

Course Information



Asian History: Traditions

HIST 1210-001

Fall 2025

CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 26, Thursday, August 28

Pilgrimage

Origins and Mythology

September 2, 4

Readings: Chapter 1

Shang Dynasty

September 9, 11 (Pilgrimage: Preterm)

Preterm (Thursday, September 11)

Shang-Zhou

Readings: Chapters 1-2

September 16, 18

Readings: Chapter 2

Traditions: Zhou Philosophy

September 23, 25

Midterm I: Thursday, September 25 (Origin Stories: China, Japan, Korea)

Readings: Chapter 3

Qin and Han Dynasties

Emergence of Korean Kingdoms

September 25: Origins: China, Korea, Japan

September 30, October 2

Yamato and Kofun Period (Old Tombs in Japan)

Sui and Tang Dynasties

Chapter 4

Tang Dynasty: A Golden Age

United Silla

October 7, 9

Imperial Japan (Nara and Early Heian)

October 14, 16 (Fall break)

Readings: 3

Religion in Korea and Japan

October 14: Midterm One (tombs, and chapters 1-2)

October 21, 23

Cultural History: China's Golden Age

October 28, 30

Cultural History: Korea and Japan

November 4, 6

Midterm II: November 6 (prepare chapters 1-3)

Readings: Chapter 5

Mongols

Yuan Dynasty

November 11, 13

Readings: Chapter 5

Warrior Japan: Late Heian, Kamakura, Muromachi

November 18, 20

Readings: Chapter 5 (continued)

Warrior Japan: Culture and Religion

Koryo Dynasty (Korea)

November 25, 27 (Thanksgiving break)

Early Choson (Korea)

December 2, 4

Topics: Dai Viet (Vietnam before the Nineteenth Century

Southeast Asian Kingdoms

December 9, 11

December 11: Final 1: Timeline of Japan, Korea

Southeast Asia (continued)

Readings: Chapter 7

Final TBA (chapters 4, 5, 7)

Course Section Information

Days: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 1:00-2:50 p.m.

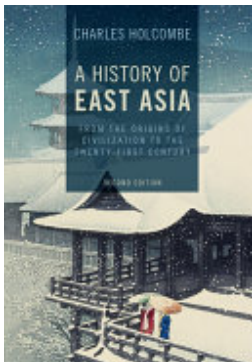
Campus: AAB

Classroom: 235

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

None.

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials



Authors: Charles Holcombe

Publication Date: 2017-01-11

Title: A History of East Asia

Publisher: Cambridge University Press

ISBN: 9781107118737

Authors: Columbia University: Asia for Educators

Title: Asia for Educators

Link: afe.easia.columbia.edu

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate understanding of the approaches and methods historians use to create knowledge about the past and how those methods compare and contrast to other disciplinary approaches and methods.
- Analyze, interrogate, contextualize, interpret a variety of historical documents.

- Demonstrate knowledge of the geography of Asia and be able to identify the unfixed and changing boundaries of it as well as the web of societies within it.
- Identify and organize the key social, political, economic, cultural, religious events, themes, issues, and processes within early Asian societies and demonstrate an understanding of the ways they are imbricated.
- Examine what flowed into and out of Asia (people, ideas, goods) and how that exchange altered Asia and the world outside.
- Construct a well-crafted, analytical argument based on historical evidence and present it in a clear and effective manner.
- Speak and write cogently, knowledgeably, and respectfully about early Asian civilizations and societies.
- Make connections between what is learned in this class and other bodies of knowledge and be able to explain how this course fits into a General Education.
- Reason sequentially, find causal relationships, and identify the dynamic between change and continuity to find historical meaning.
- Compare and contrast the development of diverse early Asian societies, find the connections between and among them that developed over time.
- Analyze the complex interplay between religion, space, language, ethnicity and relation to power, and how these facilitated the development of what we call Asia today and the formation of identity within it.
- Identify the paradoxes in the history of Asia, i.e. idealism and cruelty; creation and destruction; new habits of thought and centuries-long conversations with "traditions," and the role they played in the history of Asia.
- Post to an ePortfolio a signature assignment and reflection, the latter of which will provide evidence of understanding how the assignment or course fits into a General Education program.
- Apply knowledge of the history of Asia to contemporary issues and problems and be able to engage a diversity of perspectives about the past and the present in a civil and constructive manner.
- Collect and sift appropriate source material in the library or online and demonstrate that the ethics and practice of history mean recognizing and building on the work of others and providing appropriate and thorough attribution.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Preterm Test

Thursday, September 11

Students will compose short essays in class (two essays, three paragraphs each, five sentences per paragraph), without notes, on the theme of pilgrimage in the Asian historical tradition. We will focus attention on Adam's Peak (Sri Lanka), Mount Tai (China), and Ise Jingu (Japan).

