2013

HIST 161-01-02 History of Asia

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Xavier University
HIST 161-01 / 161-02 History of Asia
Fall 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:45pm / 4:00-5:15pm
Instructor: Hsing-yi Kao
Classroom Smh G27
Office: Schott 509
Office hours: M-W-F 10-11am; or by appointment
Email: kaoh@xavier.edu

Course Description:

This course surveys the history of Asia, primarily East Asia, from the ancient time to the turn of the 16th to 17th century. As the world’s largest and most culturally-diversified continent, Asia, throughout millennia, witnesses the rise and fall of different regimes. The course traces distinct imperial dynasties in history, incorporates within the discussion social and cultural dimensions, and presents both chronological and thematic understandings of Asian history. Aside from East Asia, the course will also examine other parts of Asian continent, for the purpose of comparison or contrast.

Course Goals:

1. Through reading, lecturing and in-class discussion, students are expected to appreciate a non-Western civilization.
2. To help students build up an overall understanding of how regional societies evolved and transformed through time.
3. To describe and analyze political, social and economic elements contributing to different historical trajectories within the region, especially between China and Japan, since the modern period.

Course Requirements:

Class attendance and participation are mandatory. Students are expected to attend the class fully prepared and participate in discussion. Students who miss three classes will automatically fail the entire course. There are designated group-discussion sessions, but discussion is always encouraged in class as the instructor hopes to make it a more lively class.

Quizzes: There are four in-class quizzes (5% each) on week three, eight, ten, and fifteen. The format of the quizzes will be identification questions. Each quiz takes roughly twenty to thirty minutes.
Exams (Midterm I / Midterm II): The two midterms will be on week six and twelve respectively. The exams will cover lectures and class readings. The exams include multiple choice, identification, and essay questions.

Final paper: Students will have to write a paper of 6-8 pages in length. You can chose your own topic; be sure to consult with the instructor about your topic no later than week ten. On week eleven, you shall submit the outline (at least one page) of your paper. Papers are due on the date of the final exam.

Percentage:

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation / discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam I</td>
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<td>Midterm exam II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
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Required Readings

* Selections of the De Bary reading and others are on Blackboard

Course Schedule  (subject to change)

Week 1

8/27: Course Introduction

8/29: Basic Concepts
World civilizations
Pre-historical time and historical time
Axial Age

Week 2

9/3 Where/What is Asia?
Geography and cultural heritage
East Asian Civilization: historical panorama

9/5  Dawn of East Asian Civilization – Origin of Chinese Civilization
     Schirokauer, Ch.1 (p.1-16)

Week 3

9/10  The Structure of Chinese Feudalism – Zhou Dynasty
      Schirokauer, Ch.1-2 (p.17-31)

9/12  Hundred Flowers Bloom – Competing Intellectual Schools in the
      Classical Period – Confucian tradition (quiz #1)
      Schirokauer, Ch.2 (p.31-45)
      Chen, p.18-83 (sections)

Week 4

9/17  Classical Chinese Thought—Daoism and Legalism
      Laozi, Zhuanzi, Shang Yang, Han Feizi
      Chen, p.136-156 (Daodejing); p.176-210 Zhuangzi 252-261 (Han Feizi)
      (sections)

9/19  *Discussion: The Comparison/Contrast between Confucianism and Daoism

Week 5

9/24  The First Unified Empire – Qin / Han Unification – Political Development
      Schirokauer, Ch.3 (p.46-57; 65-73)

9/26  Qin / Han Empire – Cultural and Intellectual development
      Schirokauer, Ch.3 (p.57-65)
      De Bary, p.106-107; 112-115

Week 6

10/1  Midterm Exam – I

10/3  The Age of Disunity in Chinese History, 2nd Century to 6th Century
      Schirokauer, Ch.4

Week 7

10/8  Sui-Tang Reunification – The Cosmopolitan Empire, 7th to 10th Century
      Schirokauer, Ch.5; Three Chinese Poets, Translations of Poems by Wang Wei, Li Bai and Du Fu (selections)
10/10  
*Discussion: Features of Chinese poetry

Week 8

10/15  
The Origin of the Japanese Civilization to the Eighth Century (quiz #2)  
Schirokauer, Ch.6  
“The Earliest Japanese Chronicles” on Blackboard

10/17  
Medieval Japan: The Heian Era (8th to 12th Century)  
Schirokauer, Ch.7  
De Bary, p.801-814

Week 9

10/22  
Chinese Civilization in Song Dynasty, 10-12th Century  
Schirokauer, Ch.8

10/24  
Intellectual Development of the Song  
De Bary, p.336-338; 351-360  
*Discussion: What are the features of Neo-Confucianism?

Week 10

10/29  
The Empire of the Mongols  
Schirokauer, Ch.9  
Ko, Ch.6  
*Discussion: The Practice of Foot-binding

10/31  
The significance of Mongols Invasion in World History (quiz #3)

Week 11

11/5  
The Rise of Warriors in Japan—Kamakura and Muromachi Bakufu  
Schirokauer, Ch.11, 12

11/7  
Everyday Life of a Samurai  
Kokichi, p.43-70  
*Discussion: Who are samurai

Week 12

11/12  
The Rise of Ming, 14th Century  
Schirokauer, Ch. 10

11/14  
Life in the Mid to Late Ming, 15th to 16th Century  
Wu Jingzi Scholars (selections on Blackboard)
Week 13

11/19  *Midterm Exam II*

11/21  Tokugawa Japan I: Polity and Economy  
Schirokauer, Ch.14  
Kokichi, p.71-108

Week 14

11/26  Tokugawa Japan II: Society and Culture  
Kokichi, p.109-155  
De Bary, p.148-156; 246-253  
*Discussion: The meaning of being a samurai*

11/28  *Thanksgiving, no class*

Week 15

12/3  Early East-West Contact: Jesuit Missionaries  
Schirokauer, Ch.13

12/5  China entering the Late Imperial Period: The Establishment of Qing Dynasty (quiz# 4)  
Schirokauer,15

Week 16

12/10  *Discussion: Who are Manchus?*

12/12  Paper due