

EALC 5000
EAST ASIAN HISTORY AND CIVILIZATIONS
Fall 2023

Dr. Ori Tavor

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Class Meeting: Friday 1:45-4:15

Office Hours: Friday 4:30-5:30 (710 Williams Hall)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar offers a thematic overview of the academic study of Chinese and Japanese history and cultures from the Neolithic period to the 21st century. Over the course of the semester, students will be introduced to different scholarly approaches to the study of East Asian history and culture through a close reading and analysis of the work of leading scholars in the fields of Sinology and Japanology. Together, we will learn about the diverse approaches to the study of China and Japan, from the various subfields of historical studies (such as urban, legal, intellectual, and diplomatic history) to other academic disciplines such as religious studies, anthropology, gender studies, and archaeology. We will examine the different methodological frameworks and tools used by past and present scholars and draw on them in order to problematize and enrich our understanding of East Asia. In addition, this seminar will provide incoming students with the relevant skills to produce their own original graduate-level research and present it in a clear and persuasive fashion both orally and in written form. While original-language research for the final project is encouraged, all weekly readings will be in English.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Acquire comprehensive knowledge about Chinese and Japanese History, Society, and Culture from the pre-modern period to the present.
- Develop analytical skills by critically exploring and discussing a wide variety of secondary sources.
- Produce a graduate-level term paper using gradual steps, such as developing a research question, writing a paper outline and a bibliography, and in-class presentation.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Class Attendance and Participation: 20%

Response Papers: 20%

Book Review: 15% (Presentation 5% + Written Version 10%)

Final Project: 45% (Presentation 10% + Paper 35%)

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is part of the learning process. Every student will be permitted to miss up to **one** lecture without their grade being adversely affected. As this is a discussion-based class, you must come prepared, after having completed all assigned readings and the response paper, and be ready to discuss them in class.

RESPONSE PAPERS

Students will be expected to post a weekly 400-word response paper to the assigned readings. These should be uploaded at **10 AM on Friday** onto the appropriate discussion thread on the Canvas website. The goal of this task is to help students familiarize themselves with the assigned reading before class thus facilitating a meaningful and productive discussion.

BOOK REVIEW

For their book review, students will select one week's reading from the syllabus and then, with the help of the professor, find an additional book on the same topic and review it. In addition to the written review (4-5 pages), students will have to present their book of choice to the class and discuss it against the backdrop of the week's topic. The written report is due **two weeks** after the in-class presentation.

FINAL PRESENTATION AND PAPER:

For their final project, students will write an original research paper on any topic related to East Asian history and culture. The length of this paper should be around 20-25 pages. In order to ensure the timely submission and quality of this assignment, the final project will be composed of five gradual steps:

- 1) Research question (due week 08)
- 2) Research Proposal (due week 11)
- 3) Detailed bibliography (due week 14)
- 4) Class presentations (weeks 14 and 15), in which each student will explain their topic to the class in a clear and concise manner, with an emphasis on why the topic is important to our understanding of East Asia.
- 5) Final paper (due Dec. 31)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week One (9/1): Course Introduction: *The Study of East Asian History and Civilizations*

Christian de Pee, "Cycles of Cathay: Sinology, Philology, and Histories of the Song Dynasty (960–1279) in the United States," *Fragments* 2 (2012): 35-67.

Week Two (9/8): *The Problems of Prehistory: Archaeology and Material History*

J. Edward Kidder, Jr., "The Earliest Societies in Japan," in: *The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. I: Ancient Japan*, 48-107.

Sarah Allan, "Erlitou and the Formation of Chinese Civilization: Toward a New Paradigm," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 66.2 (2007): 461-496.

Week Three (9/15): *The Beginning of "History" in Ancient China and Japan*

David Lurie, "Myth and History in the Kojiki, Nihonshoki, and Related Works," in: *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature*, 22-39.

David Schaberg, "Chinese History and Philosophy," in: *The Oxford History of Historical Writing: Volume 1: Beginnings to AD 600*, 394-414.

