History of Premodern East Asia

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys East Asian history from ancient times to the end of the eighteenth century, with emphasis on the development of Chinese and Japanese civilizations. It pursues following themes: the founding of Chinese culture; the making of Chinese bureaucratic state and gentry society; the rise of Ming-Qing commercialized economy; the growth of Japanese culture; the establishment of Japanese shogunate system and feudal society, and the role of Korea in East Asia. It tries to show how Chinese and Japanese in traditional times developed their social, political, religious and cultural values that continue to define their people’s worldviews today. For detailed course objectives and learning goals, please refer to http://uncw.edu/hst/learninggoals.html. This course adopts Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall, Pre-Modern East Asia to 1800: A Cultural, Social, and Political History as the main textbook. The other supplementary readings are used for class discussions on in-depth understanding of the East Asian history and for students to write essays. The course combines lectures, readings, discussions, and visual materials. Although no extensive background knowledge is presumed, students should be aware that the required readings include a large number of unfamiliar names and terms.

TEXTBOOKS (AVAILABLE AT THE BOOKSTORE):

Patricia Ebrey and Anne Walthall. Pre-Modern East Asia to 1800: A Cultural, Social, and Political History
Arthur Waley. Three Ways of Thought in Ancient China
Robert Van Gulik. Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee
Burton Watson. The Tales of the Heike
Ray Huang. 1587, A Year of No Significance: the Ming Dynasty in Decline
Katsu Kokichi. Musui’s Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Attendance, 5%

Students are expected to attend each class meeting. The grade will be based on a student’s regular attendance to class meetings and active participation in classroom discussion. An attendance sheet will be circulated irregularly, five to six times during the semester. A student from missing his/her second signing-up will begin to lose attendance points.
2. Reading Assignments

The required reading assignments are listed in the calendar of course events. They vary week to week, but on the average students should expect about 80-90 pages per week. Students are expected to finish the designated reading assignment before each class meeting.

3. Writing Assignments: 50%

Students are responsible for writing five essays, each in 1,000 words or 4-5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced and not exceeding 12-point font size. The essays are based on the supplementary textbooks and a prompt will be given to students a week prior to the due date of an essay. Each essay is worth of 10%. An essay that is turned late will be penalized ten percent of the assignment’s grade for each day it is overdue. Electronic submission of any writing assignments is not accepted.

9/2, Three Ways of Thought in Ancient China
9/16, Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee
10/21, The Tales of the Heike
11/6, 1587, A Year of No Significance
12/2, The Forty-Seven Ronin Story

4. Examinations: 45%

Students are responsible for taking two in-class examinations that will be based on lectures and the main textbook. Each examination consists of identification questions and essay questions. Students need to use blue books to take the examinations.

10/9, midterm
12/9, final

5. Extra Credit Points, 4%

Students are encouraged to watch two films during the semester and write a 1-2 page movie critique for each film watched. Each film and critique combined is worth of 2 points.

10/9, Ying Xiong (Hero, Chinese film), PN1997.C5 H476
12/9, Ran (Japanese film), PN1997.J3 R36

**GRADING POLICY:** Total 100%

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IMPORTANT NOTE:

This course complies with the UNCW Academic Honesty Policy that is documented in the Undergraduate Catalogue and in the Student Handbook. Any plagiarism will lead a student to automatic failure of this class. In writing, any citation more than 25 words directly from other people’s works must be footnoted.

CALENDER OF COURSE EVENTS:

8/21  Syllabus/Introduction: East Asian Geography, People, and Languages
       Ebrey and Walthall, 2-7

       I. The Foundations of East Asian Civilization in China

8/26  Early Chinese Civilization: from Shang to the Warring States
       Ebrey and Walthall, 8-16

8/28  Chinese Intellectual Foundations: Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism
       Ebrey and Walthall, 26-32

9/2   Book Discussion: Three Ways of Thought in Ancient China, Essay #1 due
       Qin’s Unification of China
       Ebrey and Walthall, 35-41

9/4   Han Dynasty
       Ebrey and Walthall, 41-55

9/9   Era of Division
       Ebrey and Walthall, 61-70

9/11  Reunification under Sui and Tang
       Ebrey and Walthall, 75-78

9/16  Tang Empire
       Ebrey and Walthall, 79-92
       Book Discussion: Celebrated Cases of Judge Dee. Essay #2 due

9/18  Chinese Buddhism
       Ebrey and Walthall, 56-60, 70-74

       II. Emergence of East Asia Civilization

9/23  Early to Goryeo Korea
Ebrey and Walthall, 98-112, 169-181

9/25 Japan: From Legends to Yamato State
Ebrey and Walthall, 93-96, 114-118

9/30 Taika Reforms in Japan
Ebrey and Walthall, 118-128

10/2 China under Northern and Southern Song Dynasties
Ebrey and Walthall, 129-140

10/7 Song Economy and Gentry Society
Ebrey and Walthall, 140-147

10/9 Midterm Examination

10/16 Heian Japan
Ebrey and Walthall, 148-158

10/21 The Rise of Japanese Samurai
Ebrey and Walthall, 158-161, 183-185
Book Discussion: The Tales of the Heike, Essay #3 due

10/23 Mongol Conquest of China
Ebrey and Walthall, 162-168, 198-209

10/28 Kamakura Japan
Ebrey and Walthall, 186-197

10/30 Ashikaga Rule and the Rise of Daimyo
Ebrey and Walthall 212-223

III. Meeting New Challenges

11/4 The Ming Empire in China
Ebrey and Walthall, 227-246

11/6 Book Discussion: 1587, Essay #4 due
Joseon Korea
Ebrey and Walthall, 247-263

11/11 China under Manchu’s Rule
Ebrey and Walthall, 270-279

11/13 Ming-Qing Economy
Ebrey and Walthall, 281-287

11/18  Ming-Qing China and Outside World
       Ebrey and Walthall, 265-269, 280-281

11/20  Reunification of Japan
       Ebrey and Walthall, 223-226

11/25  Edo Japan
       Ebrey and Walthall, 288-303

12/2   Tokugawa Japan and Outside World
       Book Discussion: *Musui’s Story*, Essay $5$ due

12/9   Final Exam, 11:30-2:30