' attempt to conquer much of Asia and parts of Europe in the 13th century AD created new kinds of connections that spanned Asia and Europe. Finally, the period beginning in ca. 1500 AD saw the integration of East Asia into a truly global world economy based on maritime trade. We will spend a lot of time thinking about how these connections were established, what was gained and lost in the process, and how these earlier forms of "globalization" compare with those that have defined our own world.

3. Read and critically analyze a range of historical documents. Over the course of the semester, we will read and analyze a range of historical sources, including historical annals, memoirs, philosophical texts, and legal cases. When analyzing these sources we will think about questions of historical context (i.e. when and where was it written?), intended audience (i.e. for whom was it written?), and the politics of the text (i.e. which social or political interests is it serving?). In sum, we will think about how we interpret the raw material of history and how we can use it as evidence when making historical claims.

3. Assignments and Grading

Class participation / Attendance – 10%

Writing assignments (2) – 40%

Map quizzes (2) – 10%

Midterm – 20%

Final – 20%

1. Class participation / Attendance (10%). To receive full credit, you must arrive on time, contribute to class discussion, and be respectful of your classmates. If you cannot come to class because of an emergency, please try to contact me in advance. I will record attendance in each class.

2. Writing assignments (40% total). This course has two writing assignments. I will give you a handout for each which includes a detailed explanation of the topic. Papers should be written in size 12 type and double spaced. We will discuss paper writing in class as well as how I will grade them. If you have any questions at all about the papers or writing in general, feel free to raise them in class, send me an email, or meet with me during my office hours.

1. Paper #1 (3-4 pages, 20%). For this paper you will read *Life Along the Silk Road*, by Susan Whitfield. This book presents interesting portraits of some of the people who traveled the “Silk Road,” a set of old trade routes that connected East Asia to Central Asia, the Middle East, and the West since ancient times. These routes played an important role in circulating new goods and technologies and religious practices such as Buddhism. For the paper, you will be given a choice of topics that ask you to analyze the kinds of trade and exchange that took place along these routes and the ways in which they transformed cultural and religious life in East Asia.

2. Paper #2 (4-5 pages, 20%). For this assignment you will be asked to do a close reading and analysis of primary source documents drawn from the history of early modern East Asia. Just as for Paper #1, there will be a detailed handout which explains the topic as well as my expectations for the paper.

3. Map Quizzes (10% total, 5% each). Over the course of the semester, there will be two map quizzes. For each quiz, you will be asked to identify important places and geographical features of East Asia and Central Asia on a map. You will be provided with a list of the places/features in advance as well as a map with the place names already filled in. For the quiz, you will be given this same map, and will have to identify the places from memory.

4. Midterm (20%). The midterm and final will include the following kinds of questions:
 - a. Identifications: You will be asked to identify persons, things, events, and concepts that we have discussed in lecture. You will be asked to identify the person/thing/concept in a couple of sentences and then discuss its larger historical significance for our class. Your response should be about 4-5 sentences for each identification question. Anything that we cover during the lecture is fair game, especially names/terms that appear both in lecture and in the textbook.

 - b. Document identification: Over the course of the semester you will read many primary source documents for homework, identified on the syllabus with the word “Document.” For the midterm and final you will be presented with short excerpts from these documents. You will be asked to identify the general time period of the document, the probable author (i.e. ancient Chinese historian, Buddhist monk, Japanese samurai), and the historical significance of the document. Your response should be about 4-5 sentences for each document identification question.

c. Short essay: Short essay questions on the midterm and final will ask you to make broad connections and comparisons and think about the bigger themes of the class. We will discuss the kinds of questions/themes that will appear on the essay questions in class.

5. Final exam (20%). The final exam will include the same kinds of questions as the midterm.

4. Course Readings

Weekly reading assignments will usually include two parts – a selection from our textbook (“East Asia”) and a couple of short historical documents (“Documents”). Unless otherwise noted, readings are available on Blackboard.

You will be required to read significant portions of the following two books for weekly homework readings and class writing assignments. They will be made available on library reserve, at the Campus Bookstore, and can be purchased from other sources as well (i.e. Amazon.com):

Patricia Ebrey et al. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. (“East Asia”). Note: This book has several editions. You can use either the Second (ISBN: 9780547005348) or Third edition (ISBN: 9781133606475). This book is available on reserve at Dana Library.

Susan Whitfield. *Life Along the Silk Road*. Second Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780520280595. Note: This book is available electronically through the library catalog on the Rutgers University Libraries website.

5. Course Policies

1. Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of

Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973) 353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

2. Academic dishonesty in this class will not be tolerated. Period. This includes plagiarism, cheating, and any other behavior described in the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy. **For this reason it is absolutely crucial that you familiarize yourself with this document, which describes the actions that will be counted as violations of academic integrity:**

<http://policies.rutgers.edu/10213-currentpdf>

You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge statement on every assignment which you turn in: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment. (Name) (Signature – typing your name is fine) (Date)".

If anyone has any questions at all about this policy, what counts as a violation of academic integrity, or even simply how to cite sources on a paper (a topic which we will cover in class), I am always willing to discuss these issues with you. Students who plagiarize assignments or otherwise violate academic integrity will receive serious penalties, ranging from a failing grade in the class to suspension.

6. Schedule

Sept. 7 Welcome to Far Eastern History !!

