

**HIST 240 | East Asia and Its Historic Tradition**  
CRN 17764 | Credit Hours: 3.00  
Fall 2023 | TTh 1:30pm-2:45pm | KNOY B033



Chen, Mei. 17-18th century. *Qing yuan ben Qing ming shang he tu* [art reproduction] / [Chen Mei deng hui] Zhongguo shu dian Beijing.

*What is depicted here? How many people could you spot? What kinds of people? What are they doing? How many animals could you find? What do you find particularly interesting or strange?*

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Professor Huiying Chen  
Office hours: TTh 3pm to 4pm and by appointment  
Office: University Hall 122  
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**Content**

Survey of the great historic traditions of China, Japan, and Korea from earliest times to approximately 1800, with special attention to state formation, society, intellectual, philosophical, and religious developments, and the visual, musical, and literary arts.

This course introduces the history of East Asia from the beginning of the civilization to around 1800. It provides an overview of foundational ideologies and institutions in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean history, and at the same time analyzes how political, economic, religious, and social changes occurred over time. Furthermore, the course examines the inter-regional exchange of goods, ideas and peoples among China, Japan, Korea, India, and regions beyond Asia. What we are looking at are dynamic, “open empires” in Asia, rather than isolated, unchanging civilizations.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. Ability to express information about the politics and societies of China, Japan, and Korea.
2. Appreciation of other cultures.
3. Understanding of historical methods.
4. Critical thinking about primary and secondary texts.

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing [integrity@purdue.edu](mailto:integrity@purdue.edu) or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information is submitted the greater the opportunity for the university to investigate the concern. More details are available on our course Brightspace under University Policies.

**“AI/Chat bot” policy:** Students who use AI-generated writing for any portion of their written assignments will be deemed in violation of the academic integrity expectations for this course. Violations can include a failing grade for the course and restrictions from further class attendance. All suspected incidents of academic dishonesty will also be referred to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for further review of the student's status with the University, which may include being separated from the University.

### **Avoiding Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a special kind of academic dishonesty in which one person steals another person's ideas or words and falsely presents them as the plagiarist's own product. This is most likely to occur in the following ways: (1) using the exact language of someone else without the use of quotation marks and without giving proper credit to the author; (2) presenting the sequence of ideas or arranging the material of someone else even though such is expressed in one's own words, without giving appropriate acknowledgment; (3) submitting a document written by someone else but representing it as one's own. The university policies about plagiarism include penalties ranging from failure of an assignment to expulsion from the university. In this class, anyone who plagiarizes fails the course. For more information, you may check [Best Practices to Avoid Plagiarism](#).

### **Nondiscrimination Statement**

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and

mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. A hyperlink to Purdue's full Nondiscrimination Policy Statement is included in our course Brightspace under University Policies.

### **Mental Health/Wellness Statement**

**If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#).** Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

**If you need support and information about options and resources,** please contact or see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#). Call 765-494-1747. Hours of operation are M-F, 8 am- 5 pm.

**If you find yourself struggling to find a healthy balance between academics, social life, stress, etc.,** sign up for free one-on-one virtual or in-person sessions with a [Purdue Wellness Coach at RecWell](#). Student coaches can help you navigate through barriers and challenges toward your goals throughout the semester. Sign up is free and can be done on BoilerConnect.

**If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students.** If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office on the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours. The [CAPS website](#) also offers resources specific to situations such as COVID-19.

### **Basic Needs Security**

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. There is no appointment needed and Student Support Services is available to serve students 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Considering the significant disruptions caused by the current global crisis as it relates to COVID-19, students may submit requests for emergency assistance from the [Critical Need Fund](#).

### **Emergency Preparation**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

### **Academic Guidance in Event of Q/I**

If you must miss class at any point in time during the semester, please reach out to me via Purdue email so that we can communicate about how you can maintain your academic progress. For COVID-19 concerns, please see the [Fall 2022: What you need to know guidance published July 27](#). If you find yourself too sick to progress in the course, notify your adviser and notify me via email or Brightspace. We will make arrangements based on your particular situation.

### **Assignments**

#### **Attendance and Participation (worth 10% of overall grade)**

You are strongly encouraged to attend every class. Attendance will be recorded on every class. Students who miss more than six classes should expect to drop a letter grade. You are responsible for being an **active participant** in the discussion sessions every Friday. In addition, I count **active engagement** as well. What that means is if you are engaged in class in other ways, and send me notes, and drop in to office hours, this kind of engagement will also help your class participation score.

#### **Discussion Board (worth 1% \* 10 = 10% of overall grade)**

You need to contribute to the online discussion board. You are required to complete the weekly materials and post on the discussion board every **Thursday**. Your post shall address the question posted for that week and shall be a minimum of 150 words. You are also encouraged to comment on other students' posts.

