

## Classical Asia

This course is designed to introduce students to major 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 explore such topics as the rise of the state and social institutions and the formation of religious and philosophical ideas, 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 us 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 in-class discussion and in written assignments.

**Instructor:** Sukhee Lee; email: [sukhlee@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:sukhlee@rci.rutgers.edu) Email is a best way of contacting me outside the class. Use your **Rutgers email account** when you write to me. And please do not forget to start your subject line with "(Classical Asia)."

**Office:** Van Dyck 002E

**Office hours:** MW 3:00 - 4:00

### Textbooks

Patricia Ebrey et al., *Pre-Modern East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* Volume 1: To 1800 (Cengage Learning, 2013)

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

These books have been ordered at the Rutgers University Bookstore. But you can find cheaper (used) ones at online book sellers such as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.bookfinder.com](http://www.bookfinder.com). You can get a used copy of *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, for example, at around \$18.00 from amazon.com.

Additional readings which are under asterisk (\*) will be posted at our SAKAI 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 1.5 (double-spaced) page response papers based on primary text analysis	20%

Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	35%

### 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.
- \*DO NOT send “corrupted” documents under any circumstance.

## Weekly Schedule

### WEEK 1

September 7 (W)            Course Introduction

### WEEK 2

September 12 (M)            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.

September 14 (W)            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.

### WEEK 3

September 19 (M)            Intellectual Foundations of East Asian Civilization: Confucius, Mozi, and  
Laozi

Ebrey, pp. 26-32.

\*Ivanhoe, pp. 1-57, pp. 59-113, pp. 163-203.

September 21 (W)            Intellectual Foundations of East Asian Civilization: Mencius, Xunzi, and

Han Feizi

\*Ivanhoe, pp. 115-59, pp. 255-309, pp. 311-61.

#### WEEK 4

September 26 (M)           **DISCUSSION SECTION I on Confucius et al.**

September 28 (W)           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.

#### WEEK 5

October 3 (M)               Consolidation of Imperial Order: The Western Han

Ebrey, pp. 41-48.

de Bary, pp. 195-198.

\*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)

October 5 (W)           **DISCUSSION SECTION II on the Salt and Iron**

#### WEEK 6

October 10 (M)           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.

\*"Reflections on the Rise of Qin," *Records of the Grand Historian: the Qin Dynasty*, pp. 74-83.

October 12 (W)           The Period of Disunion

Ebrey, pp. 60-67.

\*Ebrey (Sourcebook), pp. 83-85, pp. 91-96, pp. 109-111.

#### WEEK 7

October 17 (M)           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.

October 19 (W)           **MIDTERM EXAM (in class)**

#### WEEK 8

October 24 (M)           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.

October 26 (W) **DISCUSSION SECTION III on Buddhism**

WEEK 9

October 31 (M) 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.

November 2 (W) The Waning of the Chinese Middle Age

Ebrey, pp. 84-91, pp. 128-46.

WEEK 10

November 7 (M) **DISCUSSION SECTION IV on Yingying's story**

November 9 (W) 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

WEEK 11

November 14 (M) 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.

November 16 (W) 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.

WEEK 12

November 21 (M) Mongol Invasion and Confucianization of Korea

Ebrey, pp. 175-79.

November 23 (W) Thanksgiving holiday **NO CLASS**

WEEK 13

November 28 (M) 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.

November 30 (W) Japanese History to the Nara Period

Ebrey, pp. 118-27

de Bary, pp. 624-629.

WEEK 14

December 5 (M) 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.

December 7 (W)                    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)

#### WEEK 15

December 12 (M)

#### **DISCUSSION SECTION ON the recurrence of the past**

\*James H. Grayson, "Mimana: A Problem in Korean Historiography," *Korea Journal* 17:8 (1977), pp. 65-69.

\* Mark Byington, "The Political and Academic Dimensions of the Koguryō Dispute in East Asia," 1-24.

\* Yonson Ahn, "Competing Nationalisms: The Mobilisation of History and Archaeology in the Korea-China Wars over Koguryo/Gaogouli," *Japan Focus*, 1-17.

December 14 (W)                    Wrap-up

**December 19**

**FINAL EXAM**

**8:00-9:30 P** Japanese History to the Nara

Period

Ebrey, pp. 118-27

de Bary, pp. 624-629.

**M**