This class explores East Asian history from a maritime perspective rather than from a
land-based/nation-based one. In doing so, we expand our notions of what constitutes
“Japanese history” or “Chinese history.” By recognizing that bodies of water, such as the
East China Sea, were actually conduits instead of barriers, we discover a vibrant area full
of international contacts, seafaring peoples (pirates included), and cultural exchange. We
will examine seemingly peripheral space and people, such as Koxinga or the island
domain of Tsushima, to gauge major sea changes in the political, social, economic life of
a larger area linked together by maritime connections. In short, we will be looking at
what the seas brought to East Asia and what East Asia brought to the seas.

Required Reading
Texts posted on Blackboard. Readings will be announced in class and be about 20 pages
per class period. Longer reading assignments will be given over the weekends.

Evaluation
Attendance (15%), Two map quizzes (5% each), a midterm (30%), a final exam (30%),
and one short paper (3-4 pages) based upon readings (15%)

Policies
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Assignments found guilty of such an infernal deed will
receive an automatic zero.

Attendance is not only required, but also essential for doing well in this class. Be sure to
take careful notes each class period because full outlines of information will not be
posted on blackboard.

Office Hours
R: 12:00-1:30 and by appointment. I am also available every day right after class for
consultation.

Week 1: Early Contacts

June 22: Orientation and Reorientation
June 23: Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade/The Southern Shift
June 24: Hakata: The International Gateway
June 25: Terror from the Seas: The Mongol Invasions of Japan

Week 2: The Medieval East Asian Maritime Network and State Interference
June 29: Reversing Course: Ming Taizu, Zheng He, and the Impact of Maritime Restrictions
   Paper on Ennin
   Documentary: Sultan’s Lost Treasure
June 30: Dwarf Pirates: Wakō, the Noshima Sea lords, the Matsura-tō, and the Freedom of the Seas
July 01: Portuguese Traders and Jesuit Missionaries
July 02: The Imjin War: Japan’s Failure at Overseas Expansion

Week 3: Early Modern Stability and Upheaval
July 06: Midterm
July 07: Koxinga and Dutch Colonialism
July 08: Sakoku Reexamined
   Paper on Francis Xavier
July 09: Enter Europe…With Guns and Drugs

Week 4: Modern/Contemporary Developments
July 13: Nanshin and Kaigun: Japan Takes to the Seas
   Movie: Otokotachi no Yamato
July 14: China’s Return to the Seas/ Modern Pirates
   Film: Pirates of Bubuan
July 15: Contemporary Japan: The Toxic Archipelago, Lifestyles, 3-11, and Territorial Disputes
   Film: The Cove

July 16: Final Exam

Accessibility:
The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me immediately—especially before the first quiz—if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.