#### **Online Quizzes (worth 5% \* 4 = 20% of overall grade)**

You will complete four online quizzes to pass this course. Each quiz will test students' reading and understanding of the required readings and lectures. Each quiz has 10 questions. Students have two attempts. The time limit is 25 minutes. The highest score will be recorded. Quizzes are due at each Sunday 11:59 pm. Quiz dates are indicated under the Weekly Schedule.

#### **2 Primary Source essays: (worth 15% \* 2 = 30% of overall grade)**

After units 2 and 3, you will write a 3–4 page source analysis of any 1 primary sources assigned in that unit. No outside research is required. More guidance on the primary source paper to be posted on Brightspace.

#### **"Attending the First World Fair" project: 15% + 15% = 30%**

For the final project, you need to complete a two-part creative historical project, "Attending the First World Fair." You would create a 1-minute video introducing to the audience in 1851 London, where the first World Fair took place, representing one of the states in East Asia. In the video, you need to focus on one object (such as an excavated turtle shell, a painting, a sword, etc.) or one theme (Confucianism, Daoism, Kabuki, etc.), chosen from the class materials, that you think would best represent the state or would draw the most curiosity in the audience. The first part (15%) is a 1-minute video, to be completed in any creative format (e.g., a recorded slideshow, a tv commercial, a vlog). All the submissions will be compiled together into "Attending the First World Fair" Show as our final class presentation. The second part (15%) is a writing piece accompanying the video, about 1000 words. The writing shall explain the item you

are exhibiting, how it represents the state that you choose, why it would appeal to the audience in 1851 London, and any other details you would like to share behind the scenes of your video creation (any creative design ideas, choice of imagery/music, etc.). More details to be posted on Brightspace.

**Late Policy**

All assignments are due on the scheduled day and time. No late work would be accepted without advance notification accompanied by proper documentation (doctor's note, advisor's email, etc.). Any delayed submission without prior arrangement with me would not be graded.

**Course Materials**

*All readings will be available on Brightspace. All readings will be in English or English translation.*

**Weekly Schedule**

(subject to change, always refer to Brightspace for updates)

Unit 1: Stories of Shells and Sages	
Week 1	
Tue, Aug 22	Overview of the course <i>No preparation required.</i>
Thu, Aug 24	Why study the history of East Asia? <i>No preparation required.</i>
Week 2	
Tue, Aug 29	The origin and the myths - <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "The Prehistory of East Asia," pp.2-7. - <b>Primary sources:</b> early myths of Japan, origin myths of Korea, and creation myths of China
Thu, Aug 31	Oracle bones cracked - <b>Read:</b> Hansen, "The Beginning of the Written Record," pp. 17-36. - <b>Primary sources:</b> oracle bone inscriptions  <b>* Discussion board #1 due midnight Thursday Aug 31.</b>
Week 3	
Tue, Sep 5	Confucius said what? <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Philosophers and Warring States During the Eastern Zhou Period," pp. 20-30. <b>Primary sources:</b> selections from the Analects
Thu, Sep 7	The Hundred School of Thoughts <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Philosophers and Warring States During the Eastern Zhou Period," pp. 30-35. <b>Primary sources:</b> Zhuangzi, Mozi, and Sunzi - In class debate

	<p><b>* Discussion board #2 due midnight Thursday Sep 7.</b>  <b>** Quiz 1 due midnight Sunday Sep 10.</b></p>
Unit 2: Many Kingdoms and Rising Empires	
Week 4	
Tue, Sep 12	<p>The First Emperor of China  <b>Read:</b> Hansen, "The Creation of Empire," pp. 97-112.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Li Si, and Jia Yi "The Faults of Qin"</p>
Thu, Sep 14	<p>Beginning of Korean Kingdoms  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Early Korea to 935," pp. 98-105.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Rise of the Three Kingdoms</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #3 due midnight Thursday Sep 14.</b></p>
Week 5	
Tue, Sep 19	<p>Yamato the place, the period, and the people  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Early State and Society in Japan," pp.114-122.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Constitution of Prince Shōtoku</p>
Thu, Sep 21	<p>Buddhism comes to East Asia  <b>Read:</b> Holcombe, "Buddhism comes to East Asia," pp. 70-79.  <b>Primary sources:</b> introduction of Buddhism</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #4 due midnight Thursday Sep 21.</b></p>
Week 6	
Tue, Sep 26	<p>The Silk Road  <b>Read:</b> Millward, <i>The Silk Road</i>, 1-19.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Dunhuang archive</p>
Thu, Sep 28	<p>The Cosmopolitan Tang  <b>Read:</b> Hansen, "China's Golden Age," pp.191-211.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Tang poets, Li Bo, Du Fu</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #5 due midnight Thursday Sep 28.</b>  <b>** Quiz 2 due midnight Sunday Oct 1.</b></p>
Week 7	
Tue, Oct 3	<p>Unification of the Korean Peninsula: Unified Silla  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Early Korea to 935," pp. 105-112.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Confucianism and Buddhism in Silla</p>
Thu, Oct 5	<p>Imperial Japan: Nara and Early Heian  <b>Read:</b> Holcombe, "Imperial Japan," pp. 114-124.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Nara Buddhism, Kūkai</p>

