

**University of Manitoba**  
**HIST/ASIA 1430W A01 — Asian Civilizations from 1500**

Fall 2015  
Tuesday/Thursday 1:00pm-2:15pm  
137 Isbister Building

Instructor: Jon Malek  
Office: 354 University College  
Office Hours: 1:00-2:00pm Wednesdays

By appointment

E-Mail: [malek@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:malek@cc.umanitoba.ca) or via UMLearn. *Students must use their University of Manitoba email addresses; other addresses will not receive a reply.*

**Course Description**

The sixteenth century marked a period of significant historical change in the Asia region, as internal political changes coincided with the expansion of Western colonial powers. Consequences from these first contacts between Eastern and Western cultures have led to a number of modern issues in Asian history. Studying the period from 1500 A.D. to the modern period, with a focus on China, Japan, India and Southeast Asia, will help students understand Asia today. Course lectures will progress chronologically to introduce students to the major historical events in Asia, seeking to draw long-term connections between events leading up to, and just beyond, World War II. Students will be exposed to competing domestic and external influences that have affected Asia's development. As young scholars, students will be challenged to interrogate the long-lasting effects that Western expansion had on Asia and to investigate what degree of continuity from the previous period there was in the region. Portions of this course will focus on imperialism and colonialism – and decolonization – but it will be emphasized that this period of Asian history had its roots in historical trends that pre-date Western influence. Up for debate will be to what extent contemporary Asian history has been self-determined and how much it has been influenced by Western influence.

Through lectures, course readings, and discussion, this course will cover a variety of themes and topics, including: Asian cultures and societies before 1500; the political states of India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia on the eve of European expansion; trade networks between the various regions of Asia; the trading empires of the British, French, Portuguese, Dutch, and Spanish in Asia; early European attempts at colonizing India, China, and Japan; the colonization of Southeast Asia by major European powers; the growth in Christian missionary activity in Asia and how Christianity interacted with pre-established religions; internal political and social developments in India, China, Japan, and Southeast Asia; the post-Industrial explosion of colonial exploitation in Asia, and renewed attempts to colonize China; the Meiji Restoration in Japan and the rise of Japanese Pan-Asianism; the Pacific War in Asia; Post-World War II reconstruction and modernization in Asia; and Revolutionary and Post Colonial Asia. The course will end with a review of modern Asia, and will question where the roots of its current challenges lay.

## Course Periodization

The following break-up will be used to periodize and structure course content. These will complement the major course themes, which will sometimes overlap between these periods. Mind them well, they will be an excellent way to organize your notes when it comes time to exams!

1. East Asia before Western Contact, c.1300-c.1600
2. The West “Arrives” in Asia, c.1500-1839
3. Responses in Asia, 1839-1910
4. ‘Modernity’ in East Asia
5. Road to War in Asia, 1910-1931
6. Asia in Flames, 1931-1946
7. East Asia since 1946

## Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students are expected to have noticeably developed in the following ways:

1. Develop some of the practical methods of historians, such as data interpretation, primary source analysis, critical secondary source reading, and effective writing skills.
2. Identify the major geo-political boundaries of the region.
3. Develop a solid understanding of the major events, figures, and locations in Asia after 1500.
4. Question ideas of progress, civilization, and historical periodization held by the West, and see Asia as a dynamic region.
5. Understand historical trends in Asia that are unique to the region, to distinguish them from trends resulting from Western influence, and to identify the intersection of both.

## Required Textbooks

Rhoads Murphy, *A History of Asia* 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Pearson, 2013).

Jonathan Spence, *The Question of Hu* (Vintage, 1989).

Mary Lynn Rampola, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Bedford Books, 2012).

Any additional readings will be available through the UML article database: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/articlesdatabases>. Those not available will be posted on the course’s UMLearn site.

## Suggested Texts

Suggested texts may be purchased online or accessed through the Library to assist students with writing and style. These are not required for course readings.

Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers* 8<sup>th</sup> Ed. (University of Chicago Press, 2013).

William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White, *Elements of Style* (Longman, 1999).

## Course Format

The majority of course content will be delivered through lectures, meaning that regular attendance to lectures is vital to success in this course. Readings will provide background material but cannot replace lecture content and class/group discussion, upon which the bulk of

exam material will be based. Students are encouraged to actively participate in class discussion and to ask questions on course material. At times, students will break up into groups to engage with particular historical sources or specific questions in more detail than possible in class lectures. There will be a total of **three in-class quizzes** (5% each) which will be evenly spaced throughout the course. More information will be given in class. There will be **two map quizzes** (2.5% each) covering the period of 1500-1800 and of 1800-1945, respectively. The development of strong academic writing is integral to this course. A **Book Analysis** (10%) will engage students with primary sources of this period and historical fiction. A **research paper** (20%), including a **research proposal and bibliographic assignment** (5%), will allow students to pursue a topic of their choice while developing writing skills as a historian. There will be a **final examination** in the exam period (30%), which will cover material from the whole course. The date for this will be made by the University's Registrar's Office. More information will be made available on all assignments and exams in class.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

5%	Library Assignment	Sept. 17
5%	Note Taking Assignment	Sept. 24
5%	Map Quizzes (2x2.5%)	Oct. 1; Nov. 12
15%	Book Analysis	Oct. 20
15%	Online Quizzes (3x5%)	Sept. 29; Nov. 5; Dec. 1
5%	Proposal and Bibliographic Assignment	Oct. 27
20%	Research Paper	Dec. 8
30%	Final Examination	To be announced.

