Introduction to East Asian Civilization

**Instructor:** David Dettmann  
**Email:** dwdettma@wisc.edu  
**Time:** MWF 1:20-2:10  
**Place:** Sewell Soc Sciences 5106  
**Office hour:** Tues at noon or by appt  
**Office:** 332 Ingraham Hall

*Introduction to East Asian Civilization* is a survey course that uses a blend of approaches from the humanities and social sciences to introduce you to the histories, societies, and cultures of China, Korea, and Japan. This course does not assume prior knowledge of the languages and cultures of East Asia, but is intended to provide a base for further study. The course is also cross-listed in Political Science, so over the course of the semester we will pay particular attention to issues of politics and governance—but this will not be our exclusive subject.

By the end of the course you should be able to:

- Identify, compare, and contrast key features of the physical and cultural geography of East Asian countries.
- Understand and explain unifying characteristics of the region’s cultures as a whole, as well as unique aspects of the individual cultures.
- Recognize and explicate key historical events and movements conditioning the past and present of the region as a whole and the individual nations.
- Relate historical events and socio-economic structures to cultural and artistic practices on national and regional levels.
- Use the skills and knowledge developed in the course to continue studying East Asia.

**Required texts (at the Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 425 W. Gilman):**


Choose one of the following:


All other reading is available online through the course Learn@UW page in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format:

1. Log onto Learn@UW.
2. Click East Asian 222 to go to our homepage.
3. Click ‘Content’ to see the list of online readings.

Some of this online reading is described as optional. Optional reading forms a basis for lectures in class, and often provides examples of material described more abstractly in the primary textbook. Completing the optional reading will make you better prepared for class, enable you to write better exams, and help you understand the term-paper books. I may change or add to the optional reading for a given day, but if I do so, I will give you plenty of notice.

Grading

Grades are based on attendance and participation in class, performance on three exams, several projects, and a term paper, in the following percentages:

10% Attendance and performance on brief assignments: map assignment, 3 quizzes, and attendance (2% each)
20% Exam 1 (Wed, Oct. 12, in class)
20% Exam 2 (Mon, Nov. 14, in class)
20% Exam 3 (Sun, Dec. 18, 7:45 am, location to be announced)
15% Three 1-page reports on East-Asia-related events occurring outside class (3x 5% each)
15% One 5-page paper based on one of the three term-paper books

The exams are not cumulative. They are primarily essay exams, but may include terminology identification and/or short answer questions; I will distribute the essay questions in advance. Please note that make-up exams will only be given with advance notice of religious observances or in the event of serious illness or emergency. If you know that you cannot make one or more of the exams at the scheduled time, tell me as soon as possible. Be aware that make-up exams may be different from regular exams in form as well as content.

The outside events may be films, live performances, public lectures, art openings, or community festivals that relate to East Asia and occur outside the normal class time. The papers for these events should be at least 1 page long (12-point font, double-spaced, 1” margins). In the paper, you should describe the event and then link it to the material of the course to the best of your ability. You may hand in the reports at any time beginning with the second class meeting, but you must observe the deadlines listed in the Quick Calendar on the next page. The course webpage has a dropbox that allows you to hand in your event reports electronically—I strongly prefer that you use that method, but I will accept them on paper or by email.
In addition to attendance/participation and the three exams, 15% of your grade requires writing a 5-page critical review of one of the optional books. I will provide specific guidelines for each book as the semester progresses. You may hand in this paper any time before the final review day (Wed, Dec 14).

I will also provide opportunities for extra credit, all of which may count for up to 2% of your final grade.

**A note on working together:** I encourage you to study for exams together, to attend outside events together, and to compare notes on those outside events together. However, all work that you submit for this course must be your own. I will deal with any sign that one student has copied another student’s work severely. If you are tempted to cheat, remember that the penalties for cheating include failure in the course and expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to read, understand, and follow the university’s rules on academic conduct at http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/uws14.htm.

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<th>Quick Calendar</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
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<td><strong>Sept 02</strong></td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept 07-Oct 12</strong></td>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
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<td>F Sept 09</td>
<td>Map due</td>
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<td>M Sept 19</td>
<td>CHINA QUIZ</td>
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<td>M Oct 10</td>
<td>REVIEW, Last day to hand in first event report</td>
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<td>W Oct 12</td>
<td>FIRST EXAM (in class)</td>
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<td><strong>Oct 14-Nov 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Korea</strong></td>
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<td>F Oct 28</td>
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<td>F Nov 11</td>
<td>REVIEW, Last day to hand in second event report</td>
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<td>M Nov 14</td>
<td>SECOND EXAM (in class)</td>
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<td><strong>Nov 16-Dec 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Japan</strong></td>
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<td>W Nov 16</td>
<td>JAPAN QUIZ</td>
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<td>W Dec 14</td>
<td>REVIEW, Last day to hand in third event report</td>
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<td>Last day to hand in term paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Dec 18</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (7:45am, location TBA)</td>
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Complete all reading and other course preparation before the relevant lecture.

