

HIST 241: Civilizations of Asia I
Windward Community College
Fall 2012

Instructor: Ryan J. Koo
Class Schedule: TR, 11:30-12:45
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Office: Palanakila 134
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Office hours: MW 9:00-10:00 am, TR 10:00-11:00 am, TR 1:00-2:00pm
Section: 61397

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai'i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O'ahu's Ko'olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment—inspiring students to excellence.

Catalog Description:

HIST 241 is a survey course covering the development of the major civilizations East, South, and Southeast Asia, and the historical personages and events for the earliest periods to the 1500s.
(3 hrs.lect)
WCC: DH

In this Writing-Intensive course, you will do a substantial amount of writing which should help you to learn the course content and also improve your writing skill. Your instructor will help you writing by giving instructions in class and providing you with individual feedback. While Writing-Intensive courses can be demanding, many students find that the act of writing helps them to think more deeply about the subject. In addition, improved writing skills will benefit you not only in your future studies, but also in your employment and personal life.

Writing Intensive Course Hallmarks

- Writing promotes learning of course content.
- Writing is considered to be a process in which multiple drafts are encouraged
- Writing contributes significantly to each student's course grade
- Students do a substantial amount of writing, a minimum of 4,000 words. Depending on the types of writing appropriate to the discipline, students may write critical essays or reviews, journal entries, lab reports, research reports or reaction papers

Student Learning Outcomes

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Identify important individuals, places, organizations and concepts in premodern Asian history.
2. Describe cause and effect relationships in Asian History
3. Order chronologically significant events in Asian History.
4. Describe major Asian historical processes (e.g. the agricultural revolution, the rise and spread of religions, the development of political institutions, etc.)
5. Acquire a sense of historical perspective.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of historical concepts as they relate to premodern Asian historical issues and events.

Course Tasks

Hello! Ni hao! Chom riep sua! Ohayo gozaimasu! Namaste! Welcome to the wonderful world of premodern Asian history! This class will be a thrilling exploration of the societies and cultures of ancient East, South, and Southeast Asia, with a special emphasis on religious and philosophical traditions of this incredibly diverse region of the globe. In order to explore this vast place we call Asia, you will need to transform into a historian, at least for a semester! You will be asked to analyze and interpret the past as it has been passed down through the ages by looking at primary and secondary sources from various voices throughout premodern history. In other words, you will become a mini-historian by taking this course! By the end, you will be able to form an opinion about the past, express it in writing, and support it with evidence (the facts that you gather from primary sources). These, of course, are not only invaluable skills for this class, but essential for life as well. One of the reasons you are here is (I hope!) to become a more responsible, culturally aware and contributing citizen of our global world, and now is the perfect time to get started!

The class will be centered around the following tasks, that serve as both learning and assessment tools, for the purpose of measuring your learning and your ability to meet the course SLOs.

- 1. 1 Short Philosophy/Religion Papers 3-4 pages (750-1000 words) (50 points) Due: Sept 25th**
 - a. Format for all papers is typed, double-spaced, 12 font with name, date, class, and word count placed in the upper, left-hand corner of the paper. If you fail to meet the minimum word count, your paper will NOT be accepted until you do, and will thus be considered “late.” All paper must include MLA-style footnotes. Each page should be numbered. Relevant primary sources/secondary sources should be used as much as possible in order to strengthen your argument/thesis. Minimum of 2 primary sources are required, no requirements on secondary sources. **DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!!!!**
 - b. Final drafts are due on SPECIFIC days at the BEGINNING of class according to the class schedule. A paper, regardless of reason, is considered late if not turned in at the beginning of class on these specific days.
 - c. First drafts of paper are due on SPECIFIC days according to the class schedule in order to give me enough time to review it for you. After this date, I will NOT accept any more first drafts. **It is mandatory for you to submit at least ONE first draft, but there are no limits on the number of drafts you can submit. Writing**

is an ongoing and continual process, and only the revision process can produce quality written work.