### **Grading**

A+	90-100	Superior Work.	C+	65-69	Satisfactory
A	80-89	Excellent	C	60-64	Adequate
B+	75-79	Very Good	D	50-59	Marginal
B	70-74	Good	F	> 49	Failure/Unsatisfactory

**Evaluation of coursework** will be provided by the VW date (18 November 2015).

### **A Note on Electronic Devices and Language Aides in class**

The use of cell phones in class is strictly prohibited. If there is an emergency, please excuse yourself from the lecture. Laptop and tablet computers are permitted in lecture for the sole use of note taking. Please respect the course format and your fellow classmates by respecting the space of learning you are taking part in. Please – no voice recorders during class. If you have difficulties following the lecture, please feel welcome to come talk to your Instructor at any time.

There will be absolutely no electronic devices during examinations or map quizzes. Language aides such as dictionaries are not allowed during an examination.

### **Assignments**

*Handouts with more details on assignment instructions will be handed out in-class.*

Library Assignment: The assignment will require going to the Elizabeth Dafoe Library to find books in the collection, and will also require accessing the Library's online database. The assignment will introduce students to accessing Library resources on-site and online.

Note Taking Assignment: Students will be asked to read a selection, to be identified in class, and take notes on the reading. In groups, students will take turns explaining their assigned reading. After this, students will break up to individually writing a summary of the reading and will be required to fill in the necessary information required on the assignment handout. This assignment will introduce students to taking notes in their own words (i.e. do not copy word-for-word), extracting bibliographic information from a source, and keeping meticulous research notes.

Book Analysis: Students will write a critical analysis of the book *The Question of Hu* by Jonathan Spence in 1500 words in 12-pt. Times New Roman font with double spaced text. This assignment will engage students in the author's use of historical fiction to recreate a world in which the Asia and Europe come into contact. A more detailed handout will be made available closer to the deadline, but students should think about the following: **(i)**What sources does Spence use in the creation of this story? **(ii)**Is historical fiction a useful way of learning about the past? **(iii)**How do John Hu's European hosts understand his behaviour? How does Hu understand his behaviour? How do these understandings reflect contemporary European and Chinese cultures? **(iv)**What does the text tell us about the contemporary world of Asia, in particular China?

Research Paper Proposal and Bibliographic Assignment: For the proposal and research paper, a list of topics will be handed out from which students will select their research paper topic. Students must hand in a research proposal for their final research paper – *note that final papers will not be marked without this proposal*. These short proposals of no more than two pages will include: **(i)**A brief statement of the broad topic the student wishes to write on; **(ii)**An indication of an issue or a problem related to your topic that the paper will seek to pursue; **(iii)**The relevance of this topic; **(iv)**A proposed research timeline, indicating how the student intends to proceed with their paper; And **(v)**a bibliography of at least ten sources, two of which must be scholarly articles (*no internet sources permitted*). Research proposals typically build on topics discussed in-class, however students are encouraged to propose topics not covered.

Research Paper: This will be the culmination of every student's academic development in this course. The final paper will be 2000 (2500 maximum) words in length (excluding title page, footnotes, and bibliography), and will be formatted in 12-pt. Times New Roman font with double spaced text. The topic must be that presented in the Proposal and must be drawn from the provided list of essay topics. Please see the Student Success Guide for more information on formatting and writing practice. About a week before handing the paper in, students will pair up to give evaluative feedback on essay outlines and/or essay drafts. This will be to give students feedback on their essay from their peers, and to allow students an opportunity to develop their skills at offering evaluative feedback on others' work. Students will be asked to submit both a hard copy in-class on the due date as well as an electronic copy, emailed to the Instructor – both are to be of the same copy. These papers will build directly upon the

feedback received on the research proposals and should present a well-researched, argued, and written analysis of the student's topic and argument. The research paper should utilize at least eight sources, including two academic articles.

**All submitted work, including essays and exams, must be a student's own original work.** All written work must be prepared in English. Essays written in another language and translated by translation software or someone other than the student submitting the work are NOT considered the original work of the student and may be subject to academic discipline.

**All written assignments are to be typed and printed using a computer.** The Instructor will only accept hard copies of all assignments, except for the research essay where an electronic version will also be requested. If you are unable to access a computer or a printer, please contact the Instructor. Do not delete your assignment after you have handed it in – please keep all written work until final grades for the course have been officially released.

**A note on internet sources:** The internet can be a great place to get background information to proceed with your research – much like you would use an encyclopedia. However, internet sources should only be used for this purpose. They should not be a source of information for your paper. Sources that are found through the University Library Website or databases, or through Google Scholar are fine because they are academic and peer reviewed sources. If there is any doubt, talk to your Instructor!