**Week 1: INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIA**

F 02 Sept  
*Course Introduction*

**Week 2: CHINA**

| M 05 Sept   | NO CLASS (Labor Day) |
| W 07 Sept   | *Cultural and Physical Geography of China.* |
| F 09 Sept   | *Early China and Writing*. **MAP DUE. Reading:** Ebrey 8-19; Chang 81-94 ("Writing as the Path to Authority") |
Week 3:
M 12 Sept  Early Confucianism. **Reading:** Ebrey 20-34; **Optional:** Mote 29-65 (“Early Confucianism”); De Bary 15-33 **GUEST LECTURE:** Joe Dennis

W 14 Sept  Confucianism and Empire. **Reading:** Ebrey 35-59; Mote 111-128 (“The Creation of the Chinese Empire”)

F 16 Sept  Daoism. **Reading:** Mote 67-84 (“Early Taoism”); Chan 3-31, 157-163; Watson 1-28, 50-67

Week 4:
M 19 Sept  *Buddhism. Reading:* Ebrey 60-73; De Bary 266-274. **CHINA QUIZ** (in class)

W 21 Sept  *Tang Cosmopolitanism. Reading:* Ebrey 74-92; **Optional:** Schafer 7-39 (excerpt from *The Golden Peaches of Samarkand*).

F 23 Sept  *Song Neo-Confucianism. Reading:* Ebrey 128-146; De Bary 117-121, 479-487.

Week 5:

W 28 Sept  *Slicing the Chinese Melon. Reading:* Ebrey 295-323; **Optional:** Snow 22-52 (excerpt from *The Fall of Hong Kong*).

F 30 Sept  *War and Revolution: Taiping Rebellion. Reading:* Ebrey 402-425; **Optional:** Bai Wei 43-73 (“Jumping through Hoops”) **GUEST LECTURE:** Dreux Montgomery

Week 6:
M 03 Oct  *Mao and Maoism. Reading:* Ebrey 457-473; **Optional:** Balazs 150-170 (“Tradition and Revolution”); Mao 40-50 (“Oppose Book Worship”), 58-64 (“The Important Thing is to be Good at Learning”)

W 05 Oct  *Cultural Revolution. Reading:* Yue Daiyun 167-222 (excerpts from *To the Storm*)

F 07 Oct  *China Since Mao. Reading:* Ebrey 474-490

Week 7:
M 10 Oct  *China Review. LAST DAY TO HAND IN FIRST EVENT REPORT*

W 12 Oct  *China Exam* (in class)

**Week 7 continued… KOREA**

Week 8:

M 17 Oct  Prehistory and Early Polities. **Reading:** Ebrey 98-113

W 19 Oct  Three Han Through Silla/Parhae. **Reading:** Ebrey 98-113

F 21 Oct  Koryŏ. **Reading:** Ebrey 167-179

Week 9:

M 24 Oct  Chosŏn Renaissance. **Reading:** Ebrey 240-258; **Optional:** Provine 91-115 (“The Korean Courtyard Ensemble for Ritual Music”)

W 26 Oct  Confucianization and the Yangban Elite. **Reading:** Ebrey 240-258; Deuchler 4-27 (excerpt from *The Confucian Transformation of Korea*)

F 28 Oct  Colonization I. **Reading:** Ebrey 353-367, Cumings 1995 15-24 (excerpt from *Divided Korea*); **Optional:** Cumings 1984: 478-496 (“Legacy of Colonialism”) **KOREA QUIZ** (in class)

Week 10:

M 31 Oct  Colonization II: Korean Responses. **Reading:** Ebrey 387-401

W 02 Nov  Partition and Civil War. **Reading:** Ebrey 491-510, Cumings 1995: 24-36 (excerpt from *Divided Korea*); **Optional:** Kendall 1988: 47-67 (excerpt from *Life and Hard Times of a Korean Shaman*)

F 04 Nov  Korea North and South. **Reading:** Cumings 1995: 37-74 (excerpt from *Divided Korea*), Kim Il Sung 427-437 (“On Socialist Construction in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the South Korean Revolution [Excerpt]”); **Optional:** Choe In Su 106-110 (“Unexcelled Wisdom”), 139-141 (“Expressing Care from Far Away”)

Week 11:

M 07 Nov (Eid-al-Adha) Shamanism in Modern Korea. **Reading:** Kendall 1985: 1-22, 113-143 (excerpts from *Shamans, Housewives, and Other Restless Spirits*); **Optional:** Janelli and Janelli 148-176 (excerpt from *Ancestor Worship and Korean Society*).

W 09 Nov  Guest Lecture: on Korean Popular Culture

F 11 Nov  Korea Review. **LAST DAY TO HAND IN SECOND EVENT REPORT**

Week 12:

M 14 Nov  Korea Exam (in class)
Week 12 continued…JAPAN


Week 13:

M 21 Nov  Founding of Tokugawa. Reading: Ebrey 206-220


F 25 Nov  NO CLASS (Thanksgiving recess)

Week 14:


W 30 Nov  Meiji Culture: Mobilization Versus Liberation. Reading: Kano 85-119 (excerpt from Acting Like a Woman in Modern Japan); Optional: Downer 47-73 (excerpt from Madame Sadayakko).

F 02 Dec  Taishō Democracy: The Woman Question. Reading: Kano 184-217 (excerpt from Acting Like a Woman in Modern Japan) JAPAN QUIZ (in class).

Week 15:


W 07 Dec  The Pacific War. Reading: Ebrey 417-425, 442-456; Optional: Ienaga Saburō 153-180 (excerpt from The Pacific War), Cook (excerpts from Japan at War: An Oral History).

F 09 Dec  Occupation and Aftermath. Reading: Ebrey 511-525, Dower 87-120 (excerpt from Embracing Defeat).

Week 16:


W 14 Dec  Japan Review. LAST DAY TO HAND IN THIRD EVENT REPORT; LAST DAY TO HAND IN CRITICAL REVIEW

FINAL EXAM

Sunday 18 Dec  Japan Exam (7:45 am, location to be announced)