

History of East Asia I

Fall 2020

21:510:297:01

Online class

Scheduled meeting times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:00-11:20am

Instructor: Daniel Asen

Virtual office hours by appointment. Email me and we can set up a time to talk over phone or WebEx. Email: daniel.asen@rutgers.edu

1. Course Description

This course is a survey of East Asian history (China, Japan, and Korea) from ancient times to about 1600 CE. 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contemporary East Asia within its long-term historical development and will apply their knowledge to analyze a range of historical documents, scholarly works, and other media.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 about 1600 CE. 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 CE created new kinds of connections that spanned Asia and Europe. Finally, the period beginning in ca. 1500 CE saw the integration of East Asia into a truly global world economy based on maritime trade. We

will spend time looking at 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. Remote Instruction: What to Expect

This class will be taught online. It will combine both “synchronous” and “asynchronous” elements. These are terms that we use when describing remote or online instruction.

“Synchronous” activities are ones where you, other students, and Prof. Asen will be online at the same time in order to interact in real time. Over the semester there will be four Discussion Meetings that you will be required to attend (**highlighted** on weekly schedule, see below). These will happen over WebEx, and we’ll use the time to check how everyone is doing and go over anything that might require additional explanation or discussion. You will be assigned to a discussion group (1,2,3,4) at the start of the semester, and you should attend the meeting for your group.

Aside from these four required meetings, there will also be near weekly Drop-In Sessions, which are there to provide an opportunity for you to chat with Prof. Asen and other students about course material. You may attend these sessions if you would like, but they are not required.

“Asynchronous” activities are ones that you will do on your own schedule. For example, each week you will watch 2-3 short lectures (5-10 min. each), which are prerecorded in advance. You can watch the lectures whenever you want and at your own pace: you do not have to be online at a certain time to watch them.

Please note that while this class is officially scheduled to meet on all Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-11:20am, you will not always have to be online during these times. You are **only** required to meet online for the four Discussion Meetings, which will happen during Weeks 4, 9, 13, and 15. The dates and times for these meetings are listed on the Weekly Schedule (see below). The Drop-In Sessions listed for other weeks are voluntary and not required. You may attend if you would like but do not have to.

I am always available during the week if you would like to discuss course material or have any questions or concerns about the class. Send me an email at daniel.asen@rutgers.edu and we can find a time to talk over email, phone, or WebEx.

4. Assignments and Grading

Your semester grade will be based on the following:

- Week 1 email to Prof. Asen – 5%
- Discussion Meeting attendance (4) – 5%
- Worksheets (8) – 30%
- Paper #1 – 20%
- Paper #2 – 20%
- Paper #3 – 20%

Week 1 email to Prof. Asen (5%). During the first week of class, I expect you to read the syllabus carefully and take a short remote learning survey, which is available on Canvas (Week 1 Module). After you have read the syllabus and taken this survey, email Prof. Asen (daniel.asen@rutgers.edu) to let him know that you have done so. This is also a chance to ask any questions that you might have about the class. This email counts for 5% of your semester grade, and must be sent by Friday 9/4, 11:59pm (note: all times given are Eastern Standard Time).

Discussion Meeting attendance (5%). Over the semester we will have four Discussion Meetings over WebEx. You will be assigned to a discussion group (1,2,3,4) at the start of the semester. I expect that you will attend all four of these sessions. According to the Rutgers-Newark Undergraduate Catalog: “The recognized grounds for absence are illness requiring medical attention, curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the faculty, personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid, recognized religious holidays, and severe inclement weather causing dangerous traveling conditions.” These are the situations in which an absence can be counted as excused – for all other situations, an absence is unexcused. If you do have to miss a Discussion Meeting for one of these reasons, please let me know in advance.

Worksheets (8) (30%). Over the semester you will complete eight worksheets. The weekly schedule shows when each worksheet is due. Each worksheet will have 4-5 questions that ask you things about the prerecorded lectures and readings for the week. I will post a rubric on Canvas showing how the worksheets will be graded.

