

FOUNDATIONS OF EAST ASIAN CIVILIZATION.

Prof. Andrew GOBLE. History 190, Fall 2008.
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History 190 is an introduction to aspects of the traditional cultures of China and Japan through the early 1600s. Prior knowledge of East Asia is helpful but not 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 – 500BCE- 100CE, 600-1000, and 1200-1600- - that delineate classical basics of thought and political structure, demonstrate interactions and human and cultural movement across political boundaries, and offer a sense of distinct aspects of the cultures in historical perspective.

The first period introduces us to what we might call a “classical golden age.” The philosophical and political ideas of Chinese thought, and the philosophical and religious ideas of Buddhism, have profoundly shaped East Asian civilization.

The second period coincides with the cosmopolitan Tang period in China, and with the classical Nara and Heian periods in Japan. We will look at the ways in which both societies benefited from the information made possible by the “Silk Road,” and at the immense influence Tang culture had on the development of Japanese civilization.

In the third period, coinciding with the Chinese Song, Yuan (Mongol), and Ming dynasties, and the Japanese Kamakura and Muromachi periods, we will pay attention to “technologies” of rule and culture: printing in China, the examination system and civil service system, the impact the Mongols had as they created the world’s largest empire, the flow of ideas and art across the region, and the emergence of Japan’s Zen culture.

Texts:

Ebrey, Palais, and Walthall. *East Asia: A Cultural, Social and Political History*.

Course Evaluation and requirements.

1. Three quizzes (worth 10%, 10% and 10% respectively, thus a total of 30% of course grade). Study guides will be provided for quizzes.

2. A term paper of no less than 2500 words; typed, double-spaced, footnotes or endnotes (25% of grade). The topic of the term paper - one purpose of which is to provide you with practice in expressing your ideas in your own words - is to be chosen in consultation with discussion leader, and is due by November 26th. NOTE: An explanatory guide to the term paper (topics, organization etc) will be provided.

3. Attendance at lectures (10%) and attendance at and participation in and discussion sections (10%). The discussion sections are designed to reinforce your understanding of material covered in lectures and to discuss assigned readings.

4. Final exam, in exam week. 25% of course grade. Study guide will be provided.

5. Absence, late submission of work, or submission of work that is less than required, may be penalized.

Also: the instruction team (myself and the Graduate Teaching Fellows, Mr. Kevin GOUGE and Mr. Yusuke OKAZAKI) encourages you to drop by during office hours.

ANTICIPATED LECTURE, DISCUSSION AND READING SCHEDULE.

WEEK ONE.

- 9/29 1. Introduction.
10/01 2. *The Immortal Emperor*. (VT 06370; 50 mins.).
10/03 3. Nature and Nurture: Confucians versus Legalists.
Discussion #1. Introduction; Chronology; Geography.
Reading: Ebrey, Palais, Walthall (EPW), pp. xx-xxi, 3-9, 10-24, 25-36.

WEEK TWO.

- 10/06 4. Am I A Butterfly? Daoists and the World.
10/08 5. *Buddhism, Land of the Disappearing Buddha, Japan* (VT 01681, tape#9).
10/10 6. Karma and Nirvana: Buddhism and Mental Peace.
Discussion #2. Writing; Early Chinese Thought and its Context.
Reading: EPW, pp. 25-42, 43-64, 65-70, 123, 130, 147-148, 204-205.

WEEK THREE.

- 10/13 7. The Silk Road: A Common Thread.
10/15 8. *China's Cosmopolitan Age: The Tang, 618-907* (VT 01722; 50 mins).
10/17 9. All Roads Lead to Chang'an: Ruling the Tang Empire.
Discussion #3. Buddhism and the Silk Road.
Reading: EPW, 65-70, 71-87, 88-110, 111-115, 124-132, 133-135.

WEEK FOUR.

- 10/20 . **QUIZ #1.** 10. Chang'an East: Building Japanese Civilization.
10/22 11. Heian Aristocratic Society.
10/24 12. *The Illustrated Handscroll of the Tale of Genji* (VT 02487).
Discussion #4. The Tang and its Influences.
Reading: EPW, 137-152, 192-207, 280.

