

## **HISTORY 190: Foundations of East Asian Civilizations**

Prof. Ina Asim  
317 McKenzie Hall  
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Office hours: T 13:30-15:30

Fall 2019  
CRN 12810  
MW 10:00-11:20  
112 LIL

GE:

Ms. Breann Goosmann: [breann@uoregon.edu](mailto:breann@uoregon.edu); 541-346-6239  
Office hours: M,W 14:00-15:20; 340B MCK

Discussion section CRN 12811, M 1200-1250, 373 MCK  
Discussion section CRN 12812, M 1300-1350, 373 MCK

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

HISTORY 190 is an introduction to aspects of the traditional cultures of China and Japan through the early 1600s. No prior knowledge of East Asia is assumed or required. The course will combine lectures, visual material, and weekly discussion sessions.

We will approach the East Asian macro-culture by focusing on three broad periods (approximate dates): 500 B.C.E. - 100 C.E.; 600 - 1100; and 1200 - 1660.

The first period introduces us to a “classical golden age.” We will encounter the Chinese philosophical and political ideas, and 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 Japanese civilization; the crucial role of Neo-Confucianism in shaping the intellectual traditions of East-Asia; the role of female authors in shaping the Japanese literary tradition; issues of food availability and of health and bodies.

The third period is coincident with the Chinese Song, Yuan (Mongol), and Ming dynasties, and the medieval Japanese Kamakura and Muromachi periods. We also nudge into the very early Chinese Qing (1644-1912) and Japanese Tokugawa (1600-1868) 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 and in Japan's warrior society; examples of using art to illuminate social history; and trade, piracy and international order across the seas of East Asia.

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

### **COURSE EVALUATION AND REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Two quizzes: 10/23 and 11/13 (worth 15% and 15% respectively, thus a total of 30% of course grade). Study guides will be provided.
2. A term paper due no later than Monday, November 25. No less than 2500 words: typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font, printed on one side, with footnotes or endnotes and a complete bibliography (complete + all reference materials are listed: monographs, articles, websites, other). (20% of grade). Late or short papers may be penalized.

The topic of the term paper: Your GE will address this in more detail in the discussion section, but please note that the topic must be discussed with and approved by your GE no later than Monday, November 04. (See also the additional "Comment on your term paper" below.)

3. Attendance at and participation in lectures (15%) and attendance at and participation in discussion sections (15%). If for whatever valid reason (illness, family emergency etc.) you are or were unable to attend, please let your GE know at your very earliest convenience. As necessary for quizzes, we can make alternative arrangements for you.

4. Final exam, in the regular classroom, 10:15 am Monday, December 9 (20% of course grade). A study guide will be provided.

**ATTENTION!**

At UO all finals are scheduled by the Office of the Registrar on days and times different from regular class times!

The final for HIST 190 will take place in our classroom in 240A McKenzie Hall on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 10.15 am.

Students requiring specific accommodations and who have been in contact with the Accessible Education Center should let us know as early as possible.

Comment concerning your term paper:

The paper is due in week 9 (Monday, Nov. 25) in order to avoid delays and collisions with your preparations for the finals. Start to read the materials and begin to write your paper as soon as possible to avoid work congestion at the end of the term. Papers handed in late will only be accepted with documented medical justification. All quotations and paraphrases must be documented properly. This includes websites you might plan to consult. The complete URL web address of any webpage used is mandatory. For correct citations please follow the guidelines provided on

<http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/citing.html>

Cases of plagiarism will be conferred to and handled by the UO Office of Student Conduct.

Fall term possibilities to improve writing skills:

1. The Writing Lab in the Teaching and Learning Center is located in the Sky Studio on the 4th floor of Knight Library (Monday-Friday, 9:00am-4:00pm). The Writing Lab offers assistance in the process of writing term papers etc. You can drop in, usually it is not necessary to make an appointment (346-3226).

Free Drop-in Writing Tutoring: 4th floor, Knight Library

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00am-7:00pm

Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Sunday 2:00pm-7:00pm

For international students there is the option of courses offered by the program "Academic English for International Students". Please

check <https://aei.uoregon.edu/programs/undergraduate/academic-english> for current courses.

2. The American English Institute offers writing classes for students who want to improve their writing skills. For more information please check <https://aei.uoregon.edu/programs/undergraduate/academic-english> .

#### 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

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation, please notify me in the first week of class.

You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155.

General Inquiries: [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu) Alternative

Testing: [aectesting@uoregon.edu](mailto:aectesting@uoregon.edu)

## 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. Please read the policies for plagiarism at the University of Oregon: <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>

## 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:

The classroom is a collective learning environment, where you concentrate on the class content, and not distract either yourself or anyone around you. Please arrive on time. Late arrivals are always disruptive. Late arrival for quizzes or the final exam may prevent you from taking them.

In class you are expected to be prepared, to contribute to discussions and to be respectful to all other participants. If you are very tired one day, bring an energy bar to class to enhance your energy level. Otherwise food and drink are not allowed in our classroom.

Course participants are expected to be present at every class session. If you are not able to attend class due to illness or injury, for religious reasons or because of jury duty, please notify me as soon as you are aware of the necessity of absence.

