

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 215-01: Civilizations of Asia
TR 2:00pm - 3:15pm, MHRA 1214

Fall Semester 2017

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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Office Hours: MW 10-10:50am and by appointment

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the pre-modern history of Asia. We will focus on the following Asian countries: China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. 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.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a GHP and GN course HIS-215 is linked to the following Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

General Historical Perspective (GHP) SLOs:

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives. (LG3).
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing. (LG1)

General Global Non-Western (GN) SLOs:

1. Find, interpret, and evaluate information on diverse cultures. (LG1)
2. Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Must include substantial focus on cultures, nations or sub-nationalities in the Caribbean, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, Asia, Africa, Pacific Islands, or indigenous peoples around the world). (LG3)
3. Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues. (LG5)

Course Specific SLOs:

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

Course Requirements

There will be a take-home final exam, six in-class quizzes (including a skills quiz), and a 5-7 page (12-point font *Times New Roman* font, double-spaced, 1" margins, paginated) "think piece" paper. The paper will be both submitted to Canvas's "Turnitin" data-base by class time on **Thursday, November 16th** and submitted in hard copy form in class the same day. The schedule

for the six in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The take-home final exam will be handed out in class on **Tuesday, November 28th** and it must be both submitted to Canvas's "Turnitin" data-base and submitted in hard copy form to my office on **Tuesday, December 5th**. Attendance at **all** lecture and discussion sections is expected; an attendance list may be compiled at the start of each class meeting. Moreover, the completion of all required written assignments is necessary for a passing grade. No "incompletes" will be given for this class. Please remember to plan ahead!

E-mail Accounts

I will require that all students establish e-mail accounts with Internet access. This course will occasionally involve interaction between the instructor and students outside of the lecture period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Grading:

Skills Quiz	<i>Ungraded</i>
5 Graded Quizzes	30% (6% each)
Class Participation (group discussion, general participation)	30%
*Canvas Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections	(15%)
*General Participation (including class attendance)	(15%)
Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%

Quizzes

The quizzes will cover materials from the assigned readings, lectures, films, and other in-class presentations. I will go over all assigned readings, either during lectures or during discussion sections. You are responsible for anything that is covered in class, whether or not you were present for a given class period.

No Make-up Quizzes

No make-up quizzes will be offered for this class. Instead, you may drop one of your five graded quizzes, only if you have taken the ungraded skills quiz at the beginning of the semester. Once you have missed one quiz, all subsequent missed quizzes will be graded at 0% credit.

Final Take-home Examination

There is a 6-8 page, typed take-home exam. I will distribute the exam questions on the last day of the course, and you will be required to construct an essay that clearly answers two of these questions while using the primary and secondary sources provided for the class. **The exams will be due in my office (2129 MHRA) no later than 3pm on Tuesday, December 5th**. We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

CANVAS ASSIGNMENTS

Weeks Featuring Readings

Many Thursdays you will splinter into several smaller groups to discuss primary sources and articles illustrative of themes in this course. In preparation for these activities, you are expected to read the assigned sources and prepare two well-considered discussion questions for presentation in class. **These questions must be posted to the appropriate forum on Canvas by**

the preceding Wednesday evening at 11:59pm. Print and bring these questions with you to present the following morning among your discussion group.

Following each discussion you are responsible for submitting a one-paragraph (3-5 sentences) discussion reflection or summary. **These reflections must be posted to the appropriate forum on Canvas by the following Monday at 11:59pm.** Were there points in the text that you wish had been discussed or elaborated upon in greater depth? Have you come to a new understanding of the text since the Thursday meeting? If so, please feel free to note those points here.

Discussion Questions and Reflections will be evaluated together as one assignment by the Graduate Assistant. **Late submissions will receive no credit. You are required to submit at least 7 (seven) Discussion Questions and Reflections during the semester to receive a passing grade.**

*If you are unfamiliar with Canvas, it is your responsibility to learn to use this online learning tool.

The written exercises will be graded on a check, check-plus, or check-minus scale. If you receive straight “checks” for all exercises, you will have earned a “B” for this part of the course. To earn a “check-plus” you need to demonstrate that you have thought imaginatively about the question and have put some genuine effort into your answer. The purpose of these exercises is to gain experience in writing, and they should therefore help prepare you for the paper and the take-home exam.

“Think Piece” Paper

The “Think Piece” Paper, a response to assigned topics from the required text *The Tale of Kieu*, will be based on your readings, section discussions, and the lectures. This paper is not a research paper; therefore, no outside reading is required. However, the quality of your writing, particularly the clarity and persuasiveness of your argument, will factor into the final grading. **Late papers will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date.**

Website

This class is served by a companion Canvas site, through which you may access all the on-line e-reserves. Here students can access course information, such as scheduled events (i.e. the syllabus you now hold in your hand), as well as terms mentioned in lecture. I will also list links to web sites of interest to our class. Please refer to the class site periodically for such materials.