	<p><b>* Discussion board #6 due midnight Thursday Oct 5.</b>  <b>** First primary source essay due midnight Sunday Oct 8.</b></p>
Unit 3: Behold! The Mongols	
Week 8	
Tue, Oct 10	<i>October break. No class.</i>
Thu, Oct 12	<p>The Chinese Renaissance of Song Dynasty  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "China among equals," pp. 129-140.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Neo-Confucianism</p>
Week 9	
Tue, Oct 17	<p>"Along the River during the Qingming Festival"  <b>Explore:</b> <a href="https://ealc.fas.harvard.edu/qingming-scroll">https://ealc.fas.harvard.edu/qingming-scroll</a></p>
Thu, Oct 19	<p>Daily life under conquest dynasties  <b>Read:</b> Hansen, "The Northern Dynasties," pp. 299-333  <b>Primary sources:</b> Yue Fei, Su Shi, Li Qingzhao</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #7 due midnight Thursday Oct 19.</b></p>
Week 10	
Tue, Oct 24	<p>The Mongol Conquest  <b>Read:</b> Hansen, "The Mongols", pp. 335-354.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Khubilai Khan  <i>- In class debate</i></p>
Thu, Oct 26	<p>The Koryo that becomes Korea  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Goryeo Korea," pp.169-181.  <b>Primary sources:</b> The Ten Injunctions of Wang Kōn</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #8 due midnight Thursday Oct 26.</b>  <b>** Quiz 3 due midnight Sunday Oct 29.</b></p>
Week 11	
Tue, Oct 31	<p>World of the Samurai Swords  <b>Read:</b> Rizō Takeuchi, "The Rise of the Warriors,"  <b>Primary sources:</b> The way of the warrior</p>
Thu, Nov 2	<p><i>The Tale of Genji</i>  <b>Explore:</b> <a href="https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2019/tale-of-genji">https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2019/tale-of-genji</a>  <b>* Discussion board #9 due midnight Thursday Nov 2.</b>  <b>** Second primary source essay due midnight Sunday Nov 5.</b></p>
Unit 4: The Grandeur: Ming-Qing, Joseon, Edo	
Week 12	



Tue, Nov 7	<p>Empire of Great Brightness: The Great Ming  <b>Read:</b> Hansen, "Continuing the war against the Mongols," pp. 369-389.  <b>Primary sources:</b> short stories</p>
Thu, Nov 9	<p>Manchu Conquest and the Great Qing  <b>Read:</b> Spence, "The Manchu Conquest," pp.26-48.  <b>Primary sources:</b> novel chapters</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #10 due midnight Thursday Nov 9.</b></p>
Week 13	
Tue, Nov 14	<p>The Great Joseon  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Joseon Korea", pp.247-263.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Han'gul  <i>- In class debate</i></p>
Thu, Nov 16	<p>The Floating World of Edo Japan  <b>Read:</b> Ebrey and Walthall, "Edo Japan", pp.288-303.  <b>Primary sources:</b> merchants, women</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #11 due at midnight Thursday Nov. 16.</b>  <b>** Quiz 4 due midnight Sunday Nov 19.</b></p>
Week 14	
Tue, Nov 21	<i>In class screening: Miss Hokusai</i>
Thu, Nov 23	<i>Thanksgiving holiday. No class.</i>
Week 15	
Tue, Nov 28	<p>When Macartney met the Qianlong Emperor  <b>Read:</b> Spence, "China and the eighteenth-century world," 117-136.  <b>Primary sources:</b> Imperial Letters, travel accounts</p>
Thu, Nov 30	<p>Perry's Black Ships and the Meiji Restoration  <b>Read:</b> Holcombe, "The Meiji Restoration," pp.213-229.  <b>Primary sources:</b> On Leaving Asia, Fukuzawa Yukichi</p> <p><b>* Discussion board #12 due at midnight Thursday Nov. 30.</b>  <b>** 1-minute commercial due midnight Sunday Dec. 3.</b></p>
Week 16	
Tue, Dec 5	"Attending the First World Fair" Show
Thu, Dec 7	<p>Review.  <b>* "World Fair" final essay due midnight Sunday Dec 10.</b></p>