

Syllabus for History/EA 255: East Asian Civilization

Professor: Viren Murthy (vmurthy2@wisc.edu)

Meeting Times: TTH 4:00—5:15

Meeting Room: Humanities 1641

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:30

Office: Mosse Building 4108

TA: Hu HSU (hhsu38@wisc.edu)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the political, intellectual and cultural transformations in East Asia from Ancient times to the present. We will draw on resources from the disciplines of history, political science, anthropology and international relations to examine the changes taking place in this region, often referred to as East Asia. Throughout this course, we will examine why and to what extent it makes sense to think of East Asia as having a unity. During different times, the area has been seen to be unified based on different characteristics, such as Confucianism and Chinese writing system, tribute system, trading, Buddhism and numerous other factors. We will study each of these aspects and understand how in this region people themselves grasped their identity and also interrogate the benefits and drawbacks of thinking about East Asia as a geographical entity today.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand in depth a major geographical region of the world, one that is becoming increasingly prominent in recent years.
2. Students will study how regions and geographical boundaries are imagined differently in various historical periods.
3. The lectures and the class assignments will encourage students to analyze writings about history and construct arguments about East Asia.
4. Students will also learn about how interdisciplinary thinking can help conceive problems in new ways. For example, by examining how political ideologies change through time, students will be able to analyze politics and philosophy historically. At the same time, by studying how people wrote history in different epochs for different purposes, students will grasp the political implications of writing history.

Credit Hours and Policy

This 4-credit course meets as a group for 4 hours per week (each 50 minute segment of lecture and discussion counts as one hour according to UW-Madison's credit hour policy). The course also carries the expectation that you will spend an average of at least 2 hours outside of class for every hour in the classroom. In other words, in addition to

class time, plan to allot an average of at least 8 hours per week for reading, writing, preparing for discussions, and/or studying for exams for this class.

Academic Misconduct:

We deal with academic misconduct severely. Papers with any plagiarized content will receive an “F” with no chance for a rewrite. If you directly copy more than five words in a row without citing their source, or if you include interpretations and conclusions that are not your own without citing their source, you are committing plagiarism even if you paraphrase. These principles must guide you whether your source is from printed or electronic sources and whether an author’s name is listed or not.

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: 10%
Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Exam (Take Home) 3: 25%
Paper: 25%

Grading Scale:

94-100 A
90-93 AB
83-89 B
80-83 BC
71-79 C
60-70 D
Below 60 F

You are expected to attend all classes and the instructor and TA will randomly take attendance. You are also expected to respond to questions during the lecture by the instructor and participate in the discussion sections with the TA.

There are three exams and one paper in this class. The first two exams will be in class and will consist of short answer and essay questions. The final exam will be a cumulative take home exam, which will consist of essay questions. They consist of open questions, which should give students an opportunity to express what they have learned over the semester.

All students will write a paper, (5-7 pages, 10-15 pages for honors, Times Roman Font 12, double space) on a topic of your choice. Below I list some possibilities:

How did Confucianism change when it was introduced into Japan and Korea?
What was Lao Zi’s critique of Confucianism? How would you respond to this critique?

How would you think about the contemporary Chinese or Japanese economic and political policies or economic policies historically?

Why Does Japan still have an Emperor System? What is its function and how did it change during the 20th Century?

Compare the history of women and China, Japan and Korea during the 20th Century.

What were the origins of the Korean War?

The North Korean economy seemed to be doing well during the 1950s, why is it in so much trouble now?

You should definitely do some outside research for this paper, but the bulk of the project can be based on secondary works, i.e, books and articles about the topic. Students should attempt to formulate their own thesis about the topic and defend their position with an argument. It is highly advised that students consult the TA or the Instructor as they are developing their ideas for the paper.

Required Texts:

Charles Holcombe, *A History of East Asia: From the Origins to the Twenty-First Century*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017 (second edition). The book should be available at the bookstore.

Other readings will be available on the Canvas.

Readings are an essential part of the learning experience. You are to come to class having read the texts for that day. If I feel that people are not doing the readings. I may give pop-quizzes to encourage students to do the readings. These quizzes will count towards participation.

Extra Credit:

There may be public lectures for which you can get extra-credit (The amount varies from semester to semester). In order to get credit, you must go to the lecture and write a two to three-page response outlining the significance of the talk in relation to the themes that we have studied in the course.

Tentative Schedule:

(Instructor may alter dates and readings during the course of the semester)

Week 1 Introduction: What is East Asia?

