

2024 Spring Semester

Asia in World History to 1500

Section 1

Instructor	Scott C.M. Bailey
Office/Building	3307
Office Hours	By appointment

【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. 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 pre-modern Asian societies, the rise of regional and global trading networks, human migrations, technological changes, and environmental changes.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

An important emphasis in the course is placed on experiential learning, so group work and peer collaboration will play a crucial part in the class. 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 also improve their research and presentation skills.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Lesson 1 Topic: Introduction to the course- Geography of Asia- Assignments: None

Lesson 2 Topic: Pre-History of Asia- Assignments: Read Chapter 1 on “Prehistoric Asia” and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 3 Topic: Hinduism- Assignments: Read Chapter 2 (Hinduism section) and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 4 Topic: Buddhism- Assignments: Read Chapter 2 (Buddhism section) and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 5 Topic: Confucianism- Assignments: Read Chapter 2 (Confucianism section) and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 6 Topic: Daoism and Other Religions- Assignments: Read Chapter 2 (Daoism section, Other religions section) and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 7 Topic: Early Societies of Asia: General Characteristics- Assignments: Read Chapter 3 on General Characteristics of Asian Societies and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard, **Formation of Research Presentation Groups** (Groups should begin collaborating on possible research topics)

Lesson 8 Topic: Education, Economy, and Law in Early Asian History- Assignments: Read

2024 Spring Semester

Chapter 3 on General Characteristics of Asian Societies and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 9 Topic: The Mauryan Empire and **Group Research Presentation Workshop I**- Assignments: Read Chapter 4 section on the Mauryan Empire and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 10 Topic: Challenges to Indian Civilizations- Assignments: Read Chapter 4 on Ancient India (after the Mauryan Empire) and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard, **Group Research Presentation Proposal Due**

Lesson 11 Topic: Ancient China to the Qin Dynasty- Assignments: Read Chapter 5 on Ancient China to the Qin Dynasty and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 12 Topic: Rise and Fall of the Han Dynasty- Assignments: Read Chapter 5 on the Han Dynasty and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 13 Topic: Synthesis and Comparisons- Assignments: Review Previous Readings and Prepare for Review Session Exercises

Lesson 14 Topic: **Review Session for Midterm Exam**- Assignments: Prepare for Midterm Review Session

Lesson 15 Topic: **Review for Midterm Exam and Midterm Exam during class today**- Assignments: Prepare for Midterm Exam

Lesson 16 Topic: **Group Research Presentation Workshop II**- Assignments: Be prepared to discuss your progress on this project

Lesson 17 Topic: Premodern Southeast Asia- Assignments: Read Chapter 7 on Premodern Southeast Asia and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 18 Topic: Middle Period China- Assignments: Read Chapter 8 on Middle Period China and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 19 Topic: The Mongols and The Yuan Dynasty- Assignments: Read Chapter 8 on the Mongols and the Yuan Dynasty and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 20 Topic: **Group Research Presentation Workshop III**- Assignments: Prepare for Workshop

Lesson 21 Topic: Premodern Japan- Assignments: Read Chapter 9 on Premodern Japan and Premodern Korea and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 22 Topic: Premodern Korea- Assignments: Review Chapter 9 and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 23 Topic: Mughal India- Assignments: Read Chapter 10 on Mughal India and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 24 Topic: Central Asia and Persia- Assignments: Read Chapter 10 on Central Asia and Persia and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 25 Topic: **Group Research Presentation Workshop IV**- Assignments: Prepare for Workshop

2024 Spring Semester

Lesson 26 Topic: Ming Dynasty China (Early Period)- Assignments: Read Chapter 11 on Ming China Early Period, **Group Research Presentations Files Due**

Lesson 27 Topic: Ming Dynasty (Late Period)- Assignments: Read Chapter 11 on Ming China Late Period and other materials in today's folder on Blackboard

Lesson 28 Topic: **Group Research Presentations**- Assignments: Prepare for Research Presentations

Lesson 29 Topic: **Group Research Presentations**- Assignments: Prepare for Research Presentations

Lesson 30 Topic: **Final Exam Review- Synthesis**- Assignments: Prepare for Review Session, Final Reflections

Final Exam Schedule: TBA

Please note that details of the above schedule are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

All reading assignments will be made available to the students through Blackboard.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Final Exam 30%

Midterm Exam 30%

Class Participation 15%

Group Research Project and Presentation 25%

The **Exams** will be based on the material covered in the class, including the readings, lectures, and activities. To do well, you will need to keep up with the readings and take good notes during all class sessions. The exams are a combination of identification items and essay questions. The final exam is worth 30% of the grade and the midterm is also worth 30%.

Class Participation 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. This part of your grade also includes homework assignments, quizzes, and discussion board postings. Class participation is worth 15% of your final grade.

The **Group Research Project and Presentation** is based on a historical topic of the students' choice (related to the history of premodern Asia). Students must demonstrate that they worked together collaboratively to prepare their Research Project and Presentation. The project will require meetings among group members. This project will also require the use and proper citation of historical sources. Students will be required to complete peer reviews at the end of this process. Grades will be based on group collaboration, appearance of the presentation files, communication of the presentation, historical content of the presentation,

2024 Spring Semester

and analysis of the research question. This project is worth 25% of your grade.

Further information about all assessments will be provided to students during the class.

Section 5

【Additional Information】

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 group activities. Thoughtful and informed discussions are an important part of the class.