

HIST 495: History of Asia

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Office Hours: MWF 9-10, TR 1-1:20, 4:20-5 and by appointment

Fall 2012
TR 3:00-4:20
ADM 329
3 credit hours

Course Description: This course examines the major events, themes and trends that comprise Asian history from the ancient through the modern period. Focusing primarily on China, India, and Japan, the course explores such themes as the makings of civilization, the development of political institutions and economies, social and cultural structures, religion, imperialism, and nationalism. Particular attention will be paid to the interactions among Asian powers, including the rise and fall of empires and tributary systems, and the emergence of the modern Asian nations. Though comparative thinking will be encouraged, this course seeks to understand Asia as much as possible from its own sources and on its own terms, rather than from the perspective of the Western world, though attention will be paid to Asia's interactions with Europe and the United States, especially during the modern period.

Purpose of this course: To promote students' global citizenship, curiosity and compassion. The study of past cultures and of places beyond our usual field of vision—which, for many of us, is limited to the contemporary Western world—helps us better appreciate different points of view. This course should stretch our horizons, make us more sensitive global citizens, and deepen our understanding of ourselves and our own ways of looking at the world.

Academic Goals/Student Competencies: This course seeks not only to communicate facts, but also to cultivate knowledge of chronology, trends, themes, and connections that will help students build a holistic understanding of Asian history. Upon completion of the course, successful students will be able to describe the trajectory of Asian history from the ancient to the modern period, analyze and evaluate primary source material related to course themes, and discuss the role of Asian states in the modern world. The course requires critical thinking, analysis, and use of writing skills. The coursework also seeks to foster a historical perspective in students, that is, an understanding of and appreciation for the worldviews of the past, and an ability to relate that knowledge to the present.

What I expect of you: This course is designed for upper level history and social science majors. Prerequisites for the course are junior standing or the completion of three hours of 100-299 history. Students should come to class on time, prepared, and ready to think through the full class period. Be ready to ask questions and participate in discussion, if appropriate. Apply yourself thoughtfully to your assignments, and turn them in on time. If you are engaged with the material, you will get more out of the class. All students must check their ACU email accounts regularly.

What you may expect of me: I will come to class prepared to make the coursework as clear and as interesting as I can. I will listen willingly to suggestions or comments on the course, when appropriate. I will start class on time and let you out on time. I will endeavor to return your assignments to you with thoughtful, helpful comments on them, and in a timely manner. As well, I will always be available to assist you in any way that I can. Email is the best way to reach me, and I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours. I am always glad to meet with you during office hours or by appointment.

Mission Statements: The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. ACU's College of Arts and Sciences mission is to educate students for worldwide Christian service and leadership through programs of study and other learning experiences that blend a liberal arts education with professional and career education.

Christian Perspective: This course is taught from a perspective of Christian faith. History students at Abilene Christian University should be able to interrogate their own views of history and the role religion has played in it, while exercising cultural sensitivity to other systems of belief, particularly in our study of Asia, where non-Christian faith systems have largely dominated. In this course we will examine some of the similarities and differences between Christianity and Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam, the interactions between these religions, and reasons why the latter might have prevailed in Asia over the course of history. Bigotry towards Asian cultures or religions will not be tolerated.

I will be happy to meet with students to discuss issues of faith and ethics, church, plans for jobs, internships, or graduate school, or other topics. Please come and talk to me—I would be delighted to know you better!

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord. Isaiah 1:18

Required texts:

Rhoads Murphey, *A History of Asia*, 6th ed. (Pearson Longman, 2009)

Ramayana, translated R.K. Narayan (Penguin Classics)

Thomas Cleary, *The Code of the Samurai: A Modern Translation of the Bushido*

Shoshinshu of Taira Shigesuke (Turtle Books, 1999)

Gao Yuan, *Born Red: A Chronicle of the Cultural Revolution* (Stanford, 1987)

Brief additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

The syllabus schedule and/or assignments may be altered at any time, according to my discretion, and with due notice to students.

Attendance/Participation: Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. In-class discussion is a major component of this course. *Be advised that students who do not participate in discussion, or who fail to contribute substantively to discussion, will also lose participation points.* Please be aware that the participation points section of your grade is

based on my observation, throughout the semester, of your attendance, contribution to discussion, and overall engagement in the class. Reading quizzes may be given over assigned texts; these points also go towards the participation grade. Habitual talking, cell phone disruption, texting, and/or internet surfing will result in loss of participation points.

