

History 251
Survey of East Asian Civilization
Fall 2010
Professor: William A. Howes
Thursday: 7:20-10:00.
Robinson Hall A248

Class Objectives:

1. At the completion of this course the student should be able to intelligently discuss the major social, economic, cultural and political trends that are traditional East Asia.
2. The student will have improved their organizational and writing skill through the composition of a brief research essay.

Class Requirements:

1. There will be three in-class exams. Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. Each exam will be comprised of a section of identifications, a set of short essays and one long essay.
2. Each student will be required to write a 6-7 page research paper on a topic related to traditional East Asia. The paper must exhibit good organization, excellent grammar and appropriate methods of citation. Finally, the paper should be very interesting for the professor to read. The paper will make up 30% of your final grade.
3. The only actual graded homework for the class will be a map assignment. The map assignment will make up 10% of your final grade.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will not be taken in this class. Attendance is so crucial that non-attendance will clearly show up in exam results. Things will go very fast in this class; the missing of even one class period will cause great problems for the student. Really.

Required Textbook

1. Patricia Buckley Ebrey, Anne Walthall, & James B. Palais, East Asia: A Cultural, Social and Political History. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2009. Second Edition.

Lectures:

9/2: Introduction to the Course, “Myths” of Chinese Prehistory, Bronze Age China: Shang & Western Zhou, Eastern Zhou: Spring and Autumn Period/Warring States.

Readings: Chapters 1 and 2.

9/9: The Qin-Han Unification: From *Fengjian* to *Tianxia*.

Readings: Chapter 3.

9/16: The Period of Disunion (Return to *Fengjian*) and the Entrance of Buddhism.

Readings: Chapter 4.

9/23: The Sui-Tang Unification.

Readings: Chapter 5.

9/30: **Exam I**

Early Korea and the Rise of *Silla*.

Readings: Chapter 6.

10/7: Religion and Early State Formation in Japan.

Readings: Chapter 7.

10/14: China’s Return to *Fenjian*: *Song*, *Liao*, *Xia* and *Jin*, The Rise of the Aristocrats: Heian Japan

Readings: Chapters 8 and 9

10/21: Heian Japan Concluded, Koryo Korea: Confederation of Warlords to a Centralized State.

Readings: Chapter 10

10/28: Koryo Korea concluded, Kamakura Japan: From *Kuge* to *Buke*

Readings: Chapter 11

11/4: **Exam II**

The Yuan Dynasty: China under the Mongols

Readings: Chapter 12.

11/11: Medieval Japan: from Civil War and Fragmentation to Unification and Peace.

Readings: Chapter 13.

11/18: **Paper Due**

Ming China and the “Confusions of Pleasure”.

Readings: Chapter 14.

11/25: **Thanksgiving Break: No Class**

12/2: Choson Korea: Establishment of a Neo-Confucian State, The Creation of the Manchu Empire

Readings: Chapters 15 and 16.

12/9: Edo Japan: Decentralized Feudalism.

Reading: Chapter 17.

Final Exam: Thursday 12/16, 7:30-10:15