

HIST 240 | East Asia and Its Historic Tradition

CRN 17764 | Credit Hours: 3.00

Fall 2024 | TTh 12:00-1:15pm | Grissom 102



Spirited Away (Studio Ghibli, 2001)

What do you see in the image? What do you find particularly interesting? What questions do you have? What kind of story do you think it tells?

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Huiying Chen

Office hours: Thursdays 1:30pm – 2:30pm and by appointment

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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. Explored how historical study connects us to other people, places, and times.
3. Understanding of historical methods.
4. Critical thinking about primary and secondary texts.
5. To improve students’ academic writing ability.

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 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.

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 of their final grade. You are responsible for being an **active participant** in the class. 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% * 12 = 12% 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.

Online Quizzes (worth 6% * 3 = 18% of overall grade)

You will complete three online quizzes to pass this course. Each quiz will test students' reading and understanding of the required readings and lectures. Each quiz has 12 questions. Students have two attempts. The time limit is 30 minutes. The highest score will be recorded. Quizzes are due at each Sunday 11:59 pm. Quiz dates are indicated under the Weekly Schedule.

First Short Essay (worth 20% of overall grade)

You will write a short essay (minimum 3 pages or 900 words), due at the end of our first unit. Select one from the two options. You should base your analysis on the course readings, in-class screening, and class discussions. You do not need to make use of secondary sources (this is not a research paper), but you may do so if you wish, as long as you use edited sources with named authors, rather than an online encyclopedia (Wikipedia, Baidu, etc.). Late work will not be accepted except by prior arrangement with the instructor. Paper topic options to be listed on Brightspace.

Final History Essay (worth 40% of overall grade)

You will need to write one history paper to pass this course (minimum 6 pages or 1800 words). Select one from the three options. Similar to the first essay, you should base your analysis on the course readings, in-class screening, and class discussions. You do not need to make use of secondary sources (this is not a research paper), but you may do so if you wish, as long as you use edited sources with named authors, rather than an online encyclopedia (Wikipedia, Baidu, etc.). Late work will not be accepted except by prior arrangement with the instructor. Paper topic options to be listed on Brightspace.

Grading Scale

A = 93.33 – 100%

A - = 90 – 93.32%

B+ = 86.66 – 89.99%

- B = 83.33 – 86.65 %
- B - = 80 – 83.32 %
- C+ = 76.76 – 79.99 %
- C = 73.33 – 76.75 %
- C - = 70 – 73.32 %
- D+ = 66.66 – 69.99 %
- D = 63.33 – 66.65 %
- D - = 60 – 63.32 %

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 20	Overview of the course <i>No preparation required.</i>
Thu, Aug 22	Why study the history of East Asia? <i>No preparation required.</i>
Week 2	
Tue, Aug 27	The origin and the myths - Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "The Prehistory of East Asia," pp.2-7. - Primary sources: early myths of Japan, origin myths of Korea, and creation myths of China
Thu, Aug 29	Oracle bones cracked - Read: Hansen, "The Beginning of the Written Record," pp. 17-36. - Primary sources: oracle bone inscriptions * Discussion board #1 due midnight Thursday Aug 29.
Week 3	

Tue, Sep 3	Confucius said what? Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Philosophers and Warring States During the Eastern Zhou Period," pp. 20-35. Primary sources: selections from the Analects
Thu, Sep 5	The Hundred School of Thoughts Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Philosophers and Warring States During the Eastern Zhou Period," pp. 30-35. Primary sources: Daoist, Legalist - In class debate * Discussion board #2 due midnight Thursday Sep 5.
Week 4	
Tue, Sep 10	<i>Creation of the Gods I: Kingdom of Storms (2023)</i>
Thu, Sep 12	<i>Creation of the Gods I: Kingdom of Storms (2023)</i> , continued. * Discussion board #3 due midnight Thursday Sep 12. ** Quiz 1 due midnight Sunday Sep 15.
Week 5	
Tue, Sep 17	Discussion of the movie: creating and recreating history, schools of thoughts, social structure and economy
Thu, Sep 19	Research workshop I * Discussion board #4 due midnight Thursday Sep 19. ** Essay 1 due midnight Sunday Sep 22.
Unit 2: Many Kingdoms and Rising Empires	
Week 6	
Tue, Sep 24	The First Emperor of China Read: Hansen, "The Creation of Empire," pp. 97-112. Primary sources: On standardization
Thu, Sep 26	Beginning of Korean Kingdoms Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Early Korea to 935," pp. 98-105. Primary sources: Rise of the Three Kingdoms * Discussion board #5 due midnight Thursday Sep 26.
Week 7	
Tue, Oct 1	Unification of the Korean Peninsula: Unified Silla Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Early Korea to 935," pp. 105-112. Primary sources: Confucianism and Buddhism in Silla

