

Course Outline – Univ. of Alberta - East Asia from 1500 - HIST 281 – Summer 2017 - Concise

Instructor: Dr. Brian R. Gold / Office: Tory 2-70 / Lecture: M-F, B-02 9 – 10 :10 a.m./ B-01 10:30 – 11:40 a.m.

Office Hours: Mondays, 1 – 2 p.m., or by appointment

Email: bgold@ualberta.ca (put “Hist 281” and then “B-01” or “B-02” in subject line, and use the salutations “Dear Dr. Gold” or “Dear Professor Gold” or your email will be ignored)

Course Description and Overview: This course will provide an introductory survey of some main themes in East Asian history from approximately the 16th century to the present. East Asia is most frequently defined as the cultural area in which traditional elites were literate in Chinese characters, which corresponds to modern-day China (including Taiwan), Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. Constantly throughout the course East Asia as a region and the individual countries within it will be treated in a global comparative perspective, where the regional historical record is analyzed in terms of similarities and differences with overall global history. No pre-requisite required.

Required Textbook: Holcombe, Charles. *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century*. 2nd Edition, 2017.

Required Additional Readings/Visual Materials: For some classes there may be minor additional readings and visual materials to be analyzed beyond the textbook. The materials will either be posted on the course website, available as ebooks or reserve readings through the library, or available for viewing on YouTube.

eClass Course Website: ‘Official’ Syllabus; lecture outlines; additional reading materials.

Grade Evaluation:

Reading/Lecture Quizzes (5 in total)	20
Attendance / Discussion	15
Final	30
Essay (Topic Sign-Up July 14; Due August 8)	35
	100%

Weekly a) Reading/Lecture Quizzes & b) Attendance/Discussion:

- a) Every Thursday class of the term (except August 10), and on Monday August 14, there will be a short, ‘open-book’, 5 minute quiz on the readings assigned and lecture materials given that week. Precise dates are quizzes July 13, 20, 27, August 3, 14. Quizzes will start precisely at the beginning of class and last 5 minutes at maximum, no exceptions given for students arriving late for any reason. Quizzes will generally consist of a few multiple-choice questions and/or brief open-ended questions. While ‘open-book’, meaning that students can consult the readings (textbook) and lecture notes while doing the quiz, keep in mind that 5 minutes during a quiz can seem to speed by extremely quickly, and students would be wise to have taken careful notes on the lectures and on the readings before the quiz. Without pre-consultation and approval of the instructor, students who are present for the quiz but then leave class early will get a mark of ‘zero’ for their quiz.
- b) Every entire Friday class of the term, (except August 11), and Tuesday, August 15, and possibly part of every class with a quiz, will be devoted to discussion of the textbook reading given that week (and to a lesser extent, the lectures). Students will generally be divided into groups to discuss and present different parts of the readings. Be sure to bring (electronically or hard) copy of assigned readings for topic to class to facilitate discussion. Do not read the readings like a novel; take as many notes as necessary to concisely sum up what the readings says (linking points to the page number it appears on), its main arguments, and the broader significance in terms of understanding East Asian history.

Attendance will be recorded from Friday, July 14 onwards (after the deadline for dropping/adding the course.) Attendance is defined as being present in class at the beginning and at the end. The general weekly pattern are lectures for M-W, Thursdays taken up with a quiz, a discussion of the quiz answers, and then either continued discussion or completion of a lecture given Wednesday. Fridays are wholly devoted to discussion. Lectures are given assuming that students have done the reading for the week beforehand.

Except for bona-fide family or medical emergencies there is no possible make-up for quizzes. In a summer term where we are trying to cover as much material in just over one month as is normally covered over three and a half months during a regular term, attendance at every class is critical, both for your overall learning, and for your attendance/discussion mark.

Format and Scope of Final: Essay Questions (probably ‘Pre-Study’) and Identification will be used. The Final will cover all readings and lectures from the beginning to the end of the course.

Essay: Students are required to write a research essay on an approved topic. Students will have considerable leeway in coming up with their own essay topic, within certain limits that will be outlined. The required length for the final paper handed in is 1500 words. Overly short or long essays will be penalized. All essays must be typewritten, stapled together, have a cover page (where I am addressed correctly), use the same font throughout, and employ the correct scholarly apparatus (citations, bibliography) according to the Chicago editorial style. Students are required to use footnotes for their citations. For both the citations and the bibliography, students are NOT to provide the URL for a source, unless the source is only to be found online, e.g. if a source is a journal article, or an e-Book, do not provide the URL even if you only consulted the source online.

