

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

HIS 215-01: Civilizations of Asia - Spring Semester 2012

TR 2:00-3:15 pm MHRA 1214

Instructor: Dustin Cranford

Office: MHRA 2111

E-mail: dscranfo@uncg.edu (This is the best way to contact me throughout the week. I will respond within 24 hours.)

Office Hours: TR 1:00-1:50pm, and by appointment

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.

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, Korea, and Vietnam 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 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 Blackboard's "Safe Assign" data-base by class time on **Thursday, April 12th** 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, April 24th** and it must be both submitted to Blackboard's "Safe Assign" data-base and submitted in hard copy form to my office on **Monday, April 30th**. 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 *Ungraded*

5 Graded Quizzes 30% (6% each)

Class Participation (film responses, group discussion, general participation) **30%**

*Film Responses (10%)

*Blackboard Discussion Questions and Reflections (15%)

*General Participation (5%)

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 (2111 MHRA) no later than 3pm on Monday, April 30th.** We'll talk more about this exam later in the course.

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Weeks Featuring Films:

Five in-class film screenings will take place throughout the semester. Written responses will always be due the Sunday evening at 11:59pm following the film. (Example: For the film shown on Monday, August 29, the written response is due Sunday, September 4 by 11:59pm.) Prior to each screening, you will receive a film-guide handout featuring questions which address the film in terms of weekly course readings. You are expected to prepare a well-written and thoughtful response to each film guide, taking care to thoroughly answer all questions. A thorough response requires a minimum of one well-developed paragraph for each question. These responses must be posted to the appropriate forum on Blackboard. These due dates are listed on the Blackboard forums themselves. Film Responses will be evaluated by the Graduate Assistant. **Late film responses will be penalized half a letter grade for each day beyond the original due date. All film responses are required assignments.**

*If you miss an in-class film screening, the films are located on reserve at the Teaching and Learning Center in McIver Hall.

- Several times during the semester, students will have both film responses and reading responses due.

Weeks Featuring Readings:

Each Friday 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 Blackboard by the preceding Wednesday 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 Blackboard by the following Sunday 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. **Late submissions will receive no credit. You are required to submit at least 10 (ten) Discussion Questions and Reflections during the semester to receive a passing grade.**

*If you are unfamiliar with Blackboard, 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 Analects*, by Confucius, 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.**

Web-site

This class is served by a companion Blackboard 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.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is paramount for a successful completion of this class. After three absences, your final grade will be reduced by one point for each absence. If you have special and unavoidable circumstances that prevent you from attending class, it will be your responsibility to notify me. Moreover, please be on time as tardiness is disrespectful and disruptive to both your classmates and myself. If tardiness becomes an issue (over three), a third of a point will begin to be deducted from the final grade.

Cell Phone and Laptop Use

Laptops will be allowed for note taking purposes. If I find that you are on facebook, chatting, or playing games, I will ask you to turn your laptop off. You may not think so, but this can be extremely distracting for those around you, and is extremely disrespectful to the instructor.

As for cell phones, please put them on vibrate or turn them off completely. Texting in class is prohibited. It is extremely disrespectful to the instructor and unprofessional.

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any other violation of the honor code. Any violations will be dealt with according to the Academic Integrity Policy (<http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete>). Don't do it! This includes any and all plagiarism from websites. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment in question. However, I recognize the frustration and confusion of using sources for research and writing, and the resultant fear of being accused of plagiarism. Your safest

route is to ALWAYS use citations if you use ideas from another author or source (even if it's a website).