Kidder Smith, "Sima Tan and the Invention of Daoism, 'Legalism,' 'et cetera,'" *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62.1 (2003): 129-156.

Week Four (9/22): *Legal History in Imperial China and Asuka Japan*

Sakaue Yasutoshi and Kristopher L. Reeves, "The Ritsuryō State," in: *Routledge Handbook of Premodern Japanese History*, 82-98.

Michael Nylan, "Notes on a Case of Illicit Sex from Zhangjiashan: A Translation and Commentary," *Early China* 30 (2005-2006): 25-45.

Charles Sanft, "Law and communication in Qin and Western Han China," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 53.5 (2010): 679-711.

Week Five (9/29): *The History of Religion in Medieval China and Japan*

Arthur Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History*, 21-85.

Gil Raz, "Buddhism Challenged, Adopted, and in Disguise: Daoist and Buddhist Interactions in Medieval China," in: *Old Society, New Belief*, 109-127.

Kuroda Toshio, "Shinto in the History of Japanese Religion," *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 7.1 (1981): 1-21.

Week Six (10/6): Library Resources

Guest lecture

Week Seven (10/13): NO CLASS (Fall Break)**Week Eight (10/20): Urban History in Tang and Song China and Heian Japan**

Joan R. Piggott, "Heian-kyō: From Royal Center to Metropole," in: *Routledge Handbook of Premodern Japanese History*, 216-232.

Linda Rui Feng, "Chang'an and Narratives of Experience in Tang Tales," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 71.1 (2011): 35-68.

Valerie Hansen, *The Beijing Qingming Scroll and its Significance for the Study of Chinese History*.

RESEARCH QUESTION DUE IN CLASS**Week Nine (10/27): Foreign Relations and Diplomatic History in Early Modern East Asia**

Wu Chi-hua, "Basic Foreign-policy Attitudes of the Early Ming Dynasty," *Ming Studies* 1 (1981): 65-80.

Ronald P. Toby, "Reopening the Question of Sakoku: Diplomacy in the Legitimation of the Tokugawa Bakufu," *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 3.2 (1977): 323-363.

Mark Ravina, "Japan in the Chinese Tributary System," in: *Sea Rovers, Silver, and Samurai: Maritime East Asia in Global History, 1550–1700*, 353-363.

Week Ten (11/3): Gender and Women's History in Late Imperial China and Early Modern Japan

Kathleen S. Uno, "Women and Changes in the Household Division of Labor," in: *Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945*, 17-41.

Charlotte Furth, "Blood, Body, and Gender: Medical Images of the Female Condition in China, 1600 – 1850," in: *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities*, 291-314.

Yang Binbin, "Drawings of a Life of 'Unparalleled Glory': Ideal Manhood and the Rise of Pictorial Autobiographies in China," in: *Changing Chinese Masculinities*, 113-134.

Week Eleven (11/10): Historiography and Revisionist History in Modern China and Japan

Axel Schneider and Stefan Tanaka, "The Transformation of History in China and Japan," in: *The Oxford History of Historical Writing: Volume 4: 1800-1945*, 491-519.

Daniel Sneider, "Textbooks and Patriotic Education: Wartime Memory Formation in China and Japan," *Asia-Pacific Review* 20.1 (2013): 35-54.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS

Week Twelve (11/17): *New Approaches to Ethnography in Contemporary East Asia*

Kaitlyn Ugoretz, "[Demystifying Remote Research in Anthropology and Area Studies](#)," *Asia Pacific Perspectives* 17.1 (2021)

Cora and Kenneth Dean, "Making *Bored in Heaven*," *Visual Anthropology Review* 30.1 (2014), 50-61.

Bored in Heaven (dir. Kenneth Dean, 2010)

Week Thirteen (11/24): NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week Fourteen (12/1): *Final Presentations*

BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS

Week Fifteen (12/8): *Final Presentations*