Note that the essay must cite:

- at least 6 good scholarly sources (as one rough guide, anything published by a university press) relevant to their topic (Internet sources [other than scholarly databases e.g. J-Stor, or an academic article put online], the textbook, lecture notes, encyclopedias [whether Internet or not] and other

assigned readings do NOT count towards this total. Note that all Internet sources will be considered extremely suspect unless the instructor is consulted beforehand or a hard copy citation for an Internet source can be given.),

- of the scholarly sources cited, at least two must be dated as having been written 2013 or later,
- of the scholarly sources cited, at least two must be from scholarly journals, e.g. academic research periodicals, not popular magazines
- of the scholarly sources cited, at least two must be from books/manuscript length works
 - note that one source can qualify under more than one of the categories listed e.g. a student could cite two scholarly journal articles from, for example, 2013 and 2015, and will then have met the requirements
- if a student is unsure of any of these requirements, it is their responsibility to check with the instructor for clarification.

→ Essays that do not employ the correct editorial style, scholarly apparatus, and follow every outlined criteria above will be considered incomplete, and will not be accepted and marked until they are corrected. If not corrected by the end of term the essay will receive a grade of zero.

Students may email their bibliographies to the instructor ahead of time to ensure they are correct, which he will get to as soon as possible, on a first come, first serve basis. The instructor will try to check if essays handed in on the due date have met the above criteria and let the offending students know before the end of the term but is not bound in any way to do so. Any late penalties incurred due to having to resubmit a correct bibliography are solely the fault of the student. Essays are due at the beginning of class on the deadline as a hard copy, stapled together, handed to the instructor in class. All essays handed in after the final deadline must be either handed in to the instructor in class or office hours, or into the History & Classics Department office 'mail' slot.

There is a steep late penalty. For every business day after the deadline an essay is handed in there is a 5% reduction in grade. The absolute last deadline for the essay is the last day of class, before the close of the History & Classics Department office. Absolutely no exceptions except for 'verified' health or family emergencies (see University policy on this point) or other circumstances in which the instructor has been consulted at least two weeks in advance of the last day of class.

Finally, learning how to spell and address people's names correctly is a basic form of etiquette and respect for others. Please note that my name is given above in typical Western format e.g. 'Brian' ('i' before the 'a') is my 'first', or personal name, and 'Gold' is my 'last', or family name.

Final Grade:

Final Grading (Out of 100 percentiles):

A+ 93, A 87, A- 80, B+ 75, B 70, B- 65, C+ 60, C 55, C- 50, D+ 45, D 40, F below 40

The class is not graded on a 'curve'. The instructor will keep students informed in class as to their progress and grades in each component of the course. Please note that the final grade will not be completely a simple adding up of points for various assignments. Instead there will be a very small leeway given for an overall subjective assessment of the total worth of a student's work, including a student's performance in all of the above components of the grade noted above, attendance, and overall trends in a student's performance over the term, either deteriorating or improving.

Textbook Readings by 'Week', and Lecture Topics (Representative/Tentative):

Week 1 (July 10 – 14): 'Introduction: What is East Asia?'; Chapter 6 'Early Modern East Asia (Sixteenth-Eighteenth Centuries)'; and various parts of Chapter 5 on the Song, Early Ming, and Early Choson, namely pp. 132-141 (the sub-sections entitled 'The Song Dynasty Situation', 'Economic and Social Change', and 'Neo-Confucianism'), pp. 147-149 (the sub-section entitled 'The Early Ming [1368-ca. Sixteenth Century {-1644}]'), and pp. 152-154 (the sub-section entitled 'Early Choson [1392-ca. Sixteenth Century {-1910}]).

Lecture topics: 'defining modern East Asia', 'why did Britain and not East Asia have the first Industrial Revolution', and 'Emperor Qianlong's world'.

Week 2 (July 17 – 21): Chapter 8 'The Nineteenth-Century Encounter of Civilizations'

Lecture topics: 'early modernity in urban Edo/Meiji Japan', 'the Taiping Rebellion'.

Week 3 (July 24 – 28): Chapter 9 'The Age of Westernization (1900-1929)' and Chapter 10 'The Dark Valley (1930-1945)'

Lecture topics: 'nationalism and racial theory in East Asia', 'WWII from an economic history and comparative perspective', 'East Asian massacres and genocide in global perspective', which would include a documentary on the Nanjing Massacre.

Week 4 (July 31 – August 4): Chapter 14 'China since 1945' and 'Afterword'

Lecture topics: 'the East Asian Developmental State model and post-Mao Chinese development', 'What was Mao trying to do?'

Week 5 (August 8 – 16): Chapter 11 'Japan since 1945', Chapter 12 'Korea since 1945', and Chapter 13 'Vietnam since 1945'

Lecture topics: 'Everyday life during the South Korean economic miracle', 'East Asian pop culture particularly, how did Japan become so 'cute', and South Korea so 'cool', 'North Korea: another country'.

Ideally, the last class will be a review for the midterm.