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.

ASSIGMENT & 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 30%

No final exam

REQUIRED READINGS:
Required readings are mostly assigned from the following books:


Also, the following books are recommended:


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

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

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


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

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)