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-13: 978-0-205-69522-5.
2. De Bary, William Theodore. *Sources of East Asian Tradition*. Introduction to Asian civilizations. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0231143059.
3. Confucius, trans. by D.C. Lau. *The Analects*. Penguin 1979. ISBN: 978-0-140-44348-6

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

Lecture Schedule: WEEK'S TOPIC	READINGSS AND DISCUSSION
East Asia: Geography, Prehistory, And Earliest Times	
January 10-12: A Look at Asia as a Region. Origin Myths in East Asia.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 1-19. Discussion: March, "The Myth of Asia" (e-reserve)
EARLY IMPERIAL CHINA	
January 17-19: China's Prehistory and the Legendary Shang Dynasty. Social change during China's Xia and Zhou dynasties.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 20-30. Film: <i>Mandate of Heaven</i> Discussion: deBary, Chapter 1 (pp. 13-21)
"Practice" Skills/Map Quiz, Tuesday 01/17	
January 24-26: The "One Hundred Schools" Period.	Readings: 1) Murphey, pp. 31-53. 2) Spence, "Confucius" (e-

	<p>reserve) Discussion: deBary, Excerpts from Chapters 3-5 (pp. 29-40, 48, 67-68)</p>
<p>January 31-February 2: Rise and Fall of Asia's First Imperial Order (the Qin), Han Meritocracy and Statecraft Confucianism.</p>	<p>Reading: Murphey, pp. 54-73. Discussion: Birch, "Biographies" (e-reserve)</p>
<p>GRADED QUIZ #1, Tuesday 01/31</p>	
<p>February 7-9: China's Period of Disunion.</p>	<p>Reading: Murphey, pp. 74-81 Discussion: deBary, Chapters 13-14 (pp. 211- 222)</p>
<p>February 14-16: China's Tang Dynasty and its Neighbors, the Silk Road.</p>	<p>Reading: Murphey, pp. 81-98. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 18 (pp. 290- 307)</p>
<p>GRADED QUIZ #2, Tuesday 02/14</p>	
<p>February 21-23: The Spread & Adaptation of Buddhism in East Asia.</p>	<p>Reading: Murphey, pp. 74-78, 91-98. Film: <i>The Dalai Lama - The Four Noble Truths</i> Discussion: deBary, Chapter 15 (pp. 223- 237)</p>
<p>February 28-March 1: The Glory of China's Song Dynasty. Mongol (Yuan) Rule in East Asia. Neo-Confucianism.</p>	<p>Reading: Murphey, pp. 99-122. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 21 (pp. 361- 386)</p>
<p>March 3-11 Spring Break Holiday: No Class</p>	
<p>March 13-15: First Ming rulers. World Exploration during the Ming.</p>	<p>Reading: Murphey, pp. 123-147. Film: 1421: the Year China Discovered America-Part 1 Discussion: 1. Gavin Menzies's official website http://www.gavinmenzies.net/pages/evidence-1421/index.asp 2. The "1421 Myth Exposed"</p>

	web-site: http://www.1421exposed.com/
GRADED QUIZ #3, Tuesday, 03/15	
JAPAN: EARLIEST TIMES TO FEUDAL AGE	
March 20-22: Foundations of Pre-modern Japanese Society.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 203-224. Discussion: deBary, Chapter 42 (pp. 630- 639)
March 27-29: Medieval Japan.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 225-243. Film: <i>Medieval Japan and Buddhism</i> Discussion: deBary, Chapter 50 (pp. 754- 772)
GRADED QUIZ #4, Monday 03/27	
April 3-5: Tokugawa Japan. Origins of Shinto Belief.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 264-284. Film: <i>Tokugawa Japan</i> Discussion: deBary, Chapter 57 (pp. 845- 861)
PRE-MODERN KOREA	
April 10-12: Korea.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 171-187. Discussion: deBary, Chapters 36 & 37 (pp. 573-589)
Thursday, April 12th	THINK PIECE PAPER DUE
PRE-MODERN VIET NAM	
April 17-19: Legacy of the Nam Viet Kingdom.	Reading: Murphey, pp. 188-196.
GRADED QUIZ #5, Tuesday, April 17th	
April 24: Sino-Vietnamese Relations. Late Imperial Vietnam. LAST DAY OF HIS 215 CLASSES	Reading: Murphey, pp. 196-202. Discussion: Balaban Readings, "Spring Essence" (on e-reserve), Folk tales from <i>Two Cakes Fit for a</i>

	<i>King (on e-reserve)</i>
Tuesday April 24th	TAKE HOME EXAM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS
MONDAY, April 30th	TAKE HOME EXAM DUE BY 3PM in MHRA 2111