Papers (60% total, 20% each). You will write three 3-4 page papers for this class. I will give you a topic and readings for each paper as well as a rubric showing how it will be graded. I will also provide general guidance about writing academic papers. Papers should be written in size 12 type and double spaced. If you have any questions at all about the papers or writing in general, feel free to contact me. I’m happy to give you comments on a first draft of your paper. If you’d like to do this, email me your draft at least one week before it is due.

If you would like general guidance on writing beyond this, you may also contact the Writing Center for tutoring and other support: <https://sasn.rutgers.edu/student-support/tutoring-academic-support/writing-center>.

Grading scale. This is the scale that I will use to determine your semester grade at the end of the semester:

90 - 100	A
87 - 89	B+
80 - 86	B
77 - 79	C+
70 - 76	C
60 - 69	D
59 or less	F

5. Course Readings

All readings are available on Canvas. Go to our course's Canvas site (after logging in here: <https://canvas.rutgers.edu/>). You can find the readings for each week listed under that week's module.

There is no textbook or any other book required for purchase.

6. Academic Integrity

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 policy, which describes the actions that will be counted as violations of academic integrity: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge statement on every assignment that 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.

7. Accommodations and Support

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

For Individuals with Disabilities: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at ods.rutgers.edu. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link:

tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

For support related to interpersonal violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have an obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling (973) 353-5111.

Some other resources that might be useful during this period of remote instruction:

- "Technology Resources for Students": <https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/technology-resources-for-students/>
- Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

8. Weekly Schedule

Note: Every reading, assignment, and WebEx meeting listed on this schedule is available through Canvas, under the module for that week.

Week 1 (9/2): Welcome to History of East Asia I !

- Watch: "Welcome" (on Canvas, Week 1 Module)
- Read the entire syllabus and familiarize yourself with course assignments, requirements, and schedule.
- Take the short remote learning survey, which is available on Canvas, Week 1 Module (Required).
- After you have read the syllabus and taken this survey, email Prof. Asen (daniel.asen@rutgers.edu) to let him know that you have done so. This is also a chance to ask any questions that you have about the class. This email counts for 5% of your semester grade and must be sent by Friday 9/4, 11:59pm.

Week 2 (9/8, 9/9): Geography of East Asia

Note: There is no class on Monday, Sept. 7 due to Labor Day. Tuesday 9/8 follows Monday class schedule.

- Watch: Week 2 Lectures
- Read: "Hauling New Treasure Along the Silk Road," *New York Times* (July 20th, 2013).
- Assignment: Worksheet #1 (due Friday 9/11, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 9/9, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 3 (9/14, 9/16): "China" Before China: The Warring States

- Watch: Week 3 Lectures
- Read:
 - Pines, *The Book of Lord Shang*, "Shang Yang and his times," pp. 7-18
 - Excerpts from *Book of Lord Shang*
 - Qin Legal Cases
- Assignment: Worksheet #2 (due Friday 9/18, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 9/16, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 4 (9/21, 9/23): Who was Confucius? What is Confucianism?

- Watch: Week 4 Lectures
- Read: Excerpts from *The Analects*
- If you haven't already done so, look at instructions for Paper #1, due 10/11
- **Discussion Meeting #1 (WebEx), required:** We'll be addressing any questions that you have about the class so far and go over requirements for Paper #1.
 - Discussion group 1: Monday 9/21, 10 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 2: Monday 9/21, 10:40 - 11:20am
 - Discussion group 3: Wednesday 9/23, 10 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 4: Wednesday 9/23, 10:40 - 11:20am
- No worksheet this week.

Week 5 (9/28, 9/30): China's First Centralized Empires

- Watch: Week 5 Lectures
- Read: Li Ssu: Legalist Theories in Practice
- Assignment: Worksheet #3 (due Friday 10/2, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 9/30, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 6 (10/5, 10/7): Politics and Society under the Han

- Watch: Week 6 Lectures
- Read: The Debate on Salt and Iron
- No worksheet this week
- **Paper #1 Due Sunday 10/11, 11:59pm**

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 10/7, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 7 (10/12, 10/14): Buddhism in China and Central Asia

- Watch: Week 7 Lectures
- Read: Buddhist Doctrines
- Assignment: Worksheet #4 (due Friday 10/16, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 10/14, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 8 (10/19, 10/21): The World of the Tang