WEEK FIVE.

- 10/27 13. Writing Classics: Heian Women Authors.
10/29 14. The *Ishinpô*: Health and Sex in Tang and Heian.
10/31 15. Medicine and the Song Print Revolution.
Discussion #5. Heian Society.
Reading: EPW, 192-207, 153-175, 238, 288, 297.

WEEK SIX.

- 11/03 16. What's Cooking in Song and Yuan? (Prof. Ina ASIM).

- 11/05 17. Song Examinations, Bureaucracy and Law (Ms. Yun XIA).
11/07 18. Mongols: *Storm From the East: World Conquerors* (VT 05987, tape #2).

Discussion #6. Song Learning and Information.
Reading: EPW, 153-175, 189-190, 226-234, 277-281.

WEEK SEVEN.

- 11/10 19. *Storm From the East: Last Khan of Khans* (VT 05987, tape #4).
11/12 20. Japan's First Warrior Government, The Kamakura Bakufu.
11/14 21. **QUIZ #2** 21. Slide Lecture: *The Mongol Invasion Scroll*.

Discussion #7. The Mongol Empire.
Reading: EPW, 202-207, 208-224, 221, 235-251.

WEEK EIGHT.

- 11/17 22. Women's Property Rights in Medieval Japan (Mr. Kevin GOUGE).
11/19 23. Chinese Chan / Japanese Zen: A Buddhist Macro-culture.
11/21 24. Slide Lecture: Tea, Pottery and Temples.

Discussion #8. Political and Economic Change in Medieval Japan.
Reading: EPW, 185, 252-261, 285.

WEEK NINE.

- 11/24 25. Slide Lecture: Portraits of Power.
11/26 26. The Ming World.
11/28 27. No class - Thanksgiving break.

Discussion #9. No class - Thanksgiving break.
Reading: EPW, 269-289.

WEEK TEN.

- 12/01 28. Trade and Piracy in East Asia.
12/03 29. A New Order in East Asia: 1580s-1640s.
12/05 30. **QUIZ #3**. Course summation.

Discussion #10: Attitudes to Foreign Relations.
Reading: EPW, 261-268, 274-277, 302-316, 331-335, 348-351.

- 12/10 **FINAL EXAM**. In regular classroom, 1015-1200.

HISTORY 190 The Term Paper

One purpose of the term paper is to familiarize you with techniques of scholarly communication. Another purpose is to provide an opportunity for you to organize material and to express your considered thoughts in your own words. The term paper does not demand extensive research in original sources (language barriers are an obvious element here), and neither does it require that you come up with a thought or group of ideas that no-one has ever thought about before. Rather, the expectation is that, by pursuing a theme, a topic, or a question that you want to address, you will come up with a thoughtful piece of writing that demonstrates to the reader that you have organized your material, presented and supported your arguments and positions in a coherent way, and have come to a conclusion.

In preparing the term paper, it may be useful for you to consider the following:

1. Be attentive to overall structure: a good **introduction** stating the goal, problem or question to be addressed [HINT: you might find it useful to write the final version of this AFTER you have finished the rest of the paper]; a **middle portion** (which you can break down into sub-sections if you wish) in which your discussion is developed in organized fashion, reflecting the reading and evidence available; and a **conclusion** summarizing the overall product.
2. The reader is most interested in seeing you develop your thoughts in your own words. Use direct quotation sparingly; however, be careful to cite the source of your information when you utilize an insight or point of information from someone else (a normal part of scholarly writing).
3. The reader is NOT “looking for” anything other than a well-written, well-organized piece that reflects your careful consideration of information. Your conclusions are your own (except if you try to argue the equivalent of the earth being flat), and assessed most highly if they are well supported by the information you provide.
4. Ensure that you have a firewall between notes you take and summaries from sources, and your final product. AVOID even the possibility of plagiarism (most simply, defined as representing others’ work as your own; plagiarism is taken very seriously; if in doubt, check the student conduct code).