Cell phones, iPads, and other electronic devices have to be turned to silent mode during class. Laptops and iPads can be used for taking notes. However, texting, web-surfing etc. is NOT part of this class. If it appears that devices are being used for non-class-related reasons, we may ask you to turn them off.

#### Email Policy:

I'll answer emails 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.

#### UO CAMPUS SAFETY:

Get home safely at night. There are call boxes on campus to notify Public Safety in case of an emergency.

You can download the map with the call box locations here: [Call boxes for safety on campus at night](#)

#### ANTICIPATED LECTURE, DISCUSSION AND READING SCHEDULE:

NOTE: in addition to readings assigned from the textbook, 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**

10/02 W 1. Introduction: Chronology; Maps of East Asia

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##### **WEEK 2 Beginnings (cont.) & World Views**

10/07 M 2. The Material Culture of Prehistoric East Asia; Early China's History

**Discussion #1.** Introduction; Chronology; Geography

10/09 W 3. The Age of the Philosophers in China I: Confucians and Society - Nature and Nurture

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* (video; 45 mins.)

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### **WEEK 3 World Views (cont.)**

10/14 M 4. The Age of the Philosophers in China II: Daoism

**Discussion # 2:** Early Chinese Thought and its Context

10/16 W 5. Buddhism and Mental Peace: Karma and Nirvana.

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

Visual resources: The Life of the Buddha

<https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search; ylt=AwrT6VspefhVd18ATyQnnllQ; ylc=X1MDMTM1MTE5NTY4NwRfcgMyBGZyA3locy1tb3ppbGxhLTAwMgRncHJpZANhYTFrelh3NIFqeYNqZGZlYWhBT2VBBG5fcnNsdAMwBG5fc3VnZwM0BG9yaWdpgNzZWFyY2gueWFob28uY29tBHBvcwMwBHBxc3RyAwRwcXN0cmwDBHFzdHJsAzI5BHF1ZXJ5A1RoZSBMaWZlIG9mIHRoZSBCdWRkaGE6IHZpZGVvBHRfc3RtcAMxNDQyMzQ3MzU3?p=The+Life+of+the+Buddha%3A+video&fr2=sb-top-search&hspart=mozilla&hsimp=yhs-002> (Links to an external site.) ; *The Life of the Buddha* (DVD 00598, 50 mins.).

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### **WEEK 4 Interactions & Tang Achievements**

10/21 M 6. The Silk Road: A Common Thread. Tang Empire: All Roads Lead to Chang'an.

**Discussion #3:** Buddhism, the Silk Road and Tang Culture.

10/23 W 7. **QUIZ #1.**

Nara and Heian: Building Classical Japan

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

Visual Resources: Film: *Buddha in the Land of the Kami* (54 min.); *China's Cosmopolitan Age: The Tang, 618-907* (VT 01772; 50 mins.)

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### **WEEK 5 Writing and Society**

10/28 M 8. Heian Women Authors: Creating the Japanese Classics  
The 'New Society' of the Song: Inventions

**Discussion #4:** Heian Society

10/30 W 9. The Song Print Revolution, and Medicine

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

Visual Resources: *Along the River During the Qingming Festival*:

<http://www.chinaonlinemuseum.com/painting-along-the-river.php> (Links to an external site.)

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### **WEEK 6 Song Society and Culture**

11/04 M 10. The Song Imperium: Examinations, Bureaucracy and Law.

**Discussion #5:** Song Ruling, Information, and Society

11/06 W 11. China's Neighbors: Cultural Influences on Korea and Vietnam

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: CCTV: Neo-Confucianism: *Zhu Xi's Studies in the Wuyi Mountains*

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### **WEEK 7 The Mongols**

11/11 M 13. Mongol Rule over China

**Discussion # 6:** The Mongol Empires

11/13 W 14. **QUIZ #2**

*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: Film: *The Secret History of Genghis Khan* (49 mins).  
*Storm From the East: World Conquerors* (VT 05987, tape #2) (46 mins);  
*Storm From the East: Last Khan of Khans* (VT 05987, #4).

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## **WEEK 8 Samurai Worlds: Warrior Society**

11/18 M 15. Japan's First Warrior Dynasty; Samurai Warfare  
**Discussion #7:** Political and social change in Medieval Japan

11/20 W 16. Visit to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

Reading: EW, 180-197, 212-226; Maps 11.1, 13.1.  
Visual Resources: Film: *The Age of the Shoguns* (52 min.) [Films for the Humanities] VIDEOTAPE 02501

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## **Week 9 New Macro-cultural Dynamics**

11/25 M 17. Zen Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism  
**Discussion # 8:** Chan & Zen; Zhu Xi

### **TERM PAPER DUE**

11/27 W 18. Guest Lecture about the significance of Mount Geumgang in Korean cultural history

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](http://wn.com/the_new_york_chinese_scholar%27s_garden) (Links to an external site.))

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## **WEEK 10 Borders and Boundaries**

- 12/02 M 19. Trade and Piracy in East Asia, 1200s-1500s;  
Missionaries and Merchants: The Advent of the West  
**Discussion #9:** Interactions in East Asia.
- 12/04 W 20. A New Order in East Asia: 1580s-1640s.

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: 'The Dragon Ascends' (Documentary)

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**WEEK 11**

**12/09 M 10.15 FINAL EXAM** (covers weeks 6-10) In regular classroom, 112 LIL.

**SAMPLE ONLY**