

## 721 East Asia in World History

### 1. Date and Time

Thursday, 1st period (8:45~10:15) beginning 4/16.

### 2. General Description

The following is a draft syllabus. I reserve the right to make substantive revisions as necessary. You will be informed in advance of any such decision.

This course is a seminar in East Asian history, with a focus on (1) understanding the region's cultures and histories, and (2) placing the history of East Asia within a world history context.

### 3. Course Content

This is a reading-intensive, discussion-based course. You cannot slack off, and you will not be able to fake it. You must complete the readings to be involved in the discussions, and must be involved in the discussions to receive a good grade.

This is a topical examination of issues in East Asia history in the contexts of transnational and global histories. It is not a history survey, and not a lecture. I will not be spoon-feeding you information, nor will we be simply limping along chronologically through the names and deeds of so-called "Great Men." You will be challenged to reconsider history from multiple angles through the examination of the kinds of topics and issues that animate the passions and careers of professional historians.

### Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule. It *will* be revised based on student enrolment.

Wk 1:	Introduction
Wk 2~10:	East Asia in World History
Wk 11~12:	Presentations
Wk 13:	Wrap-up
Wk 14:	TBA

### Assignments

Additionally, the work in this course is not limited to reading and discussion. You will need to, at the very least:

1. **Lead discussion** at least once, with at least one partner (depends on enrollment)
  - Discussion leaders will be assigned in advance, and will meet with me for about one hour prior to class (by appointment) to prepare. Specifics will vary according to student enrolment. Guidelines provided separately.
2. Produce a **final project**
  - You may write a traditional seminar research paper (15-25 pages), but I would prefer that you propose a creative project taking advantage of your unique talents and interests. Write an app, make a movie, curate an exhibit online or

off, build a model, etc. Group projects are encouraged (but not coauthored papers). Guidelines provided separately.

3. Make a **presentation** of a “draft” version of your final project
  - Present your work to the class at the end of the term. Specifics will vary according to student enrolment. Guidelines provided separately.
4. Write **weekly reading responses** online
  - There will be no tests or exams, but you will be expected to respond in no more than two paragraphs to the readings each week.

#### 4. Textbook

No textbook is required for this class. All readings will be provided electronically as PDFs, etc. Topics will include:

- Silk Roads, Trade and Tribute
- Re-Orienting
- Oceans, Islands, and “Continents”
- Cultural Exchange, Adoption, and Adaptation
- Border Transit and Transgression
- Nationalism and the “History Wars”

#### 5. Reference Materials

To supplement your knowledge of Japanese history as needed, I recommend the library’s electronic copy of:

- Tsutsui, William M. 2009. *A Companion to Japanese History*. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell.

For Asian history, I am still looking for a single reference source that Nagoya owns—or that I can purchase for your use. I will let you know if the situation improves...

#### 6. Evaluation

Participation	15%
Reading responses	15%
Discussion leader	15%
Presentation	15%
Project	40%

For reference, be aware that a “good” project gets a B. Amaze me and you get an A, disappoint me and you’re looking at a C at best. Same for the course.

“A” = exceptional. “B” = good. “C” = meh. Anything else = trouble.