

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

Course Instructor: Prof. Stephen R. Halsey
Instructor Email: s.halsey@miami.edu
Office Hours: W 9:30-11:30am and by appointment
Office Location: Ashe 611
Office Phone: 305.284.4151
Course Location: Whitten LC 184
Course Time: M/W 12:20-1:35pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Would you like to learn about fierce samurai warriors, glamorous imperial princesses, mad Mongol khans, learned Confucian scholars, and dangerous sea pirates? To understand what Buddhists, Confucians, Daoists, and Shintoists believe? This introductory survey traces the history of East Asia from its beginnings to 1800, examining the lived experiences of these colorful actors and many more. The course emphasizes the connections that define East Asian societies—language, religion, philosophy, material culture, commerce, and political institutions. The crucial historical watershed in this class comes during the seventh to the eleventh centuries CE, when the three societies of China, Korea, and Japan engaged in an intensive exchange that created a distinctive East Asian “world.” Afterward the histories of these countries were irrevocably intertwined and remain so even today in the twenty-first century. As appropriate, this course will also examine the pastoral societies of Central or Inner Asia, particularly their interactions with the agrarian civilization of China.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will take **ten in-class quizzes** based on lectures and readings during the semester. Each quiz will count for **ten points**, and students may drop their lowest score (**9 x 10= 90 points**). There is NO bluebook or take home exam during the finals period for this class, but the instructor will offer office hours during that week. **Class participation** will constitute 10% (**10 points**) of the final grade (**100 points**) and will reflect the quality and quantity of student comments and questions in class.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be taught in an **in-person lecture format**, and students are expected to attend every class session. **Quizzes will be administered in class, and the instructor will NOT offer a make-up at another time** except in cases of documented medical or family emergencies, officially excused UM student events, or officially recognized religious holidays. During our discussions, students will respond to the instructor’s questions, raise their own, and analyze class readings as appropriate. Students who skip too many classes will fail the class participation component of the course (10%) at the discretion of the instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will enhance their critical reading and thinking skills
- Students will learn to think on their feet and enhance their ability to express sophisticated ideas in clear language
- Students will develop an understanding of the basic narrative of premodern East Asia history and gain familiarity with major interpretive questions
- Students will learn to assess the quality of historical evidence and distinguish between facts and conjecture
- Students will learn to appreciate the richness of societies and cultures different from their own

COURSE TEXTS FOR PURCHASE (FROM AMAZON OR ANOTHER ONLINE BOOKSELLER)

Patricia Ebrey, Anne Whitehall, and James Palais, *Premodern East Asia to 1800: A Cultural, Social, and*

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

Political History (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2013). Third Edition preferred but earlier versions will work.

Sei Shonagon, trans., Meredith McKinney, *The Pillow Book* (Penguin Classics, 2007).

Ryunosuke Akutagawa, *Rashomon and Other Stories*. Any edition.

Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing*. Any edition.

Additional required readings are available for download in pdf format under the course documents link on the Blackboard course website. Copies of the basic course texts are available at **Course Reserves** on the first floor of Richter Library.

COURSE POLICIES

UM Policy on Intellectual Property Rights

This course is the intellectual property of Stephen R. Halsey. Students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course without the permission of the instructor. Any recordings of the lectures will be available to students registered for this class as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments. If the instructor or a University of Miami officer plans any other uses for the recordings, beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use.

Quizzes, Attendance, and Class Participation Policy

Students may take quizzes only in class at the date and time that they are scheduled. I will NOT permit make-ups UNDER ANY CONDITIONS except documented family or medical emergencies, officially excused UM student events, and officially recognized UM religious holidays. You will need to present written documentation as evidence for such an absence, such a note from the Model UN advisor, the UM lacrosse team coach, an ER doctor, etc. Please do **NOT** disclose information about personal medical conditions; a simple letter indicating that you suffered a medical emergency will suffice.

Chronic absenteeism as defined by the course instructor will result in an automatic “F” for class participation; this means students will receive 0 out of 10 points for that portion of your course grade. As noted above, **class participation** will constitute 10% of the final course grade and will reflect the quality and quantity of student comments and questions in class. Please remember that “attendance” does **NOT** constitute “participation” but is rather a precondition for it. Participation means an **active engagement** with the instructor and one’s classmates by thinking, asking questions, and responding to other students’ comments.

Please also note that **tardiness** disrupts the learning experience of your fellow students and will also result in a lower class participation grade at the discretion of the course instructor. **If you walk in late and miss a quiz, too bad for you. If you walk in late and miss part of the quiz time, too bad for you.** This is a totally avoidable outcome; if it were a job interview, a date, or something you consider important, you would show up on time.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the following scale to assign grades but reserves the right to change it under appropriate circumstances. He will inform students of such a change in all cases.

A: 100-93

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

A-: 92-90
B+: 89-87
B: 86-83
B-: 82-80
C+: 79-77
C: 76-73
C-: 72-70
D+: 69-67
D: 66-60
F: 59 or lower

UM Policy on Religious Holidays

According to UM policy, students must notify the course instructor within the first three class sessions if they will be absent during the semester for a religious observance. Please note that UM policy excuses student absences *during the dates of the religious holiday only*; additional travel days do not count.

