2014

161 Asian History

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Course Description:
This survey examines the origins of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean civilizations from ancient times to 1600. Equal parts content and critique, this course interweaves the histories of these three countries through an analysis of their philosophical, religious, political, and economic ties. Designed as a companion to HIST 162 “ASIAN HISTORY II,” these two courses engage with the conceptual frameworks that have shaped our view of East Asia, past and present.

The course content includes the examination of the various cultures of East Asia, as well as their interactions and transformations during the premodern period. The materials presented will be analyzed in their appropriate cultural and historical context.

Objectives:
· Students will learn the parameters of East Asian history and culture as a body of knowledge and a major of study.
· Students will gain a critical perspective on the historical and cultural issues of East Asian tradition. This foundation will provide a point of departure for future studies of East Asia—individually or in formal classes—in a variety of disciplines.
· Students will become better readers and writers, through critical engagement with textual documents.
· Students will become better writers through informal and formal writing assignments.
· Students will develop communication skills in public presentation and speaking.

Requirements:
1. Attendance (10 %)
2. Presentation and Class Participation (20%)
   · Active class discussion
   · In-class presentation on the primary texts assigned for each week
3. Four Response Papers, 2-3 pages (5% each; 20% in total)
   · Answer the given questions in the form of argument based upon your analysis of class readings.
4. Mid-term exam (20%) – Oct 14
   · Essay on secondary and primary literature
   · Textual identification and analysis
5. Take-home Final (30%) – DUE Dec 16, noon
   · Essay on secondary and primary literature, 3-5 pages, 20%
   · Textual identification and analysis, 10%
Attendance:
In accordance with Xavier University attendance and absence policy, you are expected to attend every class. You must inform the professor of any excused absences. Excused absences include religious holidays and extended, documented (with a doctor’s note) illnesses. You will be granted TWO unexcused absence (fever, stomach bug, sporting event, internship interview, etc) without penalty. Afterward you will be penalized a third of a grade for every absence.
Please familiarize yourself with Xavier’s attendance policy:
http://www.xavier.edu/studenthandbook [Please refer to 1.2.7.]

Participation:
The last 20-30 minutes of each class will be run in seminar-style. Students are required to actively participate in class discussion. You are expected to thoroughly prepare the material for each class, bring your text and reading notes to class, and come prepared to engage in active discussion. Please speak with me if you have difficulties speaking in class.

Essays & Final:
Writing assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class the day that they are due. Students must arrive on time to turn in their papers. Late papers (including those not turned in at the beginning of class) will be marked down a third of a grade per day late. Papers must be typed in 12-point font, and double-spaced with page numbers and footnotes (no parenthetical citations). You must indent paragraphs. (No space between paragraphs). While I recommend you avoid block quotes, if you use them, you must indent the margin and single-space. You will be graded down a third of a grade for not adhering to this format.
Please try to consult the Writing Center [Conaton Learning Commons, Room 400; (513) 745-2875] before submitting assignments.
writingcenter@xavier.edu
www.xavier.edu/writing_center

Academic Honesty:
Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable. Familiarize yourself with the Xavier policy on academic honesty:
http://www.xavier.edu/online/Academic-Honesty.cfm
In accordance with Xavier’s policy, offenders will be dismissed from the course with a mark of F, and the case will be reported to the department chair and the dean of students, who may impose other or additional penalties including suspension or expulsion.

Students with Disabilities:
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the Learning Assistance Center at 513-745-3280 on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Electronic Devices:
Personal computers are permitted, but strongly discouraged. You may use computers for note taking and referring to required reading only. Students whose second language is English may use electronic dictionaries. No student may use a mobile phone for talking or texting during class. If you text or surf the web in class, your overall grade will be penalized by one-third.
Contacting the professor:
If you would like to discuss an issue pertaining to the class, Asia and/or history in general, please come to my office hours or make an appointment. I do not check email regularly on weekends, vacations or holidays. Email should be treated as business correspondence and drafted accordingly.

Medical and other issues:
If you have a documented medical condition, or other issue that requires special accommodation in the classroom, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester.

