

## **Syllabus for History/EA 255: East Asian Civilization (Online Version)**

**Professor:** Viren Murthy ([vmurthy2@wisc.edu](mailto:vmurthy2@wisc.edu))

**Meeting Times:** Online—lectures uploaded—details below

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 4-6pm or by appointment

Office hours will be held through Blackboard Collaborate. You may enter through canvas. If you have questions please contact the instructor.

**TA:** Shatrunjay Mall ([mall2@wisc.edu](mailto:mall2@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. Due to the pandemic we will not meet in person, but the instructor will upload lectures either in the form of videos or power-point with voice-over. The content of the course is not different from the in-person version.

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.

### **Accommodations for Students with Disability**

Please notify the instructor during the first week of the semester if you have a documented requirement for accommodation in this course. If you have any questions about this or require any assistance, feel free to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center at 263-2741.

### **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 and there will be the equivalent of 4 hours per week instruction (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 of lecture. 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:**

Watching Lectures, Writing Reading Responses and Commenting on Reading Responses:  
30%

Quizzes: 10%

Mid-Term Exam (Take-Home): 20%

Final Exam (Take Home) : 20%

Paper: 20%

Grading Scale:

94-100 A

90-93 AB

83-89 B

80-83 BC

71-79 C

60-70 D

Below 60 F

### **Meet the Professor Requirement:**

Each Student is required to visit my office hours or make an appointment to see me at least twice during the semester. Each meeting will be for approximately thirty minutes. The first meeting will be general and we can discuss various issues in the course and I would like to get to know what you find interesting about East Asia. The second will be more focused on the paper you are going to write. Before the second meeting, students should submit either an outline or a draft of their paper for discussion. The first meeting should be during weeks one through seven and the second should be during weeks seven through the end of the semester. Because there are many students in the class, I urge you to make appointments early.

### **Assignments, Quizzes and Exams**

Because of the pandemic, this class will not meet in class, but the instructor will upload lectures, power point or videos before the time of the class on Tuesday and Thursday. For this reason, we have organized the syllabus around Tuesday and Thursday lectures. You are expected to watch all the videos/power point and complete the assignments, which the instructor or the TA will check.

Participate in the discussion sections with the TA.

Each power point will end with some discussion questions that you are to answer on Canvas. Each post should be approximately 250 words and is an important part of your grade. These posts are due on every Wednesday and Friday by 5pm. For each session, you are also required to comment on a fellow classmate's post. The comment should be about 100 words and can either disagree with a point or develop some of the ideas in it. These replies are due by Wednesday at 10pm and Friday at 10 pm. Given that your fellow students might be commenting on your work, I strongly urge you to turn in your discussion posts on time.

There are two quizzes, two exams and one paper in this class. The quizzes will be short answer or multiple choice and be found on Canvas. The mid-term exam and 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, but am open to any topic that is related to East Asia:

How did Confucianism change when it was introduced into Japan and Korea?  
What was Laozi'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 20<sup>th</sup> Century?

Compare the history of women and China, Japan and Korea during the 20<sup>th</sup> 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?

Notice that each of the above topic poses a question to which there might be different answers. You are encouraged to choose your own topic, but there must be something controversial about your subject. In other words, people should be able to disagree with your position, which will require you to formulate an argument.

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, many of which you will read for class. The secondary sources should help you find your position, by asking simple questions, such as do you agree with the author's position? Why or Why not? In many cases, the discussion questions that I provide at the end of lecture could also serve as a springboard for a paper. I will elaborate more about the paper in a lecture. It is also 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 will be made available to you by bookstore in some form.

Other readings will be available on the Canvas.

Readings are an essential part of the learning experience. Please do the readings before you watch the lecture power points/videos.

### **Tentative Schedule:**

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

### **Week 1 Introduction: What is East Asia?**

Sept. 3: Introduction to the Course: Defining A Region

Holcombe 1-11

## **I. Pre-modern East Asia**

### **Week 2 The Formative Era and the Philosophical Classics**

Sept. 8. East Asian Writing Systems, Mythical Origins of East Asia and Begin Confucianism

John De Francis, *Chinese Language: Fact and Fantasy*, Chapter 3

Sept. 10: Confucianism and Daoism

Holcombe 30-45

Confucius, *The Analects*, D. C. Lau Trans., 59-80

Lao Zi, *Tao Te Ching (Daode jing)*, D. C. Lau Trans., 57-87

Chuang Tsu (Zhuangzi), pp. 23-50, 96-111

### **Week 3 Unification of China and the Early Spread of Buddhism**

Sept.15: Qin Emperor's Unification and the Age of Cosmopolitanism-up to Tang

Holcombe pp. 45-72

Jia Yi "Faults of the Qin"

Yuri Pines, "The Messianic Emperor: A Look at the Qin's Place in China's History"

Sept. 17: Early East Asia and the Spread of Buddhism

Holcombe, 72-81

Robert Buswell, "Thinking about Korean Buddhism"

### **Week 4. Early Japan and the Sui-Tang Unification**

Sept. 22: Early Korean Kingdoms and Yamato Japan

Holcombe 81-95

Farris, *Japan to 1600*, 1-27

Sept. 24 : Sui-Tang Dynasties in Relation to Korea and Japan

Holcombe 95-126

### **Week 5 Sui-Tang Continued**

Sept. 29: Sui-Tang Dynasties in Relation to Korea and Japan (continued)

Holcombe, 132-152

Oct. 1: Film on Wu Zetian—Only Female Chinese Emperor  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeZ7esmQcm4>

**Quiz 1 given by 4 pm on Oct. 1 and due by 4 pm on Oct. 2 –on canvas.**

## **II Early Modern East Asia: Transformations from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries**

### **Week 6 Emergence of Samurai and Zen Buddhism**

Oct. 6: Heian Japan and the Birth of a Warrior Class—Samurai Japan  
Holcombe, 154-158  
Essay on Women and Heian

Oct. 8: Esai and Dogen, Buddhism Between China and Japan  
Read Dogen, Shobozenzo and Genjo Koan.

### **Week 7 Song Dynasty and Early Modern East Asia**

Oct. 13: Song Dynasty, Koryo and Mongols  
Holcombe 132-149  
Holcombe 149-161  
Tackett, *Origins of the Chinese Nation*, Chapter 1

Oct. 15: Early Modern China, Korea and Japan  
Holcombe 167-187  
Woodside, *Lost Modernities*, 1-17

**Quiz 2 given by 4pm on Oct 15 and due by 4pm Oct.16—on canvas.**

### **Week 8 Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa Intellectual Trends**

Oct. 20: Early modern continued Toyotomi Hidiyoshi—begin Tokugawa period and Intellectuals  
Holcombe 187-199  
Wakita Osami, “The Emergence of the State in Sixteenth Century Japan,”

**Oct. 22: Mid-Term Exam (Cumulative) given by 4pm Oct. 22 and due by 6pm Oct. 23.**

## **III Modern East Asia or East Asia Confronts the Global Capitalist World**

### **Week 9: Tokugawa Intellectuals Continued and the Opium War**

Oct. 27: Tokugawa Intellectuals  
Holcombe 217- 225  
Ogyu Sorai, Motoori Norinaga (essays)  
Oliver Ansart, “Rituals as Utopia”

Oct. 29: Opium War and Chinese Modernity  
Holcombe 225-235  
Giovanni Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing*, Chapter 11

### **Week 10 Meiji Restoration and Fukuzawa Yukichi**

Nov. 3: Meiji Restoration  
Holcombe 240-259  
Amy Stanley, “Enlightenment Geisha”  
Optional:  
Barker: “Origins of the Meiji Restoration”

Nov. 5: Fukuzawa Yukichi  
Read Fukuzawa Yukichi (selections uploaded)

### **Week 11 Sino-Japanese War, the 1911 Revolution and its Aftermath**

Nov. 10: Sino-Japanese War—Russo-Japanese War and the  
1911 Revolution  
Holcombe, 259-270  
Reread Holcombe, 230-240

Nov. 12: 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**

Nov. 17: Pan-Asianism and World War II  
Holcombe, 288-295  
Eri Hotta, Essay on Rash Behari Bose

Nov. 19: Pan-Asianism and World War II  
Holcombe, 299-304  
Miyagi, “Postwar Pan-Asianism”

### **Week 13 Film**

Nov 24: Film

Nov. 26: Thanksgiving

## **Week 14 Post-War Korea and Japan**

Dec. 1: Film

Dec. 3: 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**

Dec. 8: Mao, 1949 Revolution and the Cultural Revolution  
Holcombe, 359-377

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

Dec. 10: Neo-Liberalism and the New Left in Post 1990 China Globalization and Visions of Asia in Contemporary Japan  
Wang Hui essay on June 4<sup>th</sup>

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”

**final paper due**

**Take Home Final Exam (Cumulative) given on Dec. 10 by 4pm and due by Dec 14: 11:59 pm**