

Summer 2021

Classical Asia

This course is designed to introduce students to the main themes of the classical age in Asian history. This semester, we will focus on East Asia - China, Japan, and Korea – during the period from 1000 BCE through 1300 CE. Throughout the course, we will discuss such topics as the rise of the state and social institutions and the formation of religious and philosophical beliefs, which left tremendous impact on the later history of East Asia. Besides the profound depth and richness of these topics, the classical age is an exciting field of study also because it provides people in the present not only with a set of culturally rooted repertoire with which to address current problems but also with sources of heated debates often fueled by contemporary nationalism and politics. Thus, many of the topics addressed in the course have perennial relevance to the present.

While the historical backgrounds of each week's topic will be provided through lectures, students will be asked to read and think through primary sources in translation and to provide their insights on them in-class discussion and in written assignments.

*Conducted entirely online, this course requires a different set of commitments from each student. Reading assigned course materials, responding to online assignments, and letting the professor know any important issues related to your personal health and course work are more important than ever before.

**Main lectures will be provided asynchronously, which means I will upload recorded lectures in time on our Canvas site. I will hold an additional weekly synchronous meeting to take your questions and provide necessary additional explanations. Though recommended, attendance to this meeting is not required.

***As we are not going to “meet” in person through this session, I hope to schedule and hold online office hours (if it is technically possible with you).

Instructor: Sukhee Lee

email: sukhlee@history.rutgers.edu All communications should be conducted through Canvas mail tool.

Office: Van Dyck 213B (College Avenue Campus)

Office hours: Thursdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm @ Canvas

Textbooks

Patricia Ebrey et al., *Pre-Modern East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* (Belmont: Wadsworth, 2013) ***required**

William Theodore de Bary et al., *Sources of East Asian Tradition*, volume 1 (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008) ***recommended**

You can find cheaper (used) ones at online book sellers such as www.amazon.com or www.bookfinder.com

Additional readings which are under asterisk (*) will be posted at our Canvas course website in

time.

Learning Goals

Our course has two distinct learning goals. Throughout the course you will be asked and tested to learn how to:

1. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place
2. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas

Grading

Class attendance and participation	15%
FOUR response papers (1.5 page) based on primary text analysis	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Final take-home exam	35%

*Your attendance and participation will be evaluated based on your participation in practice quizzes and discussions.

On academic integrity

Plagiarized paper or cheating in exams will result in, at least, “F” for the assignment. In addition, the cases will be reported to the university administration for sanctions. Please take this warning seriously. As for the Rutgers policies on academic integrity, see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Other Class Policies

- *Lecture and section attendance is your most basic responsibility. I will take attendance at every lecture and section. Unexcused absences, when they exceed twice, will affect your final grade. (e.g. 3 times, -10% from your “class attendance and participation”; 4 times, -20%; ...)
If you are absent from more than one third of the entire classes and sections, you will automatically get “F.”
- *No make-up examinations will be provided **except** in cases of documented illness or family emergency. Please mark your calendar well!
- *No entering the exam after 30 minutes.
- *Late paper will be penalized by subtracting EIGHT points for every day past the due date. for the first FIVE days. No paper will be accepted after FIVE days past the due. Famous lines such as “I am pretty sure that I emailed that to you the other day” or “I certainly uploaded it at Sakai in time, but somehow can’t find it there now” will do no good unless you show me “hard evidence” of such claims (e.g. a print of your original sent mail showing the time of its sending).
- *As a courtesy to others, please turn off your cell phones.
- *Laptop use should be limited to note-taking work.
- *DO NOT send “corrupted” documents under any circumstance.

Weekly Schedule

1. Lecture videos will be uploaded on Canvas “Modules” box on each day before 5:00 pm until they will be removed 2 days later. This is to encourage you to watch them before too late.

2. In Thursdays' "office hour," I will hold a LIVE conference at Canvas to take your questions and provide additional explanations of course subjects.

WEEK 1

- June 2 Course Introduction
- June 2 Birth of Civilization in China: The Shang and Zhou
Ebrey, pp. 15-19.
de Bary, pp. 13-28.
*David N. Keightley, "Early Civilization in China: Reflections on How It Became Chinese," in *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization*, edited by Paul S. Ropp (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990): 15-54.
- June 4 Decline of Zhou Order
Ebrey, pp. 21-25, 32-34.
*Patricia Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, second edition (New York: The Free Press, 1993), pp. 14-16, pp. 38-41.
- June 4 Intellectual Foundations of East Asian Civilization: Confucius, Mozi, and Laozi
Ebrey, pp. 26-32.
Ivanhoe, pp. 1-57, pp. 59-113, pp. 163-203.

