

HISTORY 190: Foundations of East Asian Civilizations

Lecture

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WIL

317 McKenzie Hall

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Zoom office hours: T 13:00-15:00

Fall 2021 110

CRN 17964

MW 10:00-11:20

Sections

Dr. des. Breann Goosman

Office hours: Th. 11-12:50

in MCK 340

or via Zoom

WELCOME TO FOUNDATIONS OF EAST ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS!

In this course we will explore the cultures of East Asia, especially of China and Japan with 'content excursions' to Korea and Vietnam and a real excursion from the classroom to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (JSMA), our art museum on campus. The museum's original collection focused on works of art from China, Japan, and Korea and therefore the exhibitions on view complement the content of our course. Since it first opened in 1933 the JSMA doubled in size and its Asian collections are strong and growing. I hope to show you some stellar art that will reflect some of the concepts we address in our course.

[A Minute Exhibit: Myriad Treasures: The Reinstallation of the Soreng Gallery of Chinese Art \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

HISTORY 190 is an introduction to aspects of the traditional cultures of China and Japan through the mid 1400s. No prior knowledge of East Asia is assumed or required. The course will combine lectures, visual material, and discussion sessions lead by a graduate student.

We will approach the East Asian macro-culture by focusing on three broad periods (approximate dates): 5000 B.C.E. - 100 C.E.; 600 - 1100; and 1200 - 1660.

The first period introduces us to the beginnings of specific cultural traits in China and Japan and will then focus on a “classical golden age.” We will encounter the Chinese philosophical and political ideas, as well as the Buddhist philosophical and religious ideas, that have shaped East Asian civilization.

The second period is marked by the cosmopolitan Tang period in China, and the classical Nara and Heian periods in Japan. We will look at such topics as the ways in which both societies benefited from the information transmitted via the Silk Road; the influence of the Tang on the development of its neighbors, especially on Japanese civilization; the crucial role of Neo-Confucianism in shaping the intellectual traditions of East-Asia; the role of literary compositions on cultural concepts and issues of food availability and of health and bodies.

The third period is coincident with the Chinese Song, and Yuan (Mongol) dynasties, and the medieval Japanese Kamakura and Muromachi periods. We will note some technologies of rule and culture: the Song printing revolution; the examination system and civil service system; the impact of the Mongols as they created the world’s largest empire; Japan’s first warrior dynasty; female rights in China's Neo-Confucian; examples of using art to illuminate social history; and trade, piracy and international order across the seas of East Asia. Wherever possible we will connect historical phenomena with observations of developments in the modern transformation of East Asian societies.

TEXT: Ebrey and Walthall (EW). *Pre-Modern East Asia to 1800: A Cultural, Social and Political History*. 3rd edition.

(Available in the DuckStore: [Click here for a Link to the DuckStore \(Links to an external site.\)](#))

The books is also available for rent or purchase through other stores.

COURSE EVALUATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Three reaction papers on texts / audio / video resources provided on Canvas from which you may choose. Reaction papers will consist of a brief comment on

- why you chose the selected text / resource on a respective topic;

- your reaction to the content;

- and a short description how the content enhanced your understanding of the topic.

Reaction papers are due on Wednesday, October 13, Wednesday, November 03 and Wednesday, November 17. (Each reaction paper is worth 10 %; together they present 30 % of the course grade). A more detailed description on how to write a reaction paper as well as an example will be provided in a separate Canvas module.

2. A Museum visit report, due Wednesday, November 24. In the report (3-4 pages; double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman) you will choose one or several objects (not more than 3) from the Chinese, Japanese, Korean collection. You can choose objects from one or several areas. In addition to the label information you will provide a historical contextualization of the respective objects. (20 %)

3. Attendance in lectures (10%). If for whatever valid reason (illness, family emergency etc.) you are or were unable to attend, please let me know at your very earliest convenience.

4. Two quizzes covering the course content. Quiz 1: Wednesday, October 20; Quiz 2: Wednesday, November 17 during class time (20 % each). A study guide will be provided.

Late assignments may be penalized.

COURSE ACHIEVEMENTS:

Successful completion of the course should result in:

- **A sense of some of the historical dynamics – intellectual, military, political, social – that have shaped the unfolding of East Asian civilizations.**
- **Acquaintance with some of the visual legacies of East Asian civilizations.**
- **A sense of how historians seek to explain such things as the interactions of cultural and social factors, the unfolding of historical events, inevitability and serendipity.**
- **A sense of how to understand or approach thinking about different assumptions regarding individual and society.**
- **Enhancing your writing skills and confidence in articulating your thoughtful assessment of material.**

UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT, AND COURSE POLICIES:

LEARNING ACCOMMODATION and BASIC NEEDS

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me 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 at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Life at college can be complicated. Students may feel overwhelmed or stressed, experience anxiety or depression, struggle with relationships, or just need help navigating challenges in their life. If you're facing such challenges, you don't need to handle them on your own--there's help and support on campus.