- d. Time management is the best skill to master in this class! If you keep up with the work, your life will be a lot easier!!!
- e. You can choose 1 out of the following three topics listed below
 - i. **Topic A: East Asian Traditions:** The birth of Confucianism and Daoism occurred during a point of chaos and conflict in East Asian history, and each philosophy presented its own argument to solve society's many problems. Based on the primary source readings selected in class, create an argument in which you take a side in the classic debate between Daoist and Confucian traditions. If you want to defend the Confucian argument, be sure to include the weaknesses of the Daoist position in addition to Confucianism's strengths (or Vice Versa). In other words, you should write about both sides of the argument, not just one.
 - ii. **Topic B: South Asian Traditions:** South Asia has witnessed the birth of countless religions and philosophical traditions, many of which spread to distant corners of the globe. Write a paper in which you defend one of three philosophical/religious traditions of South Asia—Hinduism, Buddhism, or Jainism. Whichever position you decide to defend, be sure to include a discussion of the two other philosophies/religions as well, as any good argument includes multiple perspectives.
 - iii. **Topic C: East Meets South:** Some scholars have pinpointed major similarities between South and East Asian traditions. Write a paper in which you compare the similarities between an East and South Asian philosophical/religious traditions. (South Asia: Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism; East Asia: Confucianism, Daoism) As these traditions are clearly different, this paper should strive to produce evidence of similarity rather than apparent differences (which of course would be too many to count!).

2. 1 Midterm, 1 Final exam (50 points each, 100 points total)

- a. As this is a Writing-Intensive class, most of the emphasis will be given to the production of polished writing assignments. However, since it is also a history class, you will also be responsible for knowing the material as presented in the lectures. To assess your comprehension, you will need to complete one midterm and one final exam. The exams will be broken up into three sections—a matching section, an identification section, and a short essay section.
- b. The exams are based on lecture material, textbook readings, and any relevant articles/books assigned throughout the semester.

3. In-Class Exercises, Quizzes, Homework, Participation (100 points)

- a. Throughout the semester you will be assigned various assignments based on the lectures and supplemental readings that you will receive throughout the duration of the course.
- b. There will also be random quizzes based on the information presented in lecture and the various reading assignments. You will always be warned at least one class period in advance.
- c. Discussion and participation are essential!

4. Your Final Mission (150 points!)

The Situation

A new technological development has made it possible for a famous historical person from the past to visit Hawai'i today. You will be serving as the host for this special visitor. The goal is to learn something about this person and his/her society, figure out what this person may find interesting about our society, and determine what our society might be able to learn from this visitor.

There are three things you should know:

1. Your visitor will only be in Hawai'i for one week.
2. For some strange reason, language is not a barrier, so communication is not a problem.
3. The educational organization sponsoring this tour is willing to provide the necessary financial backing only if you can explain what people in 2012 could learn from this historical person or his/her society.

Your Task

Choose an historical person from the following list to be transported to our present time. You will research this person's society and what makes him/her famous in history. While you're learning about this person you should be continuously asking yourself what our society might learn from this special visitor.

Laozi
Valmiki
Siddhartha Gautama
Zhuangzi
Murasaki Shikibu
Vardhamana Mahavira
Ashoka Maurya
Qin Shihuangdi
Han Wudi
Sunzi (Sun Tzu)
Mahmud of Ghazni
Jayavarman VII

Or choose your own! (with my permission, of course)

Keep track of your sources. You must provide an annotated bibliography with Part III, which means, in addition to the typical bibliographical citation (author, title, city, publisher, year), you need to also give a brief explanation of how each source helped you. I am interested in all the sources that you've consulted for your information. Strive for a variety of resources (a mix of books, articles, videos,

internet sites, etc.). You must have at least TWO primary sources, as well as at least three history-based secondary sources beyond your textbook. Please note that Wikipedia is not considered a valid source for historical research, so it cannot count as one of your three sources.