There are fourteen possible points for the Preterm

Midterm I

Thursday, September 25

Students will write in class (or in the testing center) three short essays, three paragraphs each, five sentences per paragraph on the topic of Origin Stories in Korea, Japan, China.

There are 14 points possible for Midterm I and also for Midterm II.

Midterm II

Thursday, November 6

The second midterm will cover the material on East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) found in chapters 1-3 of the textbook and other class materials from Asia for Educators (Columbia University).

Signature Assignment

Tuesday, October 14 is the start date for the Signature Assignment. Several days will be available at the Testing Center for the completion of this assignment.:

The Signature Assignment will consider ancient tombs found in Asia. Students will have the opportunity to discuss the topic, in class, with their peers and also to do some preparatory in-class research and writing on the topic.

The Signature Assignment will count double any other assignment, such as Midterm I, Preterm, Final I, etc.

Final I

Thursday, December 11

Fourteen Points Possible.

Students will prepare an annotated timeline (with accompanying glossary items).

Reflection

Thursday, December 11

A page or two detailing your work with primary and archaeological material in preparing the signature assignment. The Reflection, if properly prepared, will be worth some extra points. as evaluated.

Final II

Fourteen Points Possible.

The second final will be held during the final exam period, either in the classroom or in the testing center.

The topics for the exam will be taken from textbook chapters 4, 5, 7 (a new chapter added on Vietnamese history), and from the glossary. Students will be given preparatory study material about the Tang Dynasty and about the peripheral civilizations of Korea, Japan, and Vietnam (or other Southeast Asian civilizations) prior to the exam.

The Department policy for make-up exams is to allow a make-up exam on Reading Day. This semester the Reading Day is Friday, December 12.

Extra-Credit. In some cases I create extra-credit assignments for students. These would be similar in bearing to the assignments described above.

Grading Scale

Grading scale 0-20

Extra points are possible with scores of 15 and above

16 A+

15 A+

14 A

13 A-

12 B+

11 B

10 B-

9 C+

8 C

7 C-

6 D

5 E

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within a week. I will offer feedback on major assignments within two weeks. If you drop by the office, we can go over tests or papers at any time. The best way to contact me is via the Canvas Inbox, as I will prioritize this email over other modes of communication.
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements about the tests and papers and additional readings.
- I've also opened a Facebook group page for this course. Its use is optional and has nothing to do with the grade. But we all can post items relative to Asian History on that page. Stay tuned for more information.

Additional Materials

<https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/> Asia for Educators (Columbia University)

Videos: <https://video.afe.easia.columbia.edu/>

We'll be using the resources on these pages for assignments on China and Japan, as an essential supplement to our textbook chapters. Plenty of guidance will be given in class

and via Canvas Announcements about how to find and use this material from Columbia University.

Yet more material for exam preparation, but not an overwhelming amount, will be posted and linked via Announcements, as we begin the semester and as we move along.

General Education Information

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This course fulfills the above requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning.

General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload

assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

How to Succeed in the Course

Attendance is essential for all who hope for a higher grade. There is an attendance policy for the course.

Attendance is the first key to student success. Participation in class is another.

A few students attend only a handful of sessions, perhaps because of jobs or other obligations.

Twelve or more unexcused absences cannot qualify for an A, B, or C+ grade. Further absences will lower the grade yet more.

We demand a vibrant and animated class atmosphere. Class sessions are vivid and lively. No PowerPoint exists in my classes.

Come prepared to respond to direct questions and other invitations to enter into class dialogue. Come prepared to write in a journal during class. Each student should be ready

for direct questions. Such questions remain polite and friendly and aren't a demand for full answers or even correct answers. Questions are an invitation to participate.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Course Content Advisory

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political topics
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course.
- Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, . their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to work with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to read the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

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