

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 215-01: Civilizations of Asia
MWF 10:00am - 10:50am, MHRA 1215

Fall Semester 2023

Instructor: James A. Anderson

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History Department Social Media:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uncghistory1/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UNCGDepartmentofHistory>

Website: <https://his.uncg.edu/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmAM-qIz-IVzKR_YmoHq4A

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.

MAC Student Learning Outcomes:

Courses in this competency provide students with knowledge and critical understanding of similarities and differences across world cultures over time and space. These courses emphasize the development of global perspectives and skills to engage across cultures and cultural identities.

The Global Engagement & Intercultural Learning SLOs:

1. Describe dynamic elements of different cultures.
2. Explain how similarities, differences, and connections among different groups of people or global systems affect one another over time and place.

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 mid-term exam, five 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 submitted to Canvas's "Turnitin" data-base by 11:59pm on Canvas on **Friday, November 17th**. The schedule for the five in-class quizzes is noted in the lecture schedule. The due date of the final "take home" exam is **Monday, December 5th at 11:59pm on Canvas**. 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!

Attendance Policy

Attendance at **all** lecture and discussion sections is expected; an attendance list may be compiled at the start of each class meeting. Students may miss no more than three classes for any reason, after which absences will affect the General Participation portion of the course final grade.

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:

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|--|------------------------|
| Skills Quiz | <i>Ungraded</i> |
| 4 Graded Quizzes | 20% (5% each) |
| Class Participation (group discussion, general participation) | 30% |
| *Canvas Discussion Questions <u>and</u> Reflections | (15%) |
| *General Participation (including class attendance) | (15%) |
| Paper | 30% |
| Mid-term Exam | 20% |

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100 A+
 93-96 A
 90-92 A-
 87-89 B+
 83-86 B
 80-82 B-
 77-79 C+

73-76 C
 70-72 C-
 67-69 D+
 63-66 D
 60-62 D-
 <60 F

Quizzes (MAC Student Learning Outcome 1, 2):

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 four 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.

CANVAS ASSIGNMENTS

Weeks Featuring Readings (MAC Student Learning Outcome 1, 2):

Many Fridays 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 Friday 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 1-3 point scale. If you receive straight “2’s” for all exercises, you will have earned a “B” for this part of the course. To earn a “1” 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 midterm exam.

“Think Piece” Paper (MAC Student Learning Outcome 1, 2):

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 a signed Academic Integrity Policy pledge, using the statement below, at the end of 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 the Academic Integrity Policy as stated on the UNCG website at URL: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0rFGGhJvbdHUEXSZmFFaWFmb00/view>

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, <https://ods.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. Holcombe, Charles. *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century*. 2017. ISBN: 9781107118737.
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 as electronic files on the course Canvas site.

Lecture Schedule:

| WEEK'S TOPIC | READINGS AND DISCUSSION |
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| East Asia: Geography, Prehistory, and Earliest Times | |
| August 16-18: A Look at Asia as a Region. Do Asian Values Exist? | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 1-11. Discussion: Kim, "Do Asian Values Exist? Empirical Tests of the Four Dimensions of Asian Values" (Canvas Course Documents) |
| EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA | |
| August 21-25: China's Prehistory and the Legendary Shang Dynasty. Working with Primary Sources. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 12-15, 25-30. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 1 (pp. 13-21) |
| "Practice" Skills/Map Quiz, Monday 8/21 | |
| Wednesday, August 23. NO CLASS MEETING | |
| August 28-September 1: Social change during China's Zhou dynasty. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 31-35. Discussion: British Museum "Ancient Chinese Tomb" website: http://www.ancientchina.co.uk/tombs/explore/exp_set.html |
| September 6-8: The "One Hundred Schools" Period. | Readings: Holcombe, pp. 36-42. Discussion: deBary, Excerpts from Chapters 3-5 (pp. 29-33, 48, 67-68) |
| Monday, September 4 | LABOR DAY HOLIDAY |
| September 11-15: Rise and Fall of Asia's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 42-56. Discussion: deBary, Excerpts from Chapters 10 (pp. 152-167) |
| GRADED QUIZ #1, Monday 9/11 | |
| September 18-22: China's Period of Disunion. The Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 56-72, 95-104, 107-114. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 18 (pp. 296- 300) |
| September 25-29: The Spread & Adaptation of Buddhism in East Asia. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 72-81, 104-107. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 15 (pp. 223- 231) |
| GRADED QUIZ #2, Monday 9/25 | |
| October 2-6: The Glory of China's Song Dynasty. Mongol (Yuan) Rule in East Asia. Neo-Confucianism. Ming Founding. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 132-149. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 22 (pp. 387- 401) |

NO CLASS ME

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 11-13: Foundations of Pre-modern Japanese Society. Origins of Shinto Belief. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 88-92, 120-129. |
| October 16-20: Medieval Japan. The Samurai Class. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 154-164. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 50 (pp. 761-765) |
| GRADED QUIZ #3, Monday 10/16 | |

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| October 23-27: Early Tokugawa Japan. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 187-194. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 57 (pp. 854-857) |
| PRE-MODERN KOREA | |
| October 30- November 3: Early Korea. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 81-88, 114-120 Discussion: deBary, Chapter 62 |
| November 6-10: Late Dynastic Korea | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 149-154. Discussion: Excerpts from the <i>Pangye Surok</i> : Yu Hyŏngwŏn on Abolishing Slavery (Canvas Course Documents) |
| PRE-MODERN VIETNAM | |
| November 13-17: Legacy of the Nam Việt Kingdom. Early Imperial Vietnam. | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 199-213. Discussion: <i>Excerpts from "Text of The Stone Inscription for The Duke of Lý, The Thái Úy Of Cựu Việt Kingdom (Đỗ Anh Vũ)"</i> (Canvas Course Documents) |
| FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17th | THINK PIECE PAPER DUE |
| November 20: Late Imperial Vietnam | Reading: Holcombe, pp. 213-216. |
| NOVEMBER 22nd – 26th | THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY |
| November 27-29: Asia and the Arrival of the West. Concluding Points | |
| GRADED QUIZ #4, Monday 11/27 | |
| WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th | TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS |
| WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29th | LAST DAY OF HIS 215 CLASSES |
| TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5th | TAKE HOME EXAM DUE BY 11:59pm on Canvas |

MAP: (Please note the location of the following countries; China, North Korea, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar or Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, East Timor, and the Philippines.)