Three Part Writing Process (worth 150 points total)

Part I (25 points) This will be an **exploratory paper** where you will discuss the person you've chosen and why you chose this individual. By this date you should have completed your preliminary research. Thus, you need to show evidence of your knowledge about your historical character's society and his/her place in it. This is an informal paper that encourages you to discover your thoughts by "talking to self." You will not be graded on organization, grammar, spelling, or punctuation. *Format: one side of a page, single spaced, once inch margins, 300-500 words.* * Please use the last four digits of your UH identification number, rather than your name, to identify your paper. Late papers will not be accepted. **Due: Thursday, October 11th**

Part II (50 points) This will be a **letter to the sponsoring agency** explaining what you've learned through research about your historical person and what you think people in 2010 could learn from this person. Use first person references (i.e. I, me, my) to communicate in a letter format. You will need to organize your thoughts in order to communicate effectively. Remember that you are seeking funding for this special visitor and they will only consider proposals that clearly connect your historical person and his/her society with our modern times. You should strive to keep grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors to a minimum, but you will not be heavily penalized for these types of errors on this part. *Format: double spaced, one inch margins, 500-700 words.* * Please use the last four digits of your UH identification number, rather than your name, to identify your paper. Late papers will not be accepted. **Due: Thursday, November 8th**

Part III (75 points) This will be a **diary, speech, or article**. You could write as if you are that person (using his/her voice, not your own), or you could write from your perspective as the host. Remember, your goal is to show that this person's visit to Hawai'i in 2010 was educational for the people of our time.

- If you choose to write a **diary entry**, you or your visitor will be able to reflect on people, places, and experiences. It may help to focus on a particular event or day, but you also have the option of writing shorter diary entries over multiple days. As your visitor interacts with people, visits specific places, and learns about our time and place, what do you think is going through his/her mind? Diaries are meant to be personal reflections or observations, and not typically for others to read.
- If you choose to write a **speech**, you may want to imagine the audience that your visitor is addressing. Who has been invited to this speech? What would your visitor's message be? As the host, you could be giving the official introduction where you provide biographical background about the visitor to the audience, introduce the topic (s)he will be speaking on, and lay the groundwork as to why this person's message is relevant today. When giving a speech, one or two main points with multiple illustrations tends to work well. A speech is meant to be heard, so repetition is also helpful to drive home the main point.
- If you choose to write an **article**, it could be from the visitor's perspective or your own perspective as host. Imagine that it is going to be published in a scholarly journal so that others who didn't meet your visitor in person or missed the opportunity to hear him/her speak could still benefit from your visitor's expertise. This could be written in a narrative style to describe multiple experiences, or it could be a persuasive essay intended to lead others to a particular point of view.

This Part III should be a polished paper. Organization, grammar, spelling and punctuation will be graded in this part. You must also resubmit your graded Parts I & II, and provide an annotated bibliography(all in a non-plastic folder). *Format: double spaced, one inch margins, 1200-1500 words.* * **Due: Thursday, December 6th**

Texts: Murhpey, Rhoads. *A History of Asia 6th ed.*

Reading Handouts: (To be provided weekly by instructor throughout course)

Laozi, *Dao De Jing*

Mascaro (trans) and Brodbeck, *Bhagavad Gita*

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and expected. Only excused absences will be allowed. If you must miss class, it is necessary to contact the instructor BEFORE the missed class.

Grading:

Midterm:	50 pts
Final:	50 pts
Quizzes/Assignments/Participation:	100 pts
Religion/Philosophy Paper:	50pts each
Final Projects:	150
Total	400 pts

Grade Scale:

360-400	A
320-359	B
280-319	C
240-279	D
0 -239	F

Be aware that **CHEATING and PLAGIARISM** are considered **ACADEMIC FRAUD** under the Student Code of Conduct. **Ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is no excuse.** Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a failing grade for this course.

In case **INSTRUCTOR is DELAYED**, students are requested to wait 15 minutes after the scheduled start of class; thereafter, they are free to leave if instructor has not arrived. Check the office first to see if instructor can be found.

INCOMPLETES are not granted for this course except under the most dire of circumstances. Students will be expected to repeat the course if work is incomplete and a passing grade is not achieved.

Disability Support Services: If you have a documented disability and have not voluntarily disclosed the nature of your disability and the support you need, please come and see me immediately.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale 'Akoakoa 213 for more information.