- Introduction / overview of class

Sept. 12 Geography of East Asia

- Start reading *Life Along the Silk Road* for Paper #1

Sept. 14 The Zhou in Decline: Politics and Society in Early China

- *East Asia*: Ch. 1, China in the Bronze Age
- Document: "The Metal Bound Box" (2 pages)
- **Map Quiz #1**

Sept. 19 Philosophical Foundations of Imperial China

- *East Asia*: Ch. 2, Philosophers and Warring States during the Eastern Zhou Period
- Document: “Confucian Teachings” (6 pages, up to “Selections from the Mencius”)
- Continue working on Paper #1

Sept. 21 Unifying the Realm: Qin and Han Dynasties

- *East Asia*: Ch. 3, The Founding of the Bureaucratic Empire
- Document: “Li Si: Legalist Theories in Practice” (7 pages)

Sept. 26 Attend Lecture on History of Newark’s Chinatown (Attendance Required, Location TBA)

- During this class session, you will attend a talk by Yoland Skeete-Laessig on the history of Newark’s Chinese and Chinese-American communities. We will return to this topic throughout the semester as a comparative case as we look at different examples of ancient and early modern trade and migration.
- There will be a short extra credit writing assignment based on the talk. You will receive a handout with details.
- Instead of having a homework reading for today, I would like you to continue working on Paper #1

Sept. 28 Politics and Society under the Han Empire

- Document: “The Debate on Salt and Iron” (4 pages)
- Continue working on Paper #1

Oct. 3 Buddhism in Early China and Inner Asia

- *East Asia*: Ch. 4, Political Division in China and the Spread of Buddhism
- Document: “Buddhist Doctrines and Practices” (6 pages)

Oct. 5 The World of the Tang

- *East Asia*: Ch. 5, The Cosmopolitan Empires of Sui and Tang China
- Document: “The Dancing Horses of Xuanzong’s Court” (2 pages)
- Continue working on Paper #1

Oct. 10 Politics, Society, and Culture in Tang China

- Document: “Emperor Taizong on Effective Government” (4 pages)
- Continue working on Paper #1

Oct. 12 Early Korea

- *East Asia*: Ch. 6, Early Korea to 935
- **Paper #1 Due**

Oct. 17 Rulership and Aristocracy in Silla Korea

- Document: "Foundation Myths" (10 pages)
- Document: "Biographies" (10 pages)

Oct. 19 Early Japan

- *East Asia*: Ch. 7, Early State and Society in Japan
- Document: "The Earliest Japanese Chronicles" (4 pages)

Oct. 24 Aristocracy and Culture in Early Japan

- *East Asia*: Ch. 9, Heian Japan
- Document: "The Seventeen-Article Constitution of Prince Shotoku" (5 pages)

Oct. 26 Review Session (Attendance required)

- Bring questions that you have about anything that we have covered so far
- We will spend the class session reviewing material and discussing larger themes and connections

Oct. 31 Midterm

Nov. 2 Politics and Society under the Song

- *East Asia*: Ch. 8, China Among Equals
- Document: "The Examination System" (4 pages)

Nov. 7 The Rise of Neo-Confucianism

- *East Asia*: "Making Comparisons: Neo-Confucianism," p. 292 (2nd edition of textbook) / p. 304 (3rd ed.)
- Document: "Zhu Xi's Conversations with His Disciples" (6 pages)
- Document: "Confucian Justice" (4 pages)

Nov. 9 Rise of Mongols

- Morris Rossabi, *The Mongols and Global History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011) 1-19.

- Document: “A Mongol Governor” (3 pages)

Nov. 14 Mongol Empire in East Asia

- *East Asia*: Ch. 12, China Under Mongol Rule
- Document: “Zhou Daguan, A Record of Cambodia” (3 pages)
- Start working on Paper #2, if you have not done so already.

Nov. 16 Korea Under the Koryo and Choson

- *East Asia*: Ch. 10, Goryeo Korea
- Document: “Biography of Chong Mong-ju” (5 pages)

Nov. 21 Politics, Society, and Gender in Choson Korea

- *East Asia*: Ch. 15, Joseon Korea
- Document: “Princess Hyegyong, A Record of Sorrowful Days” (7 pages)

Nov. 23 No Class

- **Note: Wednesday Nov. 23 follows a Friday class schedule. For more information, see the RU-N Fall 2016 Academic Calendar.**

Nov. 28 Rise of the Samurai in Japan

- *East Asia*: Ch. 11, Kamakura Japan
- Document: “Law and Precepts for the Warrior Houses” (4 pages)

Nov. 30 Tokugawa Unification

- *East Asia*: Ch. 13, Japan’s Middle Ages and Ch. 17, Edo Japan
- **Map Quiz #2**

Dec. 5 Emperors, Eunuchs, and Power in Ming China

- *East Asia*: Ch. 14, The Ming Empire in China
- Document: “A Censor Accuses a Eunuch” (3 pages)

Dec. 7 Society and Culture under the Ming

- Document: “Widows Loyal Unto Death” (4 pages)
- Continue working on Paper #2

Dec. 12 East Asia and the Early Modern World

- Michael Laver, "Skins in the Game: The Dutch East India Company, Deerskins, and the Japan Trade." *World History Bulletin* 28.2 (2012): 13-6.
- Continue working on Paper #2

Dec. 14 Review Session (Attendance required)

- We will spend the class reviewing material that will be on the final exam and thinking about the larger themes and questions of the course
- **Paper #2 due**

Final Exam: Monday December 19th, 3-6 pm, Hill Hall 107 (Our regular classroom)