

Asia in World History to 1500

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

This course explores the history of Asian societies and cultures within the wider context of world history, from the first civilizations in Asia until the year 1500 (premodern history). The focus of the course is on the traditions and histories of Asian societies in the premodern period. Students will develop historical understanding of East, Southeast, South, and Central Asian history in the course. Topics of study include: the development of Asia's first complex societies, cultural and religious traditions in Asia, the formation of premodern states in Asia, competition and collaboration among premodern Asian societies, the rise of regional and global trading networks, human migrations, technological changes, and environmental changes.

Each class session is very interactive. A typical day involves a combination of brief lectures, source analyses, viewing of film clips or other visual sources, and group discussions or class discussions about that day's assigned readings. By the end of the course students will have a good general knowledge of Asian societies and their position in global history during the premodern era.

Students will write two papers in the course, which are based on assigned readings and require students to effectively utilize the source materials in constructing their arguments. Participation in daily class discussions is also a significant part of the students' grade, so active and involved participation, as well as conscientious reading of assignments is a requirement of the class. There will also be a student presentation on a research topic of their choice.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Students will increase their understanding of the history of Asia and its involvement in world history during the premodern era. Reading, writing, and oral communication skills are essential to success in the course. Students will be required to analyze and integrate information from a wide variety of sources, including written and visual materials. Although this is an online course, student collaboration and communication will be an important part of the class and students will have many opportunities to interact and explore their own interests in the topic. Research skills will also be developed through the preparation of a research presentation on a historical topic of the student's choosing.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

All Zoom session information, including meeting ID numbers and passcodes, will be provided to students on the course Blackboard page.

January 29 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Introduction to the Course, Geography of Asia, Earliest History of Asia, How to post your thoughts on the readings (forums)

January 29-February 4 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 1 of Murphey and other materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 1**

February 5 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Hinduism, Buddhism

February 5-11 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 2 sections on Hinduism and Buddhism and other materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 2**

February 12 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism

February 12-18 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 2 sections on Daoism, Legalism, and other religions as well as additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 3**

February 19 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: General Characteristics of Early Asian Societies

February 19-25 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 3 on General Characteristics of Asian Societies as well as additional materials in this week's assignments folder- **Submit your Research Presentation Proposal Document by February 25**

February 26 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Ancient South Asia

February 26-March 4 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 4 sections on the history of Ancient South Asia as well as additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 4**

March 5 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Review for Midterm paper

March 5-March 11 Asynchronous: Write your Midterm Paper- **Midterm paper will be due by March 11 at 6pm JST. Submit on Blackboard.**

March 12 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Southern India and Southeast Asia

March 12-25 Asynchronous: **NO CLASS ON March 19 Friday (Spring Break)**, Read selections from Chapters 6 and 7 and additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 5**

March 26 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Ancient China

March 26-April 1 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 5 and additional materials in this week's assignments folder- **Submit your research presentation progress report by April 1**

April 2 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Sui, Tang, and Song China (Middle Period), the Mongol Yuan Dynasty

April 2-8 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 8 and additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 6**

April 9 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Early and Medieval Japan and Korea

April 9-15 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 9 and additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 7**

April 16 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Mughal India, Central Asia, and Iran

April 16-22 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 10 and additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 8**

April 23 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Early Ming Dynasty China

April 23-29 Asynchronous: Read Chapter 11 and additional materials in this week's folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 9-** For those students presenting on **April 30, submit your Powerpoint file by April 29 at 6pm JST**

April 30 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Late Ming Dynasty China, **Student Research Presentations (Day 1 of 2)**

April 30-May 6 Asynchronous: Review Chapter 11 and additional materials in this week's assignments folder- Post your thoughts on **Forum 9-** For those students presenting on **May 7, submit your Powerpoint presentation file by May 6 at 6pm JST**

May 7 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: **Student Research Presentations (Day 2 of 2)**

May 7-13 Asynchronous: **Preparation for Review Session Exercise (to be explained later)- Submit your assignment as Forum 10**

May 14 Friday at 9am-10:30am JST Synchronous Zoom Session: Review for Final Paper, Course Wrap-up, and Summary

Final Paper due Friday May 21st by 6pm JST- Submit via Blackboard

Syllabus and reading assignments are subject to change. The most updated information is found on the course Blackboard page.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

- Rhoads Murphey with Kristin Stapleton, *A History of Asia* (Routledge, 2014) 7th ed.
- Many articles, primary sources, videos, and other relevant materials will also be assigned and listed in the weekly "Assignments" folders on Blackboard

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Class participation in synchronous Zoom sessions: 20%

Participation in asynchronous work: 20%

Midterm paper: 20%

Final paper: 20%

Research presentation: 20%

Class participation in synchronous Zoom sessions is based on active and involved participation in discussions and activities, preparedness throughout the semester (demonstrating that you have done the readings and are engaging with the material) and maintaining a positive attitude in our sessions. Class participation is worth 20% of your final grade.

Participation in asynchronous work is the grade for weekly asynchronous assignments. Most weeks, students will be given a folder of assignments to read and questions to discuss using the “discussions” section of Blackboard. Each week’s discussions board postings (called forums) will be graded from 0-10 points based on content, organization, clarity of writing, and use of sources to support your responses. Each forum posting must be properly formatted, using both internal citations/references and a bibliography or works cited. Each forum posting is a minimum of 250 words (no maximum). Participation in asynchronous work is worth 20% of your final grade.

The **papers (Midterm paper and Final paper)** are based on the readings and are worth a combined 40% (or 20% each). Each paper should be 1500-3000 words. Papers must include footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations and a bibliography listing all sources used (books, articles, internet sites, etc.). These will be based on the material covered in the class, including the readings. To do well, you will need to keep up with the reading and take good notes during all class sessions.

The **research presentation** is a 10 minute-to-15 minute individual student presentation, which will be done during our zoom sessions. The topic of the presentation is on any suitable topic of the students’ interest, so long as it relates to premodern Asian history. The presentation should incorporate the use of a variety of historical source materials and demonstrate what the student learned about that topic. A particular focus in the presentation should be on how that topic related to the history of Asia and the world, in wider perspective. In other words, the topic should try to incorporate a global or transnational perspective. The presentations must include a bibliography listing all sources used. We will discuss the research process as the semester progresses and progress reports will need to be submitted. The research presentation is worth 20% of the final grade.

Section 5

Attendance and active participation are required in this course and are a significant part of the grade. To do well in the course, you should prepare all reading and writing assignments prior to each class meeting and be prepared to actively participate in class discussions. Thoughtful and informed discussions are an important part of the class.