CONSULT instructor if you need help, advice, encouragement, or have questions about the course. See me during office hours or make an appointment if scheduled hours are inconvenient.

ADVICE?

Learn to admit when you don't know something, and NEVER be afraid to ask questions. Remember: there are no stupid questions! The best three word phrase to utilize this semester is simply, "I don't know." Be brave enough to admit that and you will go far in life!

Socrates: [...] οὗτος μὲν οἶεται τι εἰδέναι οὐκ εἰδώς, ἐγὼ δέ, ὥσπερ οὖν οὐκ οἶδα, οὐδὲ οἶμαι

– This man, on one hand, believes that he knows something, while not knowing [anything]. On the other hand, I – equally ignorant – do not believe [that I know anything].

Which person would you rather be? The one who pretends to know everything? Or the one brave enough to admit that they do not?

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug	21	Introduction to Asian History	
	23	Prehistoric Asia/Conceptualizing Asia (Intro and chap 1)	
	28	Asian Religions and Their Cultures: Begin India (chap 2)	
	30	The Traditional Societies of Asia (chap 3) MAP QUIZ	
Sept	4	The Civilizations of Ancient India (chap 4) Discuss Bhagavad Gita Paper Topics Due!	
	6	More Ancient India!	
	11	The Civilizations, Philosophies, and Religions of Ancient China (Chap 2, 5)	
	13	More Ancient China! Discuss Dao De Jing	
	18	More Ancient China!	
	20	Islamic Connections in Asia (Chap 6, 7) LAST DAY TO HAND IN DRAFTS FOR REL/PHIL PAPER	
	25	Early States of Southeast Asia (the Island World) (Chap 7) RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY PAPER DUE	
	27	Early States of Southeast Asia (the Mainland)	
	Oct	2	STUDY SESSION FOR MIDTERM
		4	MIDTERM EXAM
9		China: A Golden Age (Chap 8)	
11		China: continued PART ONE OF FINAL PAPER DUE	
16		Japan (Chap 9)	
18		Korea (Chap 9)	
23		The Rise of Empire in Southeast Asia (Chap 7)	
25		The Indian Ocean World	
30		The Indian Ocean World	

Nov	1	China
	6	HOLIDAY!!!! GO VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
	8	China
		PART TWO OF FINAL PAPER DUE
	13	The Collapse of China and the Rise of the Mongols
	15	The Collapse of China
	20	Mongols and the Wider World
	22	HOLIDAY!!!!!!!!!!!! THANKSGIVING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!1
	27	The Mughals
	29	The Ming
	4	The West
	6	STUDY SESSION!!!!
		FINAL PROJECTS DUE!!!!

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, Dec 13th, 9:30-11:30, same room.

Fall 2012 Academic Calendar

August 20, 2012: First Day of Instruction, Fall
 August 20, 2012: Late Registration begins, Fall
 August 20, 2012: In-Person Add/Drop Fee Begins, Fall
 August 24, 2012: Last Day to Add/Late Register, Fall, for semester-length [classes](#)
 August 24, 2012: Last Day for 100% Refund, Fall
 September 3, 2012: Labor Day, holiday, campus closed
 September 10, 2012: Last Day to Withdraw without a "W" Grade, Fall
 September 10, 2012: Last Day for 50% Refund, Fall
 October 29, 2012: Last Day to Withdraw with a "W" Grade, Fall
 October 29, 2012: Last Day to Establish Credit/No-credit and Audit Options, Fall, 2012
 October 29, 2012: Last Day to Make up an "I Grade" from Previous Spring
 November 5, 2012: First Day of Registration, Spring, 2012
 November 6, 2012: General Election Day, holiday, campus closed
 November 12, 2012: Veterans' Day, holiday, campus closed
 November 22, 2012: Thanksgiving Day, holiday, campus closed
 November 23, 2012: Non-instructional Day
 December 6, 2012: Last Day of Instruction, Fall
 December 8, 2012: Exam Period Begins, Fall
 December 13, 2012: Exam Period Ends, Fall
 December 14, 2012: Last Day of the Semester, Fall

