

**Civilization of Asia to 1800**  
HIS 215-01, Fall 2006  
HHRA 1214, TR 2:00-3:15 pm

Instructor: Seonmin Kim  
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Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12 a.m., and by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the pre-modern history of East Asia. We will focus on the following Asian countries: China, Japan, and Korea. Most students in the West may only be familiar with these nations in the context of the traumatic episodes of war and violence and revolution that swept the region throughout the twentieth century. However, these countries are heirs to long histories of cultural brilliance and diversity. In this class we will first explore how the history of this region has shaped the common bonds that bring this part of the world together as a whole. Secondly, we will consider how the literary traditions of these various societies depict the social and political conditions from which modern Asian nations would later emerge.

Students taking this course should reach the following goals by the end of the semester:

- ❑ Construct persuasive written arguments concerned with historical topics.
- ❑ Learn of the fundamental historical development of ancient Asian societies in the regions of modern-day China, Japan, and Korea from earliest times to ca. 1800.
- ❑ Understand better the effect the ancient past has had on the modern world.
- ❑ Exhibit self-motivation and self-expression by exploring and asking questions regarding historical topics beyond personal life experiences.

### **Course Reading Materials (On sale at the UNCG Bookstore)**

1. Conrad Schirokauer et al eds., *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations*, Third Edition (Australia, United States: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2006).
2. Warren I. Cohen, *East Asia at the Center: Four Thousand Years of Engagement with the World* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000).
3. John Wills, *Mountain of Fame: Portraits in Chinese History* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1994)

All other materials with \* mark for this course will be available on Blackboard.

## Assignment and Grading

1. **Class attendance and participation (10%)**: Class participation in the discussion of the reading materials and attendance is essential. Absences of more than **1 meeting** will be marked down and will affect your final grade.
2. **Weekly responses (20 %)**: You are required to answer to the questions posted on Blackboard about **TEN** readings. You are to submit a-paragraph (3-4 sentences), typed answers to each question after every Thursday class. No late submission is accepted.
3. **Map Quiz (10%)**: A map quiz will be tested to identify regional names and locations in China and some parts of East Asia on **August 24 (Thursday)**. No make-up quiz will be offered.
4. **Group Presentation (20%)**: 4-5 students will make a group presentation based on the assigned readings for the selected week. The group presentation in class should be around 20 minutes. It is a group project, therefore each group member will receive same grade regardless of their different contributions to presentation.
5. **Mid-term Exam (20%)**: There is an exam in class on October 12<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). Questions are selected from lectures, class discussions, and weekly readings. No make-up quiz will be offered.
6. **Final Take Home Exam (20%)**: There is a 5 page, typed take-home exam. Cumulative exam based on lectures, class discussions, and weekly readings. Questions will be given on the last day of the class, November 30<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). The exams will be due in my office no later than 5 pm on December 7<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). No late submission or submission via email is accepted.

## Class Regulations

1. No incomplete is given for this class.
2. Laptops can be used during the class, but no web browsing is allowed. If it is found, points will be deducted from the class attendance and participation.
3. Plagiarism (*Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise*): Plagiarism is a serious crime. It may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. This includes submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including web sites, as one's own work. If a student submits works done by or copied from another, including a fellow student, a previous student, or anyone other than the student responsible for the assignment, s/he will receive F on assignment or be recommended for expulsion.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1 (Aug. 15-17)

Theme: Course introduction; Map of East Asia  
Film in class: “Mandate of Heaven”

### Week 2 (Aug. 22-24)

Theme: Rise of Chinese Civilization; “The Hundred Schools” Period  
Map Quiz on August 24 (Thursday)

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 2-49.  
Reading for response 1: Wills, 11-32.

### Week 3 (Aug. 29-31)

Theme: The Qin and Han Periods  
Presentation 1: “The First Chinese Emperor”  
Film in class: Part of “Secrets of the Great Wall”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 50-81  
Reading for response 2: Wills, 33-50

### Week 4 (Sep. 5-7)

Theme: Buddhism; the Sui and Tang periods  
Presentation 2: “Empress Wu”  
Film in class: Part of “Secrets of the Great Wall”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 84-133  
Reading for response 3: Wills, 127-148.

### Week 5 (Sep. 12-14)

Theme: The Song Dynasty; Neo-Confucianism  
Presentation 3: “Yue Fei”  
Film in class: Part of “A Thousand Kilometers Beyond the Yellow River”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 204-235  
Reading for response 4: Wills, 168-180.

### Week 6 (Sep. 19-21)

Theme: The Mongol Empire; the Yuan Dynasty  
Presentation 4: “The Mongol Ascendancy”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 236-257  
Reading for response 5: Cohen, 128-149.

### Week 7 (Sep. 26-28)

Theme: The Ming and Chinese World Order

Presentation 5: “The Tribute System”

Film in class: Part of “1421: The Year China Discovered America”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 258-285

Reading for response 6: Cohen, 150-182

**Week 8 (Oct. 3-5)**

Theme: Early Korea

Reading for lecture: \*Fairbank, *East Asia (Early Korea)*, 277-299.

Mid-term Exam: Oct. 5 (Thursday)

**Week 9 (Fall Break & Oct. 12)**

Theme: Early Japan

Reading for lecture: \*Fairbank, *East Asia (Early Japan)*, 324-357.

**Week 10 (Oct. 17-19)**

Theme: Japanese Pirates; East Asian Trade

Presentation 6: “Coxinga”

Reading for lecture: Cohen, 183-215.

Reading for response 7: Wills, 216-230.

**Week 11 (Oct. 24-26)**

Theme: The Samurai World in Japan

Presentation 7: “Samurai”

Film in class: Part of “Shintô: Nature, Gods and Man in Japan”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 344-377

Ikegami, *The Taming of the Samuria*, 47-77.

**Week 12 (Oct.31-Nov. 2)**

Theme: The Yangban Society in Korea

Presentation 8: “Hamel in Korea”

Film in class: TBA

Reading for lecture: \*Fairbank, *East Asia (Yangban Society)*, 300-324.

Reading for response 8: \*Roepers, *Hamel's World*, 15-58.

**Week 13 (Nov. 7-9)**

Theme: The Qing Dynasty

Presentation 9: “The Qianlong Emperor”

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 378-401

Reading for response 9: Wills, 231-258.

**Week 14 (Nov. 14-16)**

Theme: European visitors to East Asia

Presentation 10: "The Jesuits in China"

Reading for lecture: Schirokauer, 328-342.

Reading for response 10: \*Mungello, *The Great Encounter of China and the West*, 11-57, 94-99.

**Week 15 (Nov. 21 & Thanksgiving Break)**

Film in class: "Two Coasts of China"

**Week 16 (Nov. 28-30)**

Theme: The Eve of Modern East Asia

Film in class: "Meiji: Asia's response to the West"

Final exam questions will be distributed in class on Nov. 30 (Thursday).

**Take Home Exam: Due by 5 pm on Dec. 7 (Thursday) to 2111 HHRA**