Jan. 21: Syllabus Defining a region and Writing Systems
Holcombe 1-11

Jan. 23: East Asian Writing Systems, Mythical Origins of East Asia and Confucianism
John De Francis, *Chinese Language: Fact and Fantasy*, Chapter 3
Confucius, *The Analects*, D. C. Lau Trans., 59-80

Week 2 The Formative Era and the Philosophical Classics

Jan. 28: Daoism
Holcombe 30-45
Lao Zi, *Tao Te Ching*, D. C. Lau Trans., 57-87
Chuang Tsu (Zhuangzi), pp. 23-50, 96-111

Jan. 30: Qin Emperor's Unification and the Age of Cosmopolitanism-up to Tang
Holcombe pp. 45-72
Jia Yi "Faults of the Qin"

Week 3 Buddhism in Early East Asia and State Formation in Japan

Feb. 4: Early East Asia and the Spread of Buddhism
Holcombe, 72-81
Robert Buswell, "Thinking about Korean Buddhism"

Feb. 6: Early Korean Kingdoms and Yamato Japan
Holcombe 81-95
Farris, *Japan to 1600*, 1-27

Week 4 Transformations from the 10th to 16th Centuries

Feb. 11: Sui-Tang Dynasties in Relation to Korea and Japan
Holcombe 95-126

Feb. 13: Sui-Tang Dynasties in Relation to Korea and Japan (continued)
Holcombe, 132-152

Week 5 Emergence of Samurai and Zen Buddhism

Feb. 18: Heian Japan and the Birth of a Warrior Class—Samurai Japan
Holcombe, 154-158
Essay on Women and Heian

Feb. 20: Esai and Dogen, Buddhism Between China and Japan
Read Dogen, *Shobozenzo* and *Genjo Koan*. (If there is time, review for exam)

Week 6 Exam and Song Dynasty

Feb. 25: Exam 1

Feb. 27: Song Dynasty, Koryo and Mongols
Holcombe 132-149
Holcombe 149-161
Tackett, *Origins of the Chinese Nation*, Chapter 1

Week 7 Early Modern East Asia

March 3: Early Modern China, Korea and Japan
Holcombe 167-187
Woodside, *Lost Modernities*, 1-17

March 5: Early modern continued Toyotomi Hidiyoshi—begin Tokugawa period and Intellectuals
Holcombe 187-199
Wakita Osami, “The Emergence of the State in Sixteenth Century Japan,”

Week 8 Tokugawa Intellectuals and Opium War

March 10: Tokugawa Intellectuals continued Opium War
Holcombe 217- 225
Ogyu Sorai, Motoori Norinaga (essays)
Oliver Ansart, “Rituals as Utopia”

March 12: Opium War and Chinese Modernity
Holcombe 225-235
Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing*, Chapter 11

Week 9 Spring Recess: March 14-22

Week 10 East Asia Confronts the Global World

March 24: Meiji Restoration
Holcombe 240-259
Amy Stanley, “Enlightenment Geisha”
Optional:
Barker: “Origins of the Meiji Restoration”

March 26: Fukuzawa Yukichi
Read Fukuzawa Yukichi (selections uploaded)

Week 11 The 1911 Revolution and its Aftermath

March 31: Sino-Japanese War—Russo-Japanese War and the 1911 Revolution
Holcombe, 259-270
Reread Holcombe, 230-240

April 2: Opening of Korea and Lu Xun and the May Fourth Movement
Read Lu Xun, "Diary of a Madman" and "The True Story of Ah Q"
Holcombe 270-275

Week 12 Japan and World War II

April 7: Pan-Asianism and World War II
Holcombe, 288-295
Eri Hotta, Essay on Rash Behari Bose

April 9: Pan-Asianism and World War II
Holcombe, 299-304
Miyagi, "Postwar Pan-Asianism"

Week 13 Exam and Film

April 14: Exam 2

April 16: Film

Week 14 Post-War Korea and Japan

April 21: Film

April 23: Postwar Korea and Japan
Holcombe, 311-323
Holcombe, 330-344
Essay on Park Chung-hee
Park Chung-hee on nationalism

Week 15 Chinese Cultural Revolution and the New Left

April 28: Mao, 1949 Revolution and the Cultural Revolution
Holcombe, 359-377

Meisner, *Mao Zedong: A Political and Intellectual Portrait*, 161-193

April 30: Neo-Liberalism and the New Left in Post 1990 China Globalization and
Visions of Asia in Contemporary Japan
Wang Hui essay on June 4th

Optional: Leo Ching, "Mass Culture and Asianism in the Age of Late Capital"
Koichi Iwabuchi, "Nostalgia for a (Different) Asian Modernity"
Paik Nak-Chung, "Barriers to Reconciliation in East Asia"

Take Home Exam given in Class, final paper and any extra-credit due

May 4: 11:59 pm Final Exam due