Readings:
This course only requires one book, which is available at the Xavier Bookstore.

Ebrey and Walthall, *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* [marked Text below]

Additional readings are posted on the CANVAS website.

**Week 1**
8/26 T. Introduction

8/28 Th. East Asian Geography

**Week 2**
9/2 T. Origins of History in China

9/4 Th. Warring States I: Politics and Economics

**Week 3**
9/9 T. Warring States II: Philosophical Legacies
- Benjamin Hoff, *The Tao of Pooh*, pp. xii–35.
9/11 Th. Emergence of Empire

**Week 4**
9/16 T. In-Class Film: *Confucius* (2009) directed by Mei Hu

9/18 Th. In-Class Film Continued/ Discussion

**Week 5**
**Response Paper 1:**
“**What the world needs now**”: Select one thinker (or one school of thought) and assess either the relevance or usefulness of these ideas today.

9/23 T. Collapse of the Han, Arrival of Buddhism
- **Text**: “Connections: Buddhism in India and Its Spread Along the Silk Road,” Chapter 4 “Political Division in China and the Spread of Buddhism (200–580),” pp. 55–73.

9/25 Th. Classical China: The Sui and Tang Dynasties

**Week 6**
9/30 T. Tang Culture

10/2 Th. Early Korea
- **Text**: Chapter 6 “Early Korea to 935,” pp. 98–113.

**Week 7**
**Response Paper 2:**
Did the Tang Dynasty equal the glory and power of the Han Dynasty? In what ways?

10/7 T. The Early Japanese State I
- **Text**: Chapter 7 “Early State and Society in Japan (to 794),” pp. 114–127.

10/9 Th. **NO CLASS (Fall Holidays)**

**Week 8**
10/14 T. **Midterm Exam**

10/16 Th. The Early Japanese State II
• “Prince Shōtoku and His Constitution” in *Sources of East Asian Tradition Vol. 1*, pp. 640–655.

**Week 9**
10/21 T. Tying It All Together: Confucianism

10/23 Th. Universalism and Particularism: Buddhism in East Asia
• “Schools of Buddhist Doctrine,” “The Rise of Buddhism,” and “Nara Buddhism” in *Sources of East Asian Tradition Vol. 1*, pp. 238–263; 515–527; 672–683.

**Week 10**
10/28 T. China During the Song Dynasty

10/30 Th. Classical Japan
• *Text*: Chapter 9 “Heian Japan (794–1180),” pp. 147–159.

**Week 11**
11/4 T. Unified Korea

11/6 Th. Warrior Rule in Japan

**Week 12**
**Response Paper 3:**
Question one:
Citing the readings from this week and last, what are the most important differences between the values of aristocrats and warriors?

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Question two:
A system of split warrior and imperial rule was not seen to any significant extent in Korea or China. Yet in Japan it lasted from the 12th to the 19th century. How did the shogun and emperor manage to coexist with each other?

11/11 T. The Mongols and Koryo Korea

11/13 Th. The Yuan Dynasty

Week 13
11/18 T. Japan’s Era of Warring States
- Text: Chapter 13 “Japan’s Middle Ages (1330–1600),” pp. 206–220.

11/20 Th. In-Class Film: Kagemusha (1980) directed by Akira Kurosawa

Week 14
11/25 T. In-Class Film Continued/ Discussion

11/27 Th. NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)

Week 15
12/2 T. The Ming Dynasty
- Timothy Brook, The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China, pp. 66–85.

12/4 Th. Korea’s Choson Dynasty

Week 16
Response paper 4:
(In reference to last week’s readings) Which is more useful for understanding history: material culture, or literature? For instance, which is more illuminating, a brick or a
poem, and why?

12/9 T. Past in the Present
   • Youson Ahn, “Competing Nationalisms: The Mobilisation of History and Archaeology in the Korea-China Wars over Koguryo/Gaogouli.”

12/11 Th. Wrap up and Review for the Final Exam

12/16 T. **Take-Home Final Exam due at Noon.**