

Fall Semester 2006

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History 3460 *Comparative History of Asia* (MW 1430-1545 Main 326)

This information can be made available in braille, large print, and audio format upon request by the Disability Resource Center (797-2444)

Course Description

This is a survey course in the history of the major civilizations of Asia, defined as South, Southeast and East Asia. As such it will emphasize the examination of what has been called the “high” culture of those civilizations although it will not ignore “popular” culture. Topics to be examined through both discussion, some of which will be electronic, and readings, some of which will be accessed by the Internet, will include the geographic setting of Asia, the traditional religions of Asia, the philosophical underpinnings of traditional Asian societies, and a general survey of the historical development of the civilizations of the area and their modern transformations. Emphasis in the reading will be given to the history of the major urban centers of Asia and to the role of some prominent and not so prominent personalities in Asian history.

*******WARNING: THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION BY THE INSTRUCTOR, PROVIDED THAT WRITTEN OR VERBAL NOTICE IS GIVEN.*******

Course Requirements

Your evaluation in this course will be based on several things of different weight. They will include quizzes administered over the internet; one travel essay (approximately five to seven pages); two in-class exams; and a final examination. The quizzes will total 250 points, the travel essay 100 points; the two in-class exams, 200 points; and the final, 100 points: a total of 650 points.

The question for the essay is stated in the schedule below as well as the due date. The material to be covered in the in-class exams will include both reading assignments and class presentations up to the time of the exam. The nature of the final exam will be explained in class.

All students are required to access WebCT. The syllabus, course assignments and quizzes are available there.

Quizzes

Weekly quizzes will test the material found in the assigned readings and presented in class. They will be administered through the WebCT and must be completed in the assigned time. The dates for each quiz is listed below. In most cases, there will be a 48-hour window in which each student can log on for the online quiz. It will be possible to take these quizzes from any location where web access is possible. Make ups will only be given in case of National Emergency. One quiz will be a map quiz administered in class

Academic Dishonesty

Please see the USU General Catalog for descriptions and examples of Academic Dishonesty. Any instances in this class will result in an automatic grade of "F". It is your responsibility to keep all graded work that has been returned to you in case of discrepancy in recording grades.

Attendance

Attendance at scheduled classes is expected. This class requires a fair amount of reading, contemplation, and writing. The university expects you to devote two hours outside of class for every class hour. That means that you should expect to spend a minimum of six hours per week reading and studying for this class.

Readings

The readings in this course will be of two different types. The first is traditional books available for purchase in the USU bookstore. They are:

Rhoads Murphey. A History of Asia. 5th ed. 2006.

Richard C. Folz. Religions of the Silk Road. 1999.

Ross Marlay and Clark Neher. Patriots and Tyrants. 1999.

Mahatma Gandhi. The Essential Gandhi. Louis Fischer, ed. 1962

The second type of reading assignments are given in the weekly assignments which are available on the WebCT site. For your further study, useful internet addresses relevant to this class are given below.

General Information and Narrative Histories:

See Web Site listing on page 9 of textbook

China:

Chinese Internet Resources at <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/CHINRES.HTM#/History>
Follow the links to History and Culture

Japan:

http://workman.com/wfb2001/japan/japan_history.index.html
Follow the links to specific periods.

General:

<http://newton.uor.edu/Departments&Programs/AsianStudiesDept/general-history.html>
Resources on East and Southeast Asia.

India:

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/History/mainhist.html>
General guide.

Source Reading:

General:

<http://www.askasia.org>
Educational site of the Asia Society with multiple links to resources for teaching.

Internet East Asian Sourcebook at

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/eastasia/eastasiasbook.html#China's%20Disaster:%201840-1949>

Guides to both primary and secondary sources

Buddhism:

www.buddhanet.net

Index to a rather extensive archive of resources on Buddhism.

<http://online.anu.edu.au/asianstudies/buddhism/buddhism.html>

“Why Buddhism is Superior to Taoism and Confucianism” and “The Mingling of Taoism and Buddhism” will be required.

The Chinese Tradition

<http://www.hamilton.edu/academics/Asian/TempleCulture.html>

Discussion of Confucianism by Thomas A. Wilson of Hamilton College

Hinduism

<http://www.uni-giessen.de/~gk1415/hinduism.htm>

An extended, scholarly discussion of Hinduism by Indians

The Schedule of Class Topics and Assignments:

August 28 Introduction: The Physical Geography of Asia, Origins and Ancient Civilizations of Monsoon Asia
Assignment One

August 30 Asian Religions
Assignments Two and Three

September 4 ***Labor Day Break***

September 6 Asian Religions
Assignments Two and Three

September 7-9 **WebCT Quiz #1**

September 11 Film: *330 Million Gods*
Ancient Civilizations
Assignments Two and Three
In Class Map Quiz

September 13 Ancient Civilizations
Assignments Two and Three

September 14-16 **WebCT Quiz #2**

September 18 Asia in the Middle Years, Glorious Years
Assignment Four and Five

September 20 Asia in the Middle Years, Glorious Years
Assignment Four and Five

September 21-23 **WebCT Quiz #3**

September 25 Japan and Korea
Assignment Five

*****Essay Due*****

Question: You are a traveler on the Silk Road in the early years of the Tang Dynasty of China. Write a travel journal of at least five pages in which you meet at least one other traveler and visit at least one city.

September 27 Film: *Japanese Feudalism*

Assignment Five

- Sept. 28-30 **WebCT Quiz #4**
- October 2 Central Asia
Assignment Five
- October 4 Asia and the West
Assignment Six
- October 6-8 **WebCT Quiz #5**
- October 9 Traditional Society and Imperialism
Assignment Seven
- October 11 *****Hour Examination*****
- October 16 Imperialism in Asia
Assignment Seven
- October 18 Imperialism and Nationalism
Assignment Eight
- October 19-21 **WebCT Quiz #6**
- October 23 The Sino-Japanese War
Assignment Eight
- October 25 Gandhi and Imperialism
Assignment Eight
- October 26-28 **WebCT Quiz #7**
- October 30 Gandhi Film
Assignment Nine
- November 2 Asia and World War II
Assignment Nine
- November 6 *****Hour Examination*****
Exam will emphasize the Gandhi Book and Gandhi Film
- November 8 The Cold War Comes to Asia
Assignment Ten

November 13 Japanese Revival
Assignment Ten

November 15 Americans and Vietnam
Assignment Ten

November 16-18 **WebCT Quiz #8**

November 20 End of the Cold War
Assignment Ten

November 22 *Thanksgiving Break*

November 27 Deng Xiaoping and China
Assignment Eleven

November 29 Contemporary India
Assignment Eleven

Nov 30-December 2 **WebCT Quiz # 9**

December 4 Contemporary Asia
Assignment Eleven

December 6 Asia in the 21st Century

December 11 **Final Examination, 1:30-3:20 p.m.**

The assigned book Patriots and Tyrants will be the basis of the final exam. The content of the exam will be explained in class.