WEEK 2

- June 9 Intellectual Foundations of East Asian Civilization: Mencius, Xunzi, and Han Feizi
Ivanhoe, pp. 115-59, pp. 255-309, pp. 311-61.
- June 9 **DISCUSSION on Confucius et al.**
- June 11 The First Emperor and His Empire
Ebrey, pp. 35-40.
de Bary, pp. 109-111, pp. 116-119, pp. 127-128.
*“The Biography of Lord Shang,” *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty*, translated by Burton Watson, (New York: Columbia University, 1993) pp. 89-99.
*“The Biography of Li Si (Li Ssu),” *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty*, pp. 179-206
- June 11 Consolidation of Imperial Order: The Western Han
Ebrey, pp. 41-48.
de Bary, pp. 195-198.
*“Reflections on the Rise of Qin,” *Records of the Grand Historian: the Qin Dynasty*, pp. 74-83.
*Huan Kuan, *Discourses on Salt and Iron: A debate on state control of commerce and industry in ancient China, chapter I-XXVIII*, translated by Esson M. Gale (selected chapters)

WEEK 3

- June 16 **DISCUSSION SECTION II** on the *Salt and Iron*
- June 16 The Rise of Great Clans: The Eastern Han
 Ebrey, pp. 48-54.
 de Bary, pp. 174-78, pp. 202-03.
 *Michael Nylan, *Lives of Confucius* (New York: Doubleday, 2010), 67-100
 *“The Biography of Po Yi (Bo Yi) and Shu Ch’i (Shu Qi),” *Records of the Historian: Chapters from the Shih Chi of Ssu-ma Ch’ien*, pp. 7-15.
 *“Letter in Reply to Ren An,” *Records of the Grand Historian: Qin Dynasty*, pp. 227-237.
 *“Postface,” *Ssu-ma Ch’ien (Sima Qian) Grand Historian of China* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), pp.4 2-57.
- June 18 The Period of Disunion
 Ebrey, pp. 60-67.
 *Ebrey (Sourcebook), pp. 83-85, pp. 91-96, pp. 109-111.
- June 18 Aristocracy, Arts, and Daoism
 Ebrey, pp. 67-68.
 de Bary, pp. 219-222.
 *Kristofer Schipper, *The Taoist Body* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), pp. 1-15.

WEEK 4

- June 23 Buddhist Conquest of China
 Ebrey, 69-73.
 de Bary, pp. 229-237.
 *Ebrey (Sourcebook), pp. 97-104.
 *“The Great Maudgalyayana Rescues His Mother from Hell,” in Y.W. Ma and Joseph Lau, eds., *Traditional Chinese Stories*, pp. 443-455.
 *Stephen Teiser, *The Ghost Festival in Medieval China*, pp. 113-39.

June 23 **DISCUSSION on Buddhism**

- June 25 Cosmopolitan Empire
 Ebrey, pp. 74-83, 94-97.
 de Bary, pp. 293-300.
 *Charles Holcombe, *The Genesis of East Asia 221 B.C.-A.D. 907* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001), pp. 94-108.
 *Ebrey (Sourcebook), pp. 112-19, 123-24.

- June 25 The Waning of the Chinese Middle Age
 Ebrey, pp. 84-91, pp. 128-46.

WEEK 5

- June 30 Early Korea
 Ebrey, pp. 98-101.
 * M. Byington, “Control or Conquer,” *Journal of Northeast Asian History*,

pp. 81-117.

* Yi Hyunhae, "The Formation and Development of the Samhan," *Early Korea* 2, pp. 17-59

June 30 Three Kingdoms and the Unified Silla
 Ebrey, pp. 103-13.
 de Bary, pp. 488-90.
 *Kidong Lee, "The Indigenous Religions of Silla," *Korean Studies* 28, pp. 49-74.

July 2 The Political and Social Foundation of the Koryŏ Dynasty
 Ebrey, pp. 167-74.
 de Bary, pp. 536-39, pp. 544-49.
 *John Duncan, "The Formation of the Central Aristocracy in Early Koryŏ," *Korean Studies* 12 (1988): 39-58.

July 2 Mongol Invasion and Later Koryŏ
 Ebrey, pp. 175-79.

WEEK 6

July 7 Early Japan
 Ebrey, pp. 114-17.
 *Walter Edwards, "Event and Process in the Founding of Japan: The Horserider Theory in Archeological Perspective," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 9:2 (1983), pp 265-95.

July 7 Japanese History to the Nara Period
 Ebrey, pp. 118-27
 de Bary, pp. 624-629.

July 9 Heian Japan: Courtiers, Warriors, and Peasants
 Ebrey, pp. 147-59.
 *Donald Keene, *Anthology of Japanese Literature from the Earliest Era to the Mid-nineteenth Century*, pp. 33-53, pp. 137-155.

July 9 The Age of Warrior Rule
 Ebrey, pp. 180-94.
 de Bary, pp. 837-44.
 *Hur, Nam-lin. "The International Context of Toyotomi Hideyoshi's Invasion of Korea in 1592: A Clash between Chinese Culturalism and Japanese Militarism." *Korea Observer* 28.4 (Winter 1997)