As your instructor it is not my intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know that help is available: University Health Services help students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. You will find information related to address COVID-19 issues on a separate module of our course website.

If you need general resources on coping with stress or want to talk with another student who has been in the same place as you, visit the specially trained Peer Wellness Advocates of the Duck Nest. The DuckNest has a physical location in the EMU on the ground floor, but due to social distancing has made programs available for streaming and on-demand. Please check their site - they add programming weekly! You can find out more at health.uoregon.edu/ducknest.

University Counseling Services (UCS) has a team of dedicated staff members to support you with your concerns, many of whom can provide identity-based support. All clinical services are free and confidential. Find out more at counseling.uoregon.edu or by calling 541-346-3227 (anytime UCS is closed, the After-Hours Support and Crisis Line is available by calling this same number).

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support.

**This UO webpage includes resources for food, housing, healthcare, childcare, transportation, technology, finances, and legal support:
<https://blogs.uoregon.edu/basicneeds/food/>**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Presenting someone else's work as your own is considered plagiarism. Cases of **plagiarism** will be referred to the **Office of Student Conduct** (<https://dos.uoregon.edu/conduct>). Please read the policies for plagiarism at the University of

Oregon: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/Links to an external site.](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/Links%20to%20an%20external%20site)

GRADE POLICIES OF THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

A+: Work of unusual distinction. Rarely awarded.

A: Work that distinguishes itself by the excellence of its grasp of the material and the precision and insight of its argument. Well executed and reasonably free of errors.

B: Work that satisfies main criteria of the assignment and demonstrates command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.

C: Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregards for the assigned question.

COURSE POLICIES:

Our learning environment provides an opportunity to practice being professional and rigorous in our contributions. As much as possible, use correct spelling, grammar, and style for academic and professional work. Use discussions and activities as opportunities to practice the kind and quality of work expected for assignments. Moreover, seize the chance to learn from others and develop your interpersonal skills, such as mindful listening and awareness of one's own tendencies (e.g. Do I contribute too much? Too little?).

All classes at the University of Oregon welcome and respect diverse experiences, perspectives, and approaches. What is not welcome are behaviors or contributions that undermine, demean, or marginalize others based on race, ethnicity, gender, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or socioeconomic status. We will value differences and communicate disagreements with respect. We may establish more specific guidelines and protocols to ensure inclusion and equity for all members of our learning community.

Help Everyone Learn: Our goal is to learn together by learning from one another. As we move forward learning during this challenging time, it is important that we work together and build on our strengths. We need to be patient with each other, identify ways we can assist others, and be open-minded to receiving help and advice from others. No one should hesitate to contact me to ask for assistance or offer suggestions that might help us learn better.

COMMUNICATION, COURSE ACCESS & EMAIL POLICY:

Our class will communicate through our Canvas site. Announcements and emails are archived there and automatically forwarded to your UO email, and can even reach you by text. Check and adjust your settings under Account > Notifications.

Log into canvas.uoregon.edu using your DuckID to access our class. If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page. Canvas and Technology Support also is available by phone or live chat: 541-346-4357 | livehelp.uoregon.edu

OFFICE HOURS

I will host “live” office hours through Zoom on Tuesdays from 1 pm - 3 pm (except in WEEK 1, September 28). Please let me know in class or by email if you need to talk with me so that we can set a time slot for which I'll send you a Zoom invitation.

If you contact me with a question, I will try to respond within 48 hours. Emails that request information which can be found on the website will not be answered. Please always first refer to the class news on our website. No emails will be answered on Sundays.

ANTICIPATED LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE:

NOTE: in addition to readings assigned from the textbook and posted on Canvas, please refer also to your lecture notes and the lecture summaries posted on this course site. Changes to the syllabus may occur and will be announced.

Course Outline

WEEK 1 Beginnings

09/27 M 1. Introduction: Chronology; Maps of Asia; Languages; Script

09/29 W 2. The Material Culture of Prehistoric East Asia; Early China's History

Short review: Chronology; Geography
Discussion #1. Introduction; Chronology; Geography

WEEK 2 Beginnings (cont.) & World Views

10/04 M 3. The Age of the Philosophers in China I: Confucians and Society -
Nature and

Nurture

10/06 W 4. The Age of the Philosophers in China II: Daoism

Reading: Ebrey and Walthall (EW), pp. vii-xv, xxi-xxii, 1-21; 113, 155; Maps 1.1, 2.1.