Academic Integrity Policy

Each student is required to include and sign the Academic Integrity Policy pledge on all major work submitted for the course:

I HAVE ABIDED BY THE UNCG ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.

Signature _____ Date _____

For more information, please refer to Appendix A of the Academic Integrity Policy as stated on the UNCG website at URL: <http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must be registered with the Office of Accessibility Resources & Services in 215 Elliott University Center, 334-5440, <http://ods.dept.uncg.edu/>. If you have a documented disability and want to discuss academic accommodations, please speak with me before the end of the second week of the fall semester.

Required Texts

The following books are required readings for this course, and may be purchased at the UNCG Bookstore:

1. Murphey, Rhoads. *East Asia: A New History*. 5th Edition. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2010. ISBN: 9780205695225.
2. De Bary, William Theodore. *Sources of East Asian Tradition*. Volume One. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780231143059.
3. Nguyen Du. *The Tale of Kieu*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987. ISBN: 9780300040517.

All other materials for this course will be available on electronic reserve at the course Canvas site.

Lecture Schedule:

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
East Asia: Geography, Prehistory, and Earliest Times	
August 15-17: A Look at Asia as a Region. Do Asian Values Exist?	Reading: Murphey, pp. 1-19. Discussion: Kim, "Do Asian Values Exist? Empirical Tests of the Four Dimensions of Asian Values" (Canvas Course Documents)
EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA	
August 22-24: China's Prehistory and the Legendary Shang Dynasty. Working with Primary Sources.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 20-30. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 1 (pp. 13-21)
"Practice" Skills/Map Quiz, Tuesday 8/22	
August 31: Social change during China's Zhou dynasty.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 31-37. Discussion: British Museum "Ancient Chinese Tomb" website: http://www.ancientchina.co.uk/tombs/explore/exp_set.html
No Class on Tuesday, August 29	
September 5-7: The "One Hundred Schools" Period.	Readings: Murphey, pp. 37-53. Discussion: deBary, Excerpts from Chapters 3-5 (pp. 29-33, 48, 67-68)
September 12: Rise and Fall of Asia's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 54-73.
GRADED QUIZ #1, Tuesday 9/12	
No Class on Thursday, September 14	
September 19-21: China's Period of Disunion. The Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 78-91, 95-97. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 18 (pp. 296- 300)
September 26-28: The Spread & Adaptation of Buddhism in East Asia.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 74-77, 91-95. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 15 (pp. 223- 231)
GRADED QUIZ #2, Tuesday 9/26	
October 5: The Glory of China's Song Dynasty. Mongol (Yuan) Rule in East Asia. Neo-Confucianism.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 99-122.
No Class on Tuesday, October 3	

FALL BREAK: October 6, Friday - Instruction ends for Fall Break 6:00 p.m.

October 11, Wednesday - Classes resume after Fall Break 8:00 a.m.

WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGS AND DISCUSSION
JAPAN: EARLIEST TIMES TO FEUDAL AGE	
October 12: Foundations of Pre-modern Japanese Society. Origins of Shinto Belief.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 203-224.
October 17-19: Medieval Japan. The Samurai Class.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 225-243. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 50 (pp. 761-765)
GRADED QUIZ #3, Tuesday 10/17	

October 24-26: Early Tokugawa Japan.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 264-277. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 57 (pp. 854-857)
Tuesday, October 31, 2017: UNCG Entrepreneur Day.	Mary Chen (Chen Language Service), Special Guest Speaker from the NC Entrepreneurship Center in cooperation with Alumni Relations, Development and Career Services
PRE-MODERN KOREA	
November 2: Early Korea.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 171-180.
GRADED QUIZ #4, Thursday 11/2	
November 7-9: Late Dynastic Korea	Reading: Murphey, pp. 180-187. Discussion: Excerpts from the <i>Pangye Surok</i> : Yu Hyŏngwŏn on Abolishing Slavery (Canvas Course Documents)
PRE-MODERN VIETNAM	
November 14-16: Legacy of the Nam Việt Kingdom. Early Imperial Vietnam.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 188-197. Discussion: <i>Excerpts from "Text of The Stone Inscription for The Duke of Lý, The Thái Úy Of Cự Việt Kingdom (Đỗ Anh Vũ)"</i> (Canvas Course Documents)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16th	THINK PIECE PAPER DUE
November 22: Late Imperial Vietnam	Reading: Murphey, pp. 197-200.
GRADED QUIZ #5, Tuesday 11/12	
NOVEMBER 22nd – 26th	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
November 28: Concluding Points and Review	
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28th	TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28th	LAST DAY OF HIS 215 CLASSES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th	TAKE HOME EXAM DUE BY 3PM in MHRA 2111

