History of East Asia I

Fall 2022
21:510:297:90
Online class (Asynchronous)

Instructor: Prof. 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contemporary East Asia within its long-term historical development and will apply their knowledge to analyze a range of historical documents, scholarly works, and other media.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

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. Describe selected historical figures, institutions, places (both human and natural geography), ideas, and events that have shaped the course of East Asian history (China, Japan, Korea) from ancient times to about 1600 CE.

2. Analyze key interactions between individuals and groups that have shaped the course of East Asian history. From a regional perspective, these interactions will include relationships between countries, networks of trade and exchange, the rise and fall of empires, and wars. From the perspective of individual societies, these interactions will include the organization of political systems, state-society relations, the construction of social hierarchies, the family, and gender relations.

3. Analyze historical documents (primary sources) and scholarly works (secondary sources). Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of primary sources, including philosophical texts, historical annals, official documents, legal cases, and other kinds of documents. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify the historical context, intended audience, and agenda and politics of a primary source and take these factors into account when analyzing its historical significance.
4. Produce a persuasive historical argument in writing. By the end of the course, students should be able to write analytical essays that contain historical arguments based on analysis of textual evidence drawn from primary and secondary sources.

3. Assignments and Grading

Your semester grade will be based on the following:

- Week 1 email to Prof. Asen (due 9/9) – 5%
- Weekly discussion board participation – 10%
- Reading response worksheets (5) – 20%
- Paper #1, due 10/16 (3-4 pages) – 15%
- Paper #2, due 12/4 (4-5 pages) – 25%
- Paper #3, due 12/21 (4-5 pages) – 25%

**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 online learning survey, which is available on Canvas (Week 1 Module). After you have read the syllabus and taken this survey, email Prof. Asen 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 9/9, 11:59pm (note: all times given are Eastern Standard Time).

**Weekly discussion board participation (10%).** In lieu of interaction with me and your classmates in a physical classroom, every week you will be required to post to the discussion board on Canvas. These posts will involve presenting your own ideas about the readings and lectures and responding to those of your classmates. I will provide additional details about what your posts should include and how they will be graded.

**Reading response worksheets (5) – 20% total, 4% each.** Over the semester you will complete five worksheets. Each worksheet will ask you to read and analyze the readings, make connections between the readings and prerecorded lectures, and consider the larger themes of the class.

You will see on the class schedule that many weeks have this symbol (📝) next to the dates. This means that there is a worksheet available for that week. **You may choose which weeks’ worksheets you want to do, but over the semester you must complete 5 in total.**

Each worksheet is due by Friday 11:59pm on the week in which it is assigned. So, for example, the worksheet that is available for Week 4 would be due by 11:59pm on Friday 9/30. I will post a rubric on Canvas showing how the worksheets will be graded and the late submission policy.

**Papers.** You will write three papers for this class: one 3-4 page paper (Paper #1) worth 15% of your grade and two 4-5 page papers (Papers #2 and #3) that are each worth 25% of your grade. 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 am happy to give you comments on a first draft of your paper. If you would 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.** Each graded assignment will have its own grading scale, which will be provided along with its rubric. Below is the scale that I will use to determine your semester grade at the end of the semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or less</td>
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4. **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.

5. **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 that we will cover), 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. 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 technology resources that might be useful:
- Link to RU-N “Technology LaunchPad”: https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/tp
- Rutgers-Newark Tech Support: https://mytech.newark.rutgers.edu/techsupport
7. Weekly Schedule

**Week 1: Welcome to History of East Asia I ! (9/6-9/9)**
- Watch: “Welcome” (on Canvas, Week 1 Module)
- Read the entire syllabus and familiarize yourself with course assignments, requirements, and schedule.
- Take the short online 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 9/9, 11:59pm.

**Week 2: Geography of East Asia (9/12-9/16)**
- Watch: Week 2 Lectures
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 9/16, 11:59pm.

- Watch: Week 3 Lectures
- Read:
  - Excerpts from *Book of Lord Shang*
  - Qin Legal Cases
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 9/23, 11:59pm.

**Week 4: Who was Confucius? What is Confucianism? (9/26-9/30)**
- Watch: Week 4 Lectures
- Read: Excerpts from *The Analects*
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 9/30, 11:59pm.

**Week 5: China’s First Centralized Empires (10/3-10/7)**
- Watch: Week 5 Lectures
- Read: Li Ssu: Legalist Theories in Practice
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 10/7, 11:59pm.

**Week 6: Politics and Society under the Han (10/10-10/14)**
- Watch: Week 6 Lectures
- Read: The Debate on Salt and Iron
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 10/14, 11:59pm.

*Paper #1 due Sunday 10/16, 11:59pm*
**Week 7: Buddhism in China and Central Asia (10/17-10/21)**
- Watch: Week 7 Lectures
- Read: Buddhist Doctrines
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 10/21, 11:59pm.

**Week 8: The World of the Tang (10/24-10/28)**
- Watch: Week 8 Lectures
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 10/28, 11:59pm.

**Week 9: Early Korea and Japan (10/31-11/4)**
- Watch: Week 9 Lectures
- Read:
  - Korean Biographies
  - Seventeen-Article Constitution of Prince Shotoku
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 11/4, 11:59pm.

**Week 10: Rise of the Mongols (11/7-11/11)**
- Watch: Week 10 Lectures
- Read:
  - Mongol Governor
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 11/11, 11:59pm.

**Week 11: East Asia after the Mongol Empire (11/14-11/18)**
- Watch: Week 11 Lectures
- Read:
  - Widows Loyal Unto Death
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 11/18, 11:59pm.

**Week 12: Imjin War: Background (11/21-11/23)**
- Watch: Week 12 Lectures
- Post on Discussion Board by Wednesday 11/23, 11:59pm.
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Week 13: Imjin War: Technology and Tactics (11/28-12/2)

- Watch: Week 13 Lectures
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 12/2, 11:59pm.

Paper #2 due Sunday 12/4, 11:59pm

Week 14: Post-Imjin War East Asia I (12/5-12/9)

- Watch: Week 14 Lectures
- Read:
  - Timothy Brook, The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China (1998). Read pages 1-8 of the .pdf on Canvas, including the following sections: Foreign Trade, Silver, Merchants. Stop at “Merchant Values.”
  - “Closing of the Country.” Note: Only read Documents 13 and 14, on pages 221-222.
- Post on Discussion Board by Friday 12/9, 11:59pm.

Week 15: Post-Imjin War East Asia II (12/12-12/14)

- Watch: Week 15 Lectures
- Post on Discussion Board by Wednesday 12/14, 11:59pm.

Paper #3 due Wednesday 12/21, 11:59pm