- Watch: Week 8 Lectures
- Read: Valerie Hansen, "The Hejia Village Hoard: A Snapshot of China's Silk Road Trade." *Orientalism* 34, no. 2 (2003): 14-19.
- Assignment: Worksheet #5 (due Friday 10/23, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 10/21, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 9 (10/26, 10/28): Early Korea and Japan

- Watch: Week 9 Lectures
- Read:
 - Korean Biographies
 - Seventeen-Article Constitution of Prince Shotoku
- **Discussion Meeting #2 (WebEx), required:** We'll be addressing any questions that you have about the class so far and go over requirements for Paper #2, due 12/6.
 - Discussion group 1: Monday 10/26, 10 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 2: Monday 10/26, 10:40 - 11:20am
 - Discussion group 3: Wednesday 10/28, 10 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 4: Wednesday 10/28, 10:40 - 11:20am
- No worksheet this week

Week 10 (11/2, 11/4): Rise of the Mongols

- Watch: Week 10 Lectures
- Read:
 - Morris Rossabi, *The Mongols and Global History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011) 1-19.
 - Mongol Governor
- Assignment: Worksheet #6 (due Friday 11/6, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 11/4, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 11 (11/9, 11/11): East Asia after the Mongol Empire

- Watch: Week 11 Lectures
- Read:
 - Widows Loyal Unto Death
 - "Madame Yi's Farewell Letter to Her Son" (Jungwon Kim), in *Epistolary Korea: Letters in the Communicative Space of the Chosŏn, 1392-1910*, edited by Jahyun Kim Haboush (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).
- Assignment: Worksheet #7 (due Friday 11/13, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 11/11, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 12 (11/16, 11/18): Imjin War: Background

- Watch: Week 12 Lectures
- Read: Kenneth M. Swope, "Crouching Tigers, Secret Weapons: Military Technology Employed during the Sino-Japanese-Korean War, 1592-1598." *Journal of Military History* 69, no. 1 (2005): 11-41.
- Assignment: Worksheet #8 (due Friday 11/20, 11:59pm)

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 11/18, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 13 (11/23) Imjin War: Technology and Tactics

- Watch: Week 13 Lectures
- Read: "Open Letters: Patriotic Exhortations from the Imjin War" (J. K. Haboush), in *Epistolary Korea: Letters in the Communicative Space of the Chosŏn, 1392-1910*, edited by Jahyun Kim Haboush (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).
- **Discussion Meeting #3 (WebEx), required:** This will be a shorter check-in. Bring any questions that you have about Paper #2 or anything else you'd like to discuss.
 - Discussion group 1: Monday 11/23, 10 - 10:20am
 - Discussion group 2: Monday 11/23, 10:20 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 3: Monday 11/23, 10:40 - 11am
 - Discussion group 4: Monday 11/23, 11 - 11:20am
- No worksheet this week. Work on Paper #2, which is due 12/6.

Week 14 (11/30, 12/2) Post-Imjin War East Asia I

- Watch: Week 14 Lectures
- Read:
 - Michael Laver, "Skins in the Game: The Dutch East India Company, Deerskins, and the Japan Trade," *World History Bulletin* 28, no. 2 (2012): 13-16.
 - Closing of the Country
- No worksheet this week
- **Paper #2 Due Sunday 12/6, 11:59pm**

Drop-in Session (WebEx): Wednesday 12/2, 10:30-11:20am. Feel free to stop by if you would like. Not required.

Week 15 (12/7, 12/9)**Post-Imjin War East Asia II**

- Watch: Week 15 Lectures
- If you haven't done so already, take a look at the materials for Paper #3, which is due 12/21.
- **Discussion Meeting #4 (WebEx), required:** We'll take stock of what we've covered in the class and go over requirements for Paper #3.
 - Discussion group 1: Monday 12/7, 10 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 2: Monday 12/7, 10:40 - 11:20am
 - Discussion group 3: Wednesday 12/9, 10 - 10:40am
 - Discussion group 4: Wednesday 12/9, 10:40 - 11:20am
- No worksheet this week

Paper #3 Due Monday 12/21, 2:45pm