**Extensions** will not be granted except in exceptional circumstances for medical or compassionate reasons *supported by documentation*. Computer failure or 'too much work' are not acceptable excuses for lateness. **Late Assignments** will be deducted 2.5% for every day an assignment is late. This *includes* weekends.

### **Quizzes & Examinations**

There will be two (2) map quizzes given in the term, requiring knowledge of borders, major cities, geographic features such as rivers or mountain ranges, and sites of major events. These will account for a total of 5% of the course's final grade.

Three (3) online quizzes, via the course's UM Learn site, will require students to quickly access notes and readings to answer questions. Each quiz will also have a short section to be paraphrased. Students will have a 24 period to complete the open-book quiz. These will account for a total of 15% of the course's final grade.

There will be one final examination in this course. The final exam will be cumulative, covering material from the entire term. A handout of terms, figures, dates, places, and themes to study will be provided to help students focus their studying. The final exam will have four sections: a map portion, an identification section, a short answer section, and essay questions. The total number for each will be announced in-class, although students will have a selection to choose from (e.g. "Answer three out of five essay questions"). Keep the format of the exams in mind as you take notes in class and review them later to help you when it comes to study time. More on the exams will be discussed in class. This will account for a total of 30% of the course's final grade.

**All exam answers must be written in the student's own words.** Verbatim reproduction of memorized material from textbooks or online sources is not acceptable. Collaboration on online quizzes is strictly not allowed.

### **University Regulations on Plagiarism, Cheating and Impersonation**

The following may be found in the section on “Academic Integrity” of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at

[http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student\\_responsibilities.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html)):

*The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.*

*The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.*

*The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.*

### **The ‘W’ Requirement**

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.”

### **Grade Appeals**

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

### **Faculty Regulation on Unreturned Term Work**

Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

I encourage you to talk to me if you have any questions regarding the course materials or assignments, or if you have more general questions relating to the subject. You are welcome to raise your hand in class to ask a question, otherwise we may meet during office hours. Email is also an appropriate way for discussion, as the course's UMLearn webpage.

## Schedule of Lectures

- Note that this list may change as the term progresses.

Date	Topic	Notes & Reminders
<i>Monsoon Asia as a Region</i>		
<b>Week 1</b> Sept. 10	Introduction: Course, Syllabus and Historical Methodology Geography and Climate of Asia Asian Religions	
<i>Asia before Western Contact, c.1300-c.1600</i>		
<b>Week 2</b> Sept. 15  Sept. 17	Traditions and Commonalities in Asia Ming China: Prosperity and Decline Qing China: The Manchus and the Fall of the Ming Dynasty	<b>Library Assignment (5%)</b>
<b>Week 3</b> Sept. 22  Sept. 24	Fall of the Ashikaga Shogunate Tokugawa Japan: The decline of the Samurai Mughal India	<b>Note Taking Assignment (5%)</b>
<b>Week 4</b> Sept. 29	Southeast Asia, 1350-1700	<b>Online Quiz Activated (5%)</b>
<i>The West Arrives in Asia</i>		
Oct. 1	The Context of Western Expansionism	<b>Map Quiz (2.5%)</b>
<b>Week 5</b> Oct. 6	The “Magnet” of Southeast Asia	
<i>Responses in Asia</i>		
Oct. 8	India and the British Raj	
<b>Week 6</b> Oct. 13 Oct. 15	China Besieged: The Opium Wars and Treaty Ports The closing of Japan The Meiji Restoration and the dismantling of the Old Order	
<b>Week 7</b> Oct. 20	Southeast Asia during the first phase of colonialism	<b>Book Analysis (15%)</b>

<i>Modernity in Asia</i>		
Oct. 22	China and India	
<b>Week 8</b> Oct. 27	Japan and Southeast Asia	<b>Proposal and Bibliographic Assignment (5%)</b>
<i>The Road to War</i>		
Oct. 29	The Last Year's of China's Last Dynasty	
<b>Week 9</b> Nov. 3 Nov. 5	Conflict and Revolution in China Imperial Japan and the International Community	<b>Online Quiz Activated (5%)</b>
<i>Asia in Flames</i>		
<b>Week 10</b> Nov. 10 Nov. 12	The Manchurian Incident and Pan-Asianism The CCP in World War II	<b>Map Quiz (2.5%)</b>
<b>Week 11</b> Nov. 17 Nov. 19	The Indian Nationalism Movement Korea and Vietnam	<b>VW Date (18 November 2015)</b>
<b>Week 12</b> Nov. 24 Nov. 26	Partition in India China After Mao Development and Reconstruction in Japan	
<b>Week 13</b> Dec. 1 Dec. 3	Postcolonial Movements in Southeast Asia <i>Course Overview lecture</i>	<b>Online Quiz Activated (5%)</b>
<b>Week 14</b> Dec. 8	Final Examination Prep	<b>Research Paper (20%)</b>