

# HIST/ASIA 140-01 INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS

Prof. Y. H. Tam  
Department of History

Fall 2015  
1:10-2:10, MWF Old Main 03

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the cultures and societies of East Asia from the earliest times to the present day from an historical perspective. Primarily an introductory course for beginners, this course considers a variety of significant themes in religious, political, economic, social and cultural changes in the region with emphasis on China and Japan. To a lesser degree, significant changes in Korea and Vietnam will also be examined.

## ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENT:

Map Exercise	5%
Attendance & Discussion Participation	20%
1 oral report (20 minutes) on assigned topic	20%
Mid-Term examination on readings & lectures (8-10 pages)	25%
1 research paper (10-12 pages) on topic of your own choice [No final exam]	30%

## REQUIRED READINGS:

Required readings are mostly assigned from the following books:

John K. Fairbank, Edwin O. Reischauer, Albert M. Craig. *East Asia: Tradition and Transformation.* (Houghton Mifflin).

Conrad Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations.* (Harcourt, Brace & Jovanovich).

Also, the following books are recommended:

Frederick W. Mote. *Intellectual Foundations of China.* (Alfred A. Knopf).

John Naisbitt. *Megatrends Asia: Eight Asian Megatrends That Are Reshaping our World.* (Touchstone).

Other readings will be assigned from other publications and journals from time to time.

## LATE PAPERS & MAKE-UP EXAMS

Except for medical reasons or family emergencies about which the Dean of Students has been properly notified, late paper, late report and make-up examination will receive a reduction of 20% in grading.

## OFFICE HOURS

**Monday, Tuesday & Friday:** 9:30 am-10:30 am; 2:20 pm-3:20 pm. And by appointment.  
Room 303, Old Main

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Tel. 651-696-6262 E-mail: tam@macalester.edu  
Also, please feel free to call me at home (651-457-6529). The best time to get hold of me is 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on weekdays.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### *AUGUST*

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#### **Week of August 23**

29—Orientation & Self Introduction: First Class Meeting

**Readings:** *No assigned readings for this week.*

**Discussion Topics:** What do you know about East Asia? What do you want to know about East Asia? What does this course purport to cover?

#### **Week of August 30**

### *SEPTEMBER*

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02—Orientation & Self Introduction

04-- Geographical Setting of East Asia

*No assigned readings for this week.*

**Discussion Topics:** What are the characteristics of the geographical setting in East Asia? Why do we consider China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam as East Asia? What is the geographical impact on the cultural development in East Asia?

*Map Exercise begins this week, due Sept. 14*

#### **Week of September 6**

07—LABOR DAY, no class.

09-- China and the East Asian Countries

11—Class discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, Chapter 1; Schirokauer, Chapter 1.

**Discussion Topics:** What are the cultural features shared by East Asian countries? Can you identify a few similarities and differences between these countries in religion, government, society, language, and other cultural aspects?

#### **Week of September 13**

14-- Formation of Civilization in China and the Feudal Ages

16--The Philosophers: Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism & other philosophies

18-- Class discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 2-3; Schirokauer, 2.

**Recommended Readings:** Mote, *Intellectual Foundations*, read as much as possible.

**Discussion Topics:** What are the common questions confronting the philosophers? How do the Confucianists, Daoists, Legalists and other philosophers answer those questions?

*Map Exercise due Sept. 14.*

**Week of September 20**

21—Medieval China, I: The Imperial System

23-- Medieval China, II: Buddhism & International Relations

25-- Class discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 5-6; Schirokauer, 3-5.

**Discussion Topics:** What are the reasons for the rise of Imperial China? Why are the Great Wall and the Silk Road significant in world history?

*Oral reports begin this week*

**Week of September 27**

28—Ancient Japan: Early Civilization & China

30-- Medieval Japan: Feudalism

**OCTOBER** \_\_\_\_\_

02—Class Discussion

**Discussion Topics:** Why did Chinese learning become important to Japan during the early centuries? Attitudes of Japanese leaders toward China: To what extent were they selective in their adoption of Chinese methods of government and social control? Meanings of the following terms: Court culture, Feudalism, Zen Buddhism, unique Muromachi esthetics.