Thu, Oct 3	<p>From Yayoi to Yamato</p> <p>Read: Ebrey and Walthall, " Early State and Society in Japan," pp.114-122.</p> <p>Primary sources: Constitution of Prince Shōtoku</p> <p>* Discussion board #6 due midnight Thursday Oct 3.</p>
Week 8	
Tue, Oct 8	<i>October break. No class.</i>
Thu, Oct 10	<p>The Silk Road and Buddhism coming to East Asia</p> <p>Read: Millward, <i>The Silk Road</i>, 1-19.</p> <p>Primary sources: Dunhuang archive</p>
Week 9	
Tue, Oct 15	<p>The Cosmopolitan Tang</p> <p>Read: Hansen, "China's Golden Age," pp.191-211.</p> <p>Primary sources: Literature and art</p>
Thu, Oct 17	<p>The Chinese Renaissance of Song Dynasty</p> <p>Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "China among equals," pp. 129-140.</p> <p>Primary sources: Neo-Confucianism</p> <p>* Discussion board #7 due midnight Thursday Oct 17.</p>
Week 10	
Tue, Oct 22	<p>The Koryo that becomes Korea</p> <p>Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Goryeo Korea," pp.169-181.</p> <p>Primary sources: The Ten Injunctions of Wang Kōn</p>
Thu, Oct 24	<p>Imperial Japan</p> <p>Read: Holcombe, "Imperial Japan," pp. 114-124.</p> <p>Primary sources: Nara Buddhism, Kūkai</p> <p>* Discussion board #8 due midnight Thursday Oct 24.</p> <p>** Quiz 2 due midnight Sunday Oct 27.</p>
Unit 3: The Clash of Empires	
Week 11	
Tue, Oct 29	<p>The Mongols and the Manchus</p> <p>Read: Hansen, "The Mongols", pp. 335-354, Spence, "The Manchu Conquest," pp.26-48.</p> <p>Primary sources: on Yuan and Qng.</p>
Thu, Oct 31	<p>The Great Joseon</p> <p>Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Joseon Korea", pp.247-263.</p>

	<p>Primary sources: Han'gul</p> <p>* Discussion board #9 due midnigsh Thursday Oct 31.</p>
Week 12	
Tue, Nov 5	In class screening: <i>The Fortress</i>
Thu, Nov 7	In class screening: <i>The Fortress</i> (continued)
	* Discussion board #10 due midnight Thursday Nov 7.
Week 13	
Tue, Nov 12	<p>The floating world of Edo Japan</p> <p>Read: Ebrey and Walthall, "Edo Japan", pp.288-303.</p> <p>Primary sources: merchants, women</p>
Thu, Nov 14	<p>Meiji Restoration</p> <p>* Discussion board #11 due at midnight Thursday Nov. 14.</p> <p>** Quiz 3 due midnight Sunday Nov 17.</p>
Week 14	
Tue, Nov 19	In class screening: <i>Spirited Away</i>
Thu, Nov 21	In class screening: <i>Spirited Away</i> (continued)
	* Discussion board #12 due at midnight Thursday Nov. 24.
Week 15	
Tue, Nov 26	Discussion of the two movies: modernity and identity
Thu, Nov 28	<i>Thanksgiving holiday. No class.</i>
Week 16	
Tue, Dec 3	Research workshop II
Thu, Dec 5	<i>No class.</i>
	** Final paper due midnight Sunday Dec 8.