Grading/Exams: Grades are reflective of your ability to master the material presented in lecture, discussion, and assigned readings. We will have three examinations. The first two exams will contain ID questions that cover only the first and second sections of the course, respectively. The final exam will include IDs from the latter third of the course, as well as cumulative essay questions.

Assignments:

Response papers: Students will write two brief response papers that engage assigned course readings. Detailed prompts will be provided in class. Response papers will demonstrate that students have read and understood primary source documents, and will prepare students to participate in class discussion effectively. Each paper will be approximately 1000 words in length. Papers are worth 100 points each.

Research paper: Students will write a 12 to 15-page research paper over a topic of their choice in Indian, Chinese, or Japanese history. See a list of suggested possible topics below. The professor must approve each topic before the student may move forward with the project. Papers should be based on original research from both primary and secondary sources. Grades for the research paper will be divided into three sections, with three due dates.

1. Paper proposal (50 points, due 18 September) including proposed topic, historical questions to be addressed, and tentative thesis
2. Annotated bibliography and outline (100 points, due 25 October) including at least three primary sources and six secondary sources, with annotation, and a detailed outline of the paper
3. Final paper (200 points, due 27 November) including footnotes and bibliography according to the format outlined in the *Chicago Manual of Style*

Suggested Topics (This is not an exhaustive list, just some ideas to get you started. Many of these topics are very broad and will require some narrowing as you go. Choose something that you are interested in and will enjoy researching.):

1. the role of the Civil Service Exam in Qing society and culture
2. the voyages of Zheng He
3. perceptions of Mohandas Gandhi in the United States during the 1930s and 1940s
4. the East India Company's patronage of Indian religions
5. Protestant missionary activity in India
6. Protestant missionary activity in China
7. Protestant missionary activity in Japan
8. Catholic missionary activity in Asia
9. Anglo-Japanese relations before and after the Second World War

10. The use of Christian ideology and themes in the Taiping rebellion
11. Rammohun Roy
12. The creation of Pakistan
13. The status of women in Song, Ming, or Qing China
14. Changes in Chinese women's lives in the post-dynastic era
15. Iris Chang's work and its reception in Asia
16. The family in Ancient India
17. Jain communities in contemporary India
18. The Silk Road
19. Marco Polo's work and its reception in Asia
20. Early British activity in India: how did the EIC gain a foothold there?
21. The spread of Buddhism to China and/or Japan
22. Comparative communism in China and India in the 1950s and 1960s
23. British reform of *sati* and *thagi* and the Indian response
24. Ideals of romantic love and marriage in dynastic China
25. The resurgence of Shinto in Japan since World War II
26. The significance of the tea ceremony in Japan
27. Specific studies in Asian art, archaeology, or literature
28. Depictions of India, China, or Japan in film
29. The institution of the geisha
30. Salman Rushdie's work and its reception in Asia
31. The cult of the emperor in Japan
32. Tokugawa Ieyasu
33. Sun Yat Sen
34. The caste system
35. The cultural influence of the samurai in modern Japan

Breakdown of grading, for 1000 total points:

- 100 points attendance and participation
- 350 points research paper
 - 50 points paper proposal
 - 100 points annotated bibliography and outline
 - 200 points final paper
- 200 points response papers (100 points each)
- 350 points exams (100 Exam One, 100 Exam Two, 150 Final Exam)

Final grades for the course will be based on the percentage of points earned out of total possible points.

Grade scale:

A = 100-90 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = 59 and below

No extra credit is offered in this course.

Course Policies:

Attendance/Participation: Attendance will be taken on a daily basis, and **students who miss more than 6 classes (20% of the course) will be dropped with a grade of F.** Three tardies constitute one absence. In-class discussion is a major component of this course. *Be advised that students who do not participate in discussion, or who fail to contribute substantively to discussion, will also lose participation points* (e.g., “I agree with what Jack said,” or “it was boring,” is not a substantive contribution.) Please be aware that the participation section of your grade is based on my observation, throughout the semester, of your attendance, contribution to discussion, and overall engagement in the class. Reading quizzes may be given over assigned texts; these points also go towards the participation grade.

Habitual talking, reading of outside materials, texting, and internet surfing will result in loss of participation points. iPhones and iPods should never appear in class unless the professor expressly asks students to use them. This includes note-taking. Please take notes on paper or on a laptop; iPhones should not be used for this purpose.