**Readings:** Fairbank, 13-15; Schirokauer, 6-7, 11-12.

*Date and format of Mid-term Exam to be determined on October 3.*

**Week of October 4**

05--Korean Tradition & Transformation, I

07--Korean Tradition & Transformation, II

09—Class Discussion

**Discussion Topics** to be announced.

**Readings:** Fairbank, 11-12.

**Week of October 11**

12--Vietnamese Tradition & Transformation, I

14--Vietnamese Tradition & Transformation, II

16—Class Discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 10, plus handouts.

**Discussion Topics** to be announced.

*Mid-term reflection on readings and lectures due October 16.*

**Week of October 18**

19--Early Modern China, I—The Sung, Yuan and Ming Dynasties  
21—Class Discussion  
23--*Fall Break, No Class.*

**Readings:** Fairbank, 6; Schirokauer, 7-8.

**Discussion Topics** to be arranged.

**Week of October 25**

26-- Early Modern China, II: Decline of the Imperial System in Qing China  
28-- The Chinese Response to the Western Challenge  
30—Class Discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 7-8, 19-21, 24; Schirokauer, 8-10, 19-20.

**Discussion Topics** to be announced.

**NOVEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**Week of November 1**

02-- Feudal Japan and the Western Challenge  
04-- The Meiji Reforms  
06—Class Discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 17-18; Schirokauer, 17-18.

**Discussion Topics** to be announced.

**Week of November 8**

09-- Rise and Fall of Imperial Japan, I: The Meiji Reforms  
11-- Rise and Fall of Imperial Japan, II: The Road to Militarism  
13—Class Discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 22-23; Schirokauer, 21-22.

**Discussion Topics** to be announced.

**Week of November 15**

16--The Rise of New Japan as Super Economic Power, I

18--The rise of New Japan as Super Economic Power, II  
20—Class Discussion

**Readings:** Fairbank, 24-25; Schirokauer, 23-24.

**Discussion Topics** to be announced.

**Week of November 22**

23—Rise of China as World Power, I

25—Thanksgiving, no class

27—Thanksgiving, no class.

**Readings:** Fairbank, 26-28; Schirokauer, 25.

**Discussion Topics** to be announced

**Week of November 29**

30-- Rise of China as World Power, II

*Term paper due on November 30.*

**DECEMBER**

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02—Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao today

04—Class Discussion

**Week of December 6**

07--Korea & Vietnam today

09--East Asia in Review

11—Class Ends

**Readings:** Nasbitt, *Megatrends Asia*, whole book.

**Free discussion.**

END

## **Selected Readings (Partial, for reference only)**

- Cressey, George B. Asia's Lands and Peoples, 4th ed. McGraw-Hill, 1978.
- De Bary, Win. Theodore. East Asian Civilizations: A Dialogue in Five Stages. 1988.
- Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. Confucianism and Family Rituals in Imperial China: A Social History of Writing About Rites. Princeton: Princeton U Press, 1991.
- Johnson, Chalmers, ed. Change in Communist Systems. Stanford U Press, 1962.
- Kitagawa, Joseph Ni. ed. The Religious Traditions of Asia. MacMillan, 1989.
- Lull, James. China Turned On: Television, Reform, and Resistance. London: Routledge, 1991.
- Milton, Daniel, and William Clifford, eds. A Treasury of Modern Asian Stories. New American Library, 1961.
- Moore, Charles A., ed. The Status of the Individual in East and West. U of Hawaii Press, 1968.
- Nakamura, Hajime. Ways of Thinking of Eastern Peoples: India, China, Tibet, Japan, rev. transl. ed. Philip P. Wiener. East-West Center, 1964.
- Pollack, David. The Fracture of Meaning: Japan's Synthesis of China from the Eighth through the Eighteenth Centuries. 1986.
- Reischauer, Edwin O., and Marius B. Jansen. The Japanese Today. Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 1995.
- Ropp, Paul S., ed. Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1990.
- Spencer, R. F. ed. Religion and Change in Contemporary Asia. U of Minnesota Press, 1971.
- Tsurumi, Shunsuke. A Cultural History of Postwar Japan: 1945-1980. London: Kegan Paul, 1987.
- Vogel, Ezra. Japan as Number One. Cambridge: Harvard U Press, 1979. Ward, Barbara E. ed. Women in the New Asia. UNESCO, 1963.
- Ward, Robert E., and R. E. Macridis, eds. Modern Political Systems: Asia, 3rd ed. Prentice-Hall, 1972.