UM Policy on Academic Honesty

Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course and referral to the University Honor Council where cheaters may face penalties including expulsion from UM. The use of AI such as ChatGPT on any writing assignments constitutes plagiarism and will incur a similar penalty. Heartfelt appeals, bribes, or tears will not alter the outcome; students have tried all three strategies in the past without success. Students will submit all exams and papers through Blackboard SafeAssign, which can identify plagiarized text (even if words and sentences are altered) and the use of AI. This is for *your* protection not mine; cheating injures students with integrity rather than the instructor.

UM Policy on Students with Disabilities

According to UM policy, students entitled to an accommodation through the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) must provide the instructor with a formal letter during the first two weeks of class. We will make an arrangement for additional time to complete the quizzes.

Course Late Policy

Work submitted after the deadline in the course syllabus will be penalized one full letter grade (an A- becomes a B- etc.) for each day they are late. The first “day” begins immediately after the deadline passes, and after four days the grade becomes an automatic F. As noted above, **if you walk in late during a quiz day, you have lost the elapsed time for the quiz and will not receive a free gift from the instructor.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan 17 Course Introduction: Connections: The Making of an East Asian World

Foundations: Language, Philosophy, and Polity in Early China to 221 BCE

Jan 22 Oracle Bones and Warrior Kings: China’s Bronze Age, 1500-771 BCE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 1

Jan 24 Philosophers and Warring States: China, 771 BCE-221 BCE

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 2

Imperial Unification and Collapse: Early Imperial China, 221 BCE-589 CE

Jan 29 The Classical Empires I: Creating the Qin and Han, 221 BCE-220 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 3

Jan 31 The Classical Empires II: Steppe Borderlands and the Statist Economy, 221 BCE-220 CE

Quiz #1

Readings:

Lewis, *Early Chinese Empires*, 128-154

Feb 5 China's Buddhist Age I: Religion, Philosophy, and Art, 220-589 CE

Readings:

Lewis, *China Between Empires*, 196-220

DeBary, *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, vol. 1, 444-454 (Lotus Sutra)

Feb 7 China's Buddhist Age II: Politics, Warfare, and the Economy, 220-589 CE

Quiz #2

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 4

Early Japan and Korea to c. 800 CE

Feb 12 Prince Shotoku and Early Japan to 794 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 7

Feb 14 Early Korea to 935 CE

Quiz #3

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 6

The Making of an East Asian World, c. 600-1100 CE

Feb 19 China Reunited: The Cosmopolitan Sui and Tang Dynasties, 589-906 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 5

Feb 21 Poets, Painters, and Prostitutes: The Efflorescence of Tang Culture and Religion, 589-906 CE

Quiz #4

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

Readings:

Lewis, *China's Cosmopolitan Empire*, 241-271
Sei Shonagon, *Pillow Book* (start)

Feb 26 Classical Japan: The Heian Period, 794-1180 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 9
Pillow Book (continue)

Feb 28 Koryo Korea, 935-1392 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 10
Pillow Book (finish): class discussion

New Forms of Economy, Polity, and Society in East Asia, c. 960-1600 CE

Mar 4 Test Anxiety: Civil Service Exams and the New Bureaucratic Elite in Song China, 960-1271 CE

Quiz #5

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 8

March 6 *The Men Who Tread the Tiger's Tail*: Akira Kurosawa Film

Mar 11 **Spring Break**

Mar 13 **Spring Break**

March 18 Money, Money, Money: The Song Economic Revolution, 960-1271 CE

Readings:

Kuhn, *Age of Confucian Rule*, 233-250

Mar 20 Samurai and Shogun: The Kamakura Period in Japan, 1180-1333 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 11

Mar 25 Genghis Khan and the Global Empire of the Mongols, c. 1206-1368 CE

Quiz #6

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 12

Mar 27 Japan's Middle Ages, 1300-1600 CE

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 13

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

Apr 1 *Rashomon*: Akira Kurosawa Film

Readings:

Akutagawa, "Rashomon;" rest of the book is recommended

Apr 3 China Resurgent: The Autocratic and Prosperous Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644 CE

Quiz #7

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 14

Apr 8 "The Lord of Silver": China's Second Economic Revolution, 1368-1644 CE

Readings:

Brook, *Trouble Empire*, chap. 5, "Economy and Ecology"

Apr 10 Choson Korea, 1392-1800

Quiz #8

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 15

A Troubled Time: Early Modern Transitions in East Asia, c. 1600-1700 CE

Apr 15 Multiethnic Empire: The Manchu Conquest of Ming China, 1620s-1680 CE

Discussion: Portraits of Qing Emperors

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 16

Waley-Cohen, pp. 3-10; 55-91 pp. (11-54 recommended)

Apr 17 Early Modern Japan: Politics and Foreign Policy under the Tokugawa Rulers, 1601-1700 CE

Quiz #9

Readings:

Ebrey, chap. 17

A Flourishing Age: The Long Eighteenth Century in East Asia, c. 1700-1800 CE

Apr 22 The "High Qing": Polity, Population, and Economy in the 1700s

Readings:

Rowe, *China's Last Empire*, 99-122

Waley-Cohen, *Sextants of Beijing*, pp. 92-128

Apr 24 "The Floating World": Commerce and Culture in Tokugawa Japan

Quiz #10

Discussion: Japanese Woodblock Prints

Readings: Longstreet, *Yoshiwara*, pp. 65-100 (recommended pp. 24-121)

CONNECTIONS: THE MAKING OF AN EAST ASIAN WORLD TO 1800
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 2024 SEMESTER
HIS 121

Apr 29 Course Review: The Making of an East Asian World, Beginnings to 1800

Please note that I am available via appointment on Zoom for office hours between Apr 29 and May 6th.