

History of East Asia I

Fall 2021

21:510:297:01

Online class

Mondays and Wednesdays, 10-11:20am. Note: You will not always have to be online at these times. See details below.

Instructor: Prof. Daniel Asen

Virtual office hours by appointment. Email me and we can set up a time to talk over phone or Zoom. 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contemporary East Asia within its long-term historical development and will apply their knowledge to analyze a range of historical documents, scholarly works, and other media.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 Analyze historical documents (primary sources) and scholarly works (secondary sources).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. 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 on Zoom at the same time in order to interact in real time. This class includes the following synchronous activities: Paper Assignment Meetings and Discussion Meetings. These will happen on certain Wednesdays throughout the semester (see below for details). You will not have to be online during the scheduled class time on any Monday.

“Asynchronous” activities are ones that you will do on your own schedule. For example, each week you will watch 2-3 short lectures (~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.

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 Zoom.

4. Assignments and Grading

Your semester grade will be based on the following:

- Week 1 email to Prof. Asen (due 9/3) – 5%
- Attendance at Paper Assignment Meetings on 9/15 and 11/3 (highlighted in green on schedule below) – 5%
- Attendance and participation at Discussion Meetings (4) (highlighted in yellow) – 15%
- Primary source analysis worksheets (5) – 25%
- Paper #1, due 10/10 (3-4 pages) – 20%
- Paper #2, due 12/5 (4-5 pages) – 30%

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 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 9/3, 11:59pm (note: all times given are Eastern Standard Time).

Attendance at Paper Assignment Meetings on 9/15 and 11/3 (5%). We will use these meetings to go over the paper assignments, how they will be graded, and some basics of academic writing. These meetings will be held over Zoom and attendance is required. The meetings are highlighted in **green** on the class schedule.

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 for a meeting can be counted as excused – for all other situations, an absence is unexcused. If you will be absent for one of these reasons, please let me know in advance.

Attendance and participation at Discussion Meetings (4) (15%). If you look at the class schedule below, you will see that there are Discussion Meetings, highlighted in **yellow**, scheduled for various weeks. During these sessions, we will go over course material and read and discuss short primary sources together.

Over the semester, you are required to attend at least 4 of these meetings. You can choose which ones to attend.

You should have watched the prerecorded lectures and done the assigned reading before the session so that you are able to fully participate. I will be looking for you to contribute to the conversation and ask questions, whether using your camera and audio, only audio, or chat. In order to receive full credit, you must participate at least once during the session using one of these means.

Primary source analysis worksheets (5) – 25% total, 5% 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 3 would be due by 11:59pm on Friday

9/17. I will post a rubric on Canvas showing how the worksheets will be graded and the late submission policy.

Papers. You will write two papers for this class. The first, Paper #1 (3-4 pages), is due on 10/10 and is worth 20% of your grade. The second, Paper #2 (4-5 pages), is due on 12/5 and is worth 30% of your grade. I will give you instructions for each paper as well as a rubric showing how it will be graded. I will also provide general guidance about writing academic papers.

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. 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:

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:

- Link to RU-N "Technology LaunchPad": <https://runit.rutgers.edu/technology-launch-pad/>
- Contact information for OIT-Newark Help Desk: <https://runit.rutgers.edu/hd/>

8. Weekly Schedule

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

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

- 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 9/3, 11:59pm.

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

Note: Wednesday 9/8 follows Monday class schedule.

- Watch: Week 2 Lectures
- Read: "Hauling New Treasure Along the Silk Road," *New York Times* (July 20th, 2013).
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 9/8, 10-11:20am.**

Week 3: "China" Before China: The Warring States (9/13, 9/15)

- 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
- **Paper #1 Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 9/15, 10-11:20am.**

Week 4: Who was Confucius? What is Confucianism? (9/20, 9/22) ✍

- Watch: Week 4 Lectures
- Read: Excerpts from *The Analects*
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 9/22, 10-11:20am.**

Week 5: China's First Centralized Empires (9/27, 9/29) ✍

- Watch: Week 5 Lectures
- Read: Li Ssu: Legalist Theories in Practice
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 9/29, 10-11:20am.**

Week 6: Politics and Society under the Han (10/4, 10/6) ✍

- Watch: Week 6 Lectures
- Read: The Debate on Salt and Iron

Paper #1 due Sunday 10/10 by 11:59pm

Week 7: Buddhism in China and Central Asia (10/11, 10/13) ✍

- Watch: Week 7 Lectures
- Read: Buddhist Doctrines

Week 8: The World of the Tang (10/18, 10/20)

- 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.
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 10/20, 10-11:20am.**

Week 9: Early Korea and Japan (10/25, 10/27) ✍

- Watch: Week 9 Lectures
- Read:
 - Korean Biographies
 - Seventeen-Article Constitution of Prince Shotoku

Week 10: Rise of the Mongols (11/1, 11/3) ✍

- Watch: Week 10 Lectures
- Read:
 - Morris Rossabi, *The Mongols and Global History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2011) 1-19.
 - Mongol Governor
- **Paper #2 Meeting (Zoom), required: Wednesday 11/3, 10-11:20am.**

Week 11: East Asia after the Mongol Empire (11/8, 11/10) ✍

- 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).

Week 12: Imjin War: Background (11/15, 11/17) ✍

- 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.
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 11/17, 10-11:20am.**

Week 13: Imjin War: Technology and Tactics (11/22) ✍

- 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).

THANKSGIVING RECESS

Week 14: Post-Imjin War East Asia I (11/29, 12/1)

- Watch: Week 14 Lectures
- No reading. Work on Paper #2.

Paper #2 due Sunday 12/5 by 11:59pm

Week 15: Post-Imjin War East Asia II (12/6, 12/8) ✍

- Watch: Week 15 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
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 12/8, 10-11:20am.**

Week 16: Final Discussion (12/13)

- Read: Ross Andersen, "What Happens If China Makes First Contact?" *The Atlantic*, December 2017.
- **Discussion Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday 12/13, 10-11:20am.**