Visual resources: [China's Lost Pyramids Ancient China Documentary Timeline \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (video; 45 mins.)

Discussion # 2: Early Chinese Thought and its Context

WEEK 3 World Views (cont.)

10/11 M 4. The Unification under the Qin Dynasty

10/13 W 5. The Political Philosophy under the Qin

REACTION PAPER 1 DUE

Reading: EW, 75-92, 93-96, 122-124, 150-151, 174-176; Maps C2.1, 4.1 .

Visual resources: [The Life of the Buddha \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Discussion #3: Legalism

WEEK 4 Han Expansion

10/18 M 6. The Beginning of the Han Dynasty: Expansion and Stability; the
Advent of

Buddhism

10/20 W 7. **QUIZ #1.** The Silk Road: A Common Thread. Tang Empire: All

Roads Lead to
Chang'an.

Reading: EW, 75-92, 93-96, 118-128, 148-161.

Visual Resources: *China in the Tang*

Dynasty: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFaF30aIeb0>

Discussion #4: Buddhism, the Silk Road and Tang Culture

WEEK 5 Tang Achievements & Interactions across East Asia

10/25 M 8. Buddhism and Mental Peace: Karma and Nirvana

10/27 W 9. Nara and Heian: Building Classical Japan

Reading: EW, 148-161, 91, 134-136, 174-176, 180, 238, 241-244

Visual Resources: *Heian Japan* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGe4EL-qmbc> (Links to an external site.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We2pP1yu960>

Discussion #5: Chang'an and Nara

WEEK 6 Writing and Society Heian Japan and the New Society of the Song

11/01 M 10. Heian Women Authors: Creating the Japanese Classics

11/03 W 11. The 'New Society' of the Song: Inventions, the print revolution and medicine

Reading: EW, 49, 80, 129-147, 141-144, 162-168, 180, 204, 210, 214-215, 234-240, 250-251, 261-262, 264, 294, 304, Maps 8.1, 8.2.

Visual Resources:

1. *Zhu Xi and Neo*

Confucianism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cat9T9XhhjA>

2. *Along the River During the Qingming Festival:*

<http://www.chinaonlinemuseum.com/painting-along-the-river.php>

Discussion #6: Heian Society & Urban Life in the Song

REACTION PAPER 2 DUE

WEEK 7 The Mongols

11/08 M 13. China's Neighbors: China's Cultural Influences on Korea and Vietnam;
the Mongol Conquest

11/10 W 14. The Mongol Conquest

Genghis Khan - The Rise of the Mongol Empire (BBC documentary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XAFnxV2GYRU>

Reading: EW, 162-168, 176-181, 195-196, 198-209; Maps C3.1, C4.1.

Visual Resources: BBC Timewatch : *The Secret History of Genghis Khan* (49 mins). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5dibujYfWU>

Discussion # 7: Korea and Vietnam

WEEK 8 Mongol Rule Over China & Samurai Worlds

11/15 M 15. The Mongol Occupation of China

11/17 W **Quiz # 2;** 16. Samurai Warfare

REACTION PAPER 3 DUE

Reading: EW, 180-197, 212-226; Maps 11.1, 13.1.

Visual Resources: *The Will of the Shogun* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-BRpS8X-X0>

Discussion #8: Political and social change in Medieval Japan

Week 9 New Macro-cultural Dynamics

11/22 M 17. Chan / Zen Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism

11/24 W 18. Visit to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

Reading: EW, 56-60, 80-81, 151, 162-168, 173, 175, 205, 217-218, 241, 274; Map 11.2.

Visual resources: The World of the Scholars: *The New York Chinese Scholars' Garden* (http://wn.com/the_new_york_chinese_scholar%27s_garden)

Discussion # 9: Chan & Zen; Zhu Xi

WEEK 10 Borders and Boundaries

11/29 M 19. Trade and Piracy in East Asia, 1200s-1500s;
Missionaries and Merchants: The Advent of the West
Short review: The arts of imperial China; Japanese prints
Interactions in East Asia.

12/01 W 20. A New Order in East Asia: 1580s-1640s.
Short review: Interactions across East Asia

Reading: EW, 173, 205, 219, 223-226, 227-234, 241, 251-255, 253, 265-269, 270-281, 288-291; Maps 14.1, C5.1, 16.1.

Visual Resources: 'China: The Dragon's Ascent' 8 <https://vimeo.com/144546397>
(Documentary)

MUSEUM OBJECT REPORT DUE

Discussion #10: Interactions in East Asia