

(2015 Tentative Syllabus)

Piracy, Religion, and Seafaring in East Asia

Hist. 410

Erik Glowark

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M-R 16:00-17:50

June 22nd – July 19th

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This class explores East Asian history from a maritime perspective rather than from a land-based/nation-based one. In doing so, we expand our notions of what constitutes “Japanese history” or “Chinese history.” By recognizing that bodies of water, such as the East China Sea, were actually conduits instead of barriers, we discover a vibrant area full of international contacts, seafaring peoples (pirates included), missionaries, and cultural exchange. We will examine seemingly peripheral space and people, such as Koxinga or the island domain of Tsushima, to gauge major sea changes in the political, social, religious, and economic life of a larger area linked together by maritime connections. In short, we will be looking at what the seas brought to East Asia and what East Asia brought to the seas.

Required Reading

Texts posted on Blackboard. Readings will be announced in class and be about 20 pages per class period. Longer reading assignments will be given over the weekends.

Evaluation

Attendance (15%), Two map quizzes (5% each), a midterm (30%), a final exam (30%), and one short paper (3-4 pages) based upon readings (15%)

Policies

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Assignments found guilty of such an infernal deed will receive an automatic zero.

Attendance is not only required, but also essential for doing well in this class. Be sure to take careful notes each class period because full outlines of information will not be posted on blackboard.

Office Hours

R: 12:00-1:30 and by appointment. I am also available every day right after class for consultation.

What we will learn in this class (Learning Objectives):

-An understanding of the critical role that maritime activity has played in the history of East Asia. We'll examine how it facilitated the growth of trade, the spread of religions across cultures, and the emergence of both state maritime forces (such as the fleet of Zheng He) and extra-state forces (such as smugglers and pirates).

-A solid knowledge base of the major figures, places, events, and trends of East Asian maritime history.

-How to analyze primary sources for clues on how two religions, Buddhism and Christianity, spread across East Asia. We will read the diary of Ennin (c. 793-864) and the correspondences of Francis Xavier (1506-1552) to see how both pilgrims and missionaries used maritime networks to further their religious enterprises.

-An understanding of how maritime history fits into the larger historiography of East Asia and world history. In the last decade, historians have given greater attention to maritime history to illuminate previously unexplored aspects of East Asian history. By examining the connectivity of such places as Kyushu or the Southeast China coast, we are able to recast these seemingly peripheral locations as central for the region as a whole.

Week 1: Early Contacts

June 22: Orientation and Reorientation

June 23: Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade/The Southern Shift

June 24: Hakata: The International Gateway

June 25: Terror from the Seas: The Mongol Invasions of Japan

Week 2: The Medieval East Asian Maritime Network and State Interference

June 29: Reversing Course: Ming Taizu, Zheng He, and the Impact of Maritime Restrictions

 Paper on Ennin Due

 Documentary: *Sultan's Lost Treasure*

June 30: Dwarf Pirates: *Wakō*, the Noshima Sea lords, the Matsura-tō, and the Freedom of the Seas

July 01: Portuguese Traders and Jesuit Missionaries

July 02: The Imjin War: Japan's Failure at Overseas Expansion

Week 3: Early Modern Stability and Upheaval

July 06: Midterm

July 07: Koxinga and Dutch Colonialism

July 08: The End of Christianity in Japan/*Sakoku* Reexamined

Paper on Francis Xavier Due
July 09: Qing Maritime Policies and Early Modern Pirate Armadas

Week 4: Modern/Contemporary Agression

July 13: Enter Europe... With Guns and Drugs

July 14: *Nanshin* and *Kaigun*: Japan Takes to the Seas

Film: *Otokotachi no Yamato* (男たちの大和)

July 15: Contemporary pirates and environmental concerns:

Film: *Pirates of Bubuan*

Film: *The Cove*

July 16: Final Exam

Accessibility:

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me immediately—especially before the first quiz—if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu .