

EAS 103H1: Premodern East Asia

Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10am–noon Room: SS 1086
 Instructor: Instructor Mark McConaghy Email: mark.mcconaghy@mail.utoronto.ca
 Office: Robarts Library 14–134 Office Hour: Thursday 1–3pm

Course Objectives

- to introduce the major events, political systems, religions, schools of thought, daily life and cultures from ancient times to roughly 1700 in East Asia (the area of the world now known as China, Korea and Japan);
- to raise some fundamental questions about the study of the past, East Asian history in particular.
- to help you develop and improve academic skills for reading and writing about East Asia, and to prepare you for more advanced East Asian humanities courses.

By the end of the course, you should have a broad understanding of the interrelated nature of East Asian civilizations and to think critically about key issues in all three regions.

There are no prerequisites for this course and no prior knowledge of East Asia is expected.

Required Reading

- Pre–Modern East Asia to 1800: A Cultural, Social, and Political History, 3rd edition (Available at UofT Bookstore, \$95.) (2nd edition works too.)
- Reading posted on Portal under “Course Materials” for each week. These readings include primary sources (written by people who lived during the times we are studying).

Attendance and Participation

- Attendance (showing up): 5%
- Evidence of having read the assigned material; participation in discussions/activities: 5%

Assignments

Reading responses (3 reading responses will be required throughout the class, each worth 10% of your grade)

These are 1–3 paragraph exercises in close reading and writing. You will be asked to analyze texts from the weekly readings, placing them in their historical context and providing an analysis of their content.

They must be submitted via the Portal by 10am on Tuesdays before lecture, on the following days: 5/26; 6/9; 6/16

Mid–term (20%)

This exam will have short–answer questions and a brief essay (500–700 words) and will be given on 6/2 in class. Questions will be based on a list of key concepts that will be provided the week before. You can draw upon the textbook, primary sources and lectures in your answers.

Final Exam (40%)

To be scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences; it will take place some time between 6/22–6/27. It will have short–answer questions and brief essays (700 words each) based on key concepts from the course.

Summary of Grading Scheme

Participation	10% (5%+5%)	Weekly beginning 5/19
Reading responses	30% (10%, 10%, 10%)	Tue 5/26, 6/9, 6/16
Midterm	20%	6/2 (in class)
Final Exam	40%	TBA

Academic Integrity

It is an academic offence if a student knowingly:

- forges, alters, or falsifies any document or evidence (such as a medical form) required by the University.
- uses an unauthorized aid in an exam, or obtains unauthorized assistance for academic work or an exam;
- impersonates another person, or has another person impersonate, at an examination or for academic work;
- represents another's idea or work as one's own, in academic work or in an exam, i.e. to commit plagiarism;
- submits any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted.
- submits any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.

You can find resources defining plagiarism and tips on how to avoid it at <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>. All instances of plagiarism, no matter how minor, will be reported to the Office of Student Academic Integrity (OSAI).

Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Portal/ Blackboard

Important handouts, course announcements, and required reading outside the textbook will be posted on the course Portal/Blackboard. You must have a utoronto.ca e-mail address to receive messages that we send out via this system to the class. It is therefore important that you check your email regularly.

All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard.

Accessibility Needs

If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials and/or requirements (such as exams), please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible. (<http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>).

Class Timetable

Week 1 (5/12) Introduction

IMPORTANT NOTE: No Class on 5/14. One Class will be added on Friday 6/12 as Makeup.

Week 2 (5/19) The Search for Beginnings

Question(s) to keep in mind: How much of what we know about early civilizations depend on what evidence we have (or don't have)? On the answers we want to find?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 1 "China in the Bronze Age" (p.8–19); Ch. 6 "Early Korea to 935" (p.98–113); Ch. 7 "Early State and Society in Japan" (p.114–128)

BLACKBOARD: "Classical Sources of Chinese Tradition" (22–28); "Origins of Korean Culture" (485–490); "The Earliest Japanese Chronicles" (627–634)

Week 3 (5/21) Empires

Question(s) to keep in mind: What was new and radical about empire as a form of state in China? How was it different from what we refer to as “empire” or “imperialism” today?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 2 “Philosophers and Warring States” (p. 20–35); Ch. 3 “The Founding of the Bureaucratic Empire” (p.36–55);

BLACKBOARD: “Transformation and Transcendence in the Zhuangzi” (60–68); “Li Si: Legalist Theories in Practice” (115–118); “The Great Han Historians” (205–209);

Week 4 (5/26) Buddhism

Assignments due before lecture: Reading Response #1 (“active reading”)

Question(s) to keep in mind: What made Buddhism spread quickly and widely in East Asia? How did it appeal to each of the three regions?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: “Buddhism in India and Its Spread Along the Silk Road” (p.56–60); Ch. 4 “Political Division in China and the Spread of Buddhism” (p.61–74); “Dunhuang Documents” (p.90–91)

BLACKBOARD: “The Lotus School: The Tiantai Synthesis” (244–250); “The Meditation School” (270–279); “A Miraculous Tale of Buddhist Practice During Unified Silla”

Week 5 (5/28) Language

Question(s) to keep in mind: How does written language interact with culture in each of the three regions?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: “Language and Writing Systems” (p. 113); Ch. 9 “Heian Japan” (p.148–61);

BLACKBOARD: The Diary of Lady Murasaki”; Selections from The Tale of Genji; “Invention of the Korean Alphabet” (574–6)

Week 6 (6/2)

Midterm

Week 7 (6/4) Literary Culture

Question(s) to keep in mind: How did writing become a source of power and prestige in this period of history?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 5 “The Cosmopolitan Empires”(p.75–92);

BLACKBOARD: “Stopping By the Temple of Incense Massed”; “An Account to Go with the ‘Song of Lasting Pain’”; “Memorial Discussing the Buddha’s Bone”*

Week 8 (6/9) Warriors and the State

Assignments due before lecture: Reading Response #2 (“paraphrasing/quoting”)

Question(s) to keep in mind: What factors connected war and statecraft? What were the bases of social and political power in warrior societies in Goryeo Korea, Kamakura Japan, and Yuan China?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: “The Mongols” (p.162–68); Ch. 10 “Goryeo Korea” (p.169–181); Ch. 11 “Kamakura Japan” (p.183–97)

BLACKBOARD: “Founding of Koryo” (deBary 535–7); Tales of the Heike (Shirane 706–719)

Week 9 (6/11) Confucianism and Its Variants

Question(s) to keep in mind: Do you think the term “Confucianism” is an adequate term? What accounts for so many of its variations?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 8 “China Among Equals” (p.129–147); Ch. 15 “Joseon Korea” (p.247–64);

BLACKBOARD: “Introduction” and “Memoirs of 1805” from The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyong (p. 1–10; 241–7; 309–336)

Note: Make Up Class Week 10 Friday 6/12 Traveling and Mapping the Known World

Question(s) to keep in mind: How did the societies of East Asia understand the world and its place within it? Why did Marco Polo see what he sees?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 12 "China Under Mongol Rule" (p.198–209)

BLACKBOARD: Selections from "The Travels of Marco Polo" (pg. 213–222); Gary Ledyard, "The Kangnido: A Korean World Map, 1402."

Week 11 (6/16) Cities

Assignments due before lecture: Reading Response #3 ("close reading")

Question(s) to keep in mind: What are some differences between the premodern city and the modern city?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 13 "Japan's Middle Ages" (p.212–226); "Europe Enters the Scene" (p.265–69); Ch. 17 "Edo Japan" (p.288–303)

BLACKBOARD: TBA

Week 12 (6/18) "Barbarians" and Business

Question(s) to keep in mind: Can we talk about "globalization" in this period of history? Do you think this marks the beginnings of the modern world? Why or why not?

Required reading for lecture:

TEXTBOOK: Ch. 14 "The Ming Empire in China" (p.227–246); Ch. 16 "The Creation of the Manchu Empire" (p.270–281)

BLACKBOARD: Ch. 1, "The View from Delft," from Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World.