Make-ups and late work: Tests may be made up for documented excused absences. **Late assignments/projects will receive a 10-point deduction per school day for each day they are late.** Assignments turned in on the due date, but after the class period, will be considered one day late. Papers turned in the day after the due date will be considered two days late, and so on. *No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the due date*, except under documented circumstances or at the professor's discretion.

Academic Integrity: Presenting someone else's work as your own, whether intentionally or not, is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Intentional or unintentional failure to give credit to sources used in a work in an attempt to present the work as one's own.

- Submitting for credit in whole or in part the work of others.

- Submission of paper(s) or project(s) obtained from any source, such as a research service or a club paper file, as one's own.

Plagiarism will result in a zero on the assignment and/or an F in the course. See the full university policy on plagiarism at <http://www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost>).

Students with disabilities should provide proper documentation through Student Disability Services. SDS assists students with disabilities in obtaining appropriate academic accommodations.

A significant portion of course time will be spent in discussion. Always, but particularly in discussion context, students are expected to conduct themselves with courtesy and sensitivity towards other students, the professor, and the course material.

Schedule of Topics/Assignments:

Week 1: Introduction to Asian History

Tuesday 28 August – Introduction to course and each other

Thursday 30 August – Asian Geography and Worldviews

Read: Murphey, 1-8; 45-64; begin the *Ramayana*

Week 2: Asian Religion/Philosophy

Tuesday 4 September – Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism

Thursday 6 September – Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto

Read: Murphey, 23-42; *Ramayana*

Week 3: Ancient India

Tuesday 11 September – IVC and the Aryan Invasion; discuss the *Ramayana*

Thursday 13 September – Ancient Indian Dynasties

Read: Murphey, 66-89; finish *Ramayana* by Tuesday's class

Week 4: Ancient China

Tuesday 18 September – Ancient China: Xia, Shang, Zhou dynasties; discuss paper topics

Thursday 20 September – Zhou and Qin China; discuss *Analects*

Read: Murphey, 9-100; selections from *The Analects* (available on Blackboard)

Paper Proposal due Tuesday 18 September

Week 5: Ancient China and Early Japan

Tuesday 25 September – Han China; division; Sui China

Thursday 27 September – The Early History of Japan

Read: Murphey, 101-111; 162-177; begin *Bushido*

Week 6: Conflict and Cultural Change in India

Tuesday 2 October – EXAM ONE

Thursday 4 October – Islam in India: The Delhi Sultanate

Read: Murphey, 113-126; *Bushido*

Week 7: Cultural Consolidation

Tuesday 9 October – China's Golden Age: Tang, Song, and the Mongols

Thursday 11 October – Medieval Japan; discuss *Bushido*

Read: Murphey, 142-160; 178-181; finish *Bushido*

First Response Paper due Thursday 11 October

Week 8: The Western Vanguard in Asia

Tuesday 16 October – Mughal India and the Coming of the West

Thursday 18 October – The Brilliant Ming Empire

Read: Murphey 187-206; 209-232

Week 9: Colonialism vs. Isolation

Tuesday 23 October – Tokugawa Japan

Thursday 25 October – British India; discuss progress on papers

Read: Murphey, 272-284; 287-311

Annotated Bibliography and Outline due Thursday 25 October

Week 10: Colonialism vs. Isolation

Tuesday 30 October – British India

Thursday 1 November – Qing (Manchu) China

Read: Murphey, 312-342; 256-272

Week 11: Downfall of the Dynasty

Tuesday 6 November – EXAM TWO

Thursday 8 November – Taiping Rebellion and the Fall of the Qing

Read: Murphey 328-333

Week 12: Emergence of Modern States

Tuesday 13 November – Meiji and Imperial Japan

Thursday 15 November – Revolution, Nationalism, and Communism in China

Read: Murphey 333-340; 343-354; *Born Red*

Week 13: Nationalism and Conflict

Tuesday 20 November – The Second Sino-Japanese War

Thursday 22 November – **Thanksgiving, no class.**

Read: Murphey 380-398; *Born Red*

Week 14: Decolonization

Tuesday 27 November – World War II in Asia

Thursday 29 November – Indian Independence and Partition

Read: Murphey 369-380; 464-482; *Born Red*

Final Research Paper Due Tuesday 27 November

Week 15: Asia in the Modern World

Tuesday 4 December – Communist China; discuss *Born Red*

Thursday 6 December – China after Mao; Japan since Occupation

Read: Murphey 401-429; 495-509; finish *Born Red* by Tuesday's class

Second Response Paper due Thursday 6 December