

# History of East Asia I

Fall 2019  
21:510:297

Monday, 2:30 - 3:50 pm  
Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:20 pm  
Hill Hall 104

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

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 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contemporary East Asia within its long-term historical development and will apply their knowledge to analyze a range of historical documents, scholarly works, and other media.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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 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%  
Papers (2) – 40%  
Map quiz – 5%  
Library Resource Worksheet – 5%  
Midterm – 20%  
Final – 20%

Class participation / Attendance (10%). To receive full credit, you must arrive on time, participate in in-class discussions and activities, and be respectful of your classmates. I will record attendance in each class session.

**Note: 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). For an absence to be excused, you must contact me in advance of the class that you will miss in order to receive permission, explain why you have to miss class, and provide suitable documentation (for example, a doctor's note showing that you received medical treatment).**

**Any student who misses eight or more sessions through any combination of excused and unexcused absences will automatically fail the class. Such students should withdraw to avoid getting an F.**

Papers (40% total). This course has two writing assignments: Paper #1 (3-4 pages, 20%), and Paper #2 (4-5 pages, 20%). I will give you a handout for each paper 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.

Map Quiz (5%). For the map 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.

Library resource worksheet (5%). This worksheet will familiarize you with the resources of Dana Library and the Rutgers University Libraries website. I will give you detailed instructions about what this will involve and how it will be graded.

Midterm (20%) and Final (20%). You will receive a detailed handout explaining the format of the midterm and final exams and how they will be graded.

#### **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 book for weekly homework readings and class writing assignments. It 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.

You will be required to read significant portions of the following book for the first paper:

Susan Whitfield. *Life Along the Silk Road*. Second Edition. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015. ISBN: 9780520280595.

Note: There is more than one edition of this book. For the paper you must use the second edition (published 2015).

This book is available electronically through the library catalog on the Rutgers University Libraries website. Search for the book and then follow the links to the online edition. If you would like, you may also purchase it at the campus bookstore or elsewhere.

## **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' 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 the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219, by phone at 973-353-5375 or by email at [odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:odsnewark@newark.rutgers.edu).

2. Rutgers faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. Rutgers has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more.

The University strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the University. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to Policy 10.3.12) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the University. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the University's Title IX Coordinator.

If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have this reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)-353-1918, or at [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu). Learn more about the office here: <http://counseling.newark.rutgers.edu/vpva>

3. 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/academic-integrity-policy/>

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.

4. The Writing Center: The Writing Center (<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>), located in Room 126 of Conklin Hall, offers writing tutoring and writing workshops to all undergraduate students currently enrolled in classes on the Rutgers-Newark campus. Their tutors work to help students become more independent readers and writers capable of responding well to the demands of writing within the university. The Writing Center is available to you free of charge and I encourage you to take advantage of its services to strengthen your reading, writing, and research skills.

## **6. Schedule**

### **Sept. 4    Welcome to “History of East Asia I”!**

- Introduction / overview of class

### **Sept. 9    Geography of East Asia**

- “Hauling New Treasure Along the Silk Road,” *New York Times* (July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013): <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/21/business/global/hauling-new-treasure-along-the-silk-road.html?smid=pl-share>  
(Note: a .pdf of this article is also posted on Blackboard)

**Sept. 11 The Zhou in Decline: Politics and Society in Early China**

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

**Sept. 16 Philosophical Foundations of Imperial China**

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

**Sept. 18 Unifying the Realm: Qin and Han Dynasties**

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

**Sept. 23 Politics and Society under the Han Empire**

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

**Sept. 25 Buddhism in Early China and Inner Asia**

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

**Sept. 30 The World of the Tang**

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- *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. 2 Politics, Society, and Culture in Tang China**

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

**Oct. 7 Early Korea**

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

**Oct. 9 Rulership and Aristocracy in Silla Korea**

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- Document: “Foundation Myths” (10 pages)

- Document: “Biographies” (10 pages)

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**Oct. 14 Early Japan**

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

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**Oct. 16 Aristocracy and Culture in Early Japan**

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

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**Oct. 21 Review Session (Attendance required)**

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- 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

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**Oct. 23 Midterm**

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**Oct. 28 Politics and Society under the Song**

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

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**Oct. 30 The Rise of Neo-Confucianism**

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

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**Nov. 4 Rise of Mongols**

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- Morris Rossabi, *The Mongols and Global History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011) 1-19.
- Document: “A Mongol Governor” (3 pages)

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**Nov. 6 Mongol Empire in East Asia**

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- *East Asia*: Ch. 12, China Under Mongol Rule
- Document: “Zhou Daguan, A Record of Cambodia” (3 pages)

**Nov. 11 Korea Under the Koryo and Choson**

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

**Nov. 13 Politics, Society, and Gender in Choson Korea**

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

**Nov. 18 Rise of the Samurai in Japan**

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

**Nov. 20 Tokugawa Unification**

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

**Nov. 25 Emperors, Eunuchs, and Power in Ming China**

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

**Nov. 27 No Class**

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- **Note: Wednesday Nov. 27 follows a Friday class schedule. For more information, see the RU-N Fall 2019 Academic Calendar.**

**Dec. 2 Society and Culture under the Ming**

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

**Dec. 4 East Asia and the Early Modern World I: Trade and Tribute**

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- John King Fairbank ed., *The Chinese World Order* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1968), 1-14.
- Continue working on Paper #2

**Dec. 9 East Asia and the Early Modern World II: Cultural Exchange**

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- Michael Laver, “Skins in the Game: The Dutch East India Company, Deerskins, and the Japan Trade,” *World History Bulletin* 28, no. 2 (2012): 13-6.

- Continue working on Paper #2

**Dec. 11 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 class
- **Paper #2 due**

**Final Exam: Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3-6 pm, Hill Hall 104 (Our regular classroom)**