

**University of Manitoba  
HIST/ASIA 1420W A01**

**Asian Civilizations to 1500**

Winter 2016  
Tuesday/Thursday 10:00am-11:15am  
237 University College

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**INSTRUCTOR**

Jon Malek

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or via UMLearn.

**Office:** 354 University College

**Office Hours:** By appointment

*Students must use their University of Manitoba email addresses; other addresses will not receive a reply.*

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**Course Description**

In recent decades, Asia has continued to rise in prominence in global affairs. The ramifications of the 1997 Asian stock market crash were due to the importance Asia has taken in the global economy. Recently, the United States has become increasingly engaged in Asian geo-politics, with President Barack Obama declaring in 2011 “The United States is a Pacific power, and we are here to stay.” Canada, too, has long imagined itself as a Pacific nation. Furthermore, nations in the West – particularly Canada – have seen the number of permanent and temporary migrants from the Asia-Pacific region increase tremendously, to the extent that China, India and the Philippines are the top three source countries for immigrants. And yet, Asia and its people are often depicted as an exotic “Other” in Western media, something distinctly different from life in the West. The Asia region is often depicted as a timeless land, untouched by modernity and there for “consumption” by the west in the form of tourism and media. Paradoxically, Asian history is often seen as being profoundly affected by Western imperialism and capitalist expansion. However, Asia is a dynamic region, home to many cultures, languages, religious and philosophical beliefs, and multiple histories. As the world becomes increasingly connected, it is imperative for global citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to be aware of this region and its history. This course will introduce students to this region by analyzing the development of Asian civilizations from prehistory to the period immediately before Western colonial expansion in the region. The course will emphasize the complex history and cultures that existed long before Western contact. Students will study the history and cultures of China, Japan, India, and Southeast Asia, and their interactions with each other and the outside world. The course focuses on the development of political structures, religious and philosophical beliefs, and technological innovations in the region. Asia today has been shaped by these forces, and to understand the region in recent history, one must grasp the key developments of this period.

Through lecture, course readings, and discussion, this course will cover a variety of themes and topics including: the geography of the region and its effect on culture; the Warring States period; the rise of Han China; the influence of Aryan civilization on the Indian sub-continent; the advent of Buddhism, and its political and cultural influences; the rise and spread of Hinduism and Confucianism; the Maurya and Gupta empires in India; the Yamato clan in Japan and samurai culture; the rise of states in Southeast Asia; the trade and communication networks within Asia and to the outside world; the Indianization and Sinification of Southeast Asia; and the state of Asia on the eve of Western colonialism.

The scholar J. C. Van Leur argued that the history of Asia has been seen from “the deck of a ship, the ramparts of a fortress, the high gallery of the trading house,” meaning much of Asian history has been understood as a history of Western colonialism. Ending the course in 1500 – around the time Western colonialism began – may seem to support this Westocentric periodization, however, this course will explore multiple phases of Asian history. The phases in this period ends with the beginning of a new one – Western imperialism – which has since passed into new phases of history.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To have developed some of the practical methods of historians, such as data interpretation, primary source analysis, critical secondary source reading, and effective writing skills.
2. To be able to identify the major geo-political boundaries of the region, and their change over time.
3. To have a solid understanding of the major political entities, cultural and religious transformations, events, figures, and locations in Asia before 1500.
4. To interrogate the transmission of Indian and Chinese culture throughout the Asia region.
5. To be able to understand historical trends in Asia prior to 1500, and the various cultural traditions of the peoples of Asia.

### **Required Textbooks**

*Both texts are available in the bookstore. Other readings will be posted to UMLearn.*

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

Mary Lynn Rampola, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History* 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's)

### **Suggested Texts**

These may be purchased online or accessed through the Library to assist students with writing and style. There are usually limited copies in the Bookstore. These are not required for course readings, but will help with essay writing.

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

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

### **Course Evaluation**

10% Map Quiz: March 28

20% Research Paper I: March 7

15% Online Quizzes (3x5%): Feb. 23, March 30, April 18

25% Research Paper II: April 20

30% Final Examination (TBD by Registrar's Office)

## Grading

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

**Evaluation of coursework** will be provided by the VW date (31 March 2017).

## 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.*

There are two essays required in this course. Given the short timeframe of the class, it is recommended that you begin researching and writing as soon as possible. Each research essay will be on an assigned topic with assigned readings. As well, we will have a discussion in class on expectations with essay writing, which will be very important for all students to attend. Note that both research essays must receive a passing grade to pass the course, as it is a W-requirement course.

### **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 will be subject to academic discipline.

**All written assignments are to be typed and printed using a computer.** For both research essays, you will be asked to submit a hard copy of your paper in class, as well as an electronic version on UMLearn. 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 one (1) map quiz worth 10%, requiring knowledge of borders, major cities, geographic features such as rivers or mountain ranges, and sites of major events.

Three (3) online quizzes, via the course’s UM Learn site, will require students to quickly access notes and readings to answer questions. The questions will require students to be able to identify individuals, concepts, events, as well as to be able to answer questions arising from class discussion. Quizzes will be in multiple choice format and will be available for 24 hours. Once begun, students will have 2 hours to complete the quiz. You may use your course notes and textbook. These will account for a total of 15% of the course’s final grade.

There will be a 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 exam 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 is the course’s UMLearn webpage.

## Lecture Schedule

This schedule may change. Follow UMLearn for updated Lecture Schedule.

<b>Introduction and South Asia</b>			
<b>Week 1</b> Jan. 19	Course Introduction		
<b>Week 2</b> Jan. 24	Introduction to Asia: Geography, Religion, and Culture	RM: Ch. 1-2	
Jan. 26	Indus Valley Civilization  Aryan Migration	RM: Ch. 4	
<b>Week 3</b> Jan. 31	The Mauryan Empire	RM: Ch. 4	
Feb. 2	The Gupta Empire		
<b>Week 4</b> Feb. 7	Islamic India and the Delhi Sultanate	RM: Ch. 6, p.105-112	
Feb. 9	South India	RM: Ch. 6, p. 113-117	
<b>Week 5</b> Feb. 14	The Cholas and Sri Lanka		<i>Map Quiz (10%)</i>
Feb. 16	Indian Arts & Literature		
<b>Week 6</b> Feb. 21	<i>Mid-Term Break, no classes</i>		
Feb. 23			<i>Online Quiz 1 (5%)</i>

<b>China</b>			
<b>Week 6</b> Feb. 28	The Origins of China	RM: Ch. 5	
March 2	China's Ethnic Groups		
<b>Week 7</b> March 7	The Early Dynasties: The Shang, Zhou,	RM: Ch. 5	<i>Essay 1 Due (20%)</i>
March 9	Qin and Han		
<b>Week 8</b> March 14	The Warring States Period	RM: Ch. 5	
March 16	The Tang and Song Dynasties	RM: Ch. 8	
<b>Week 9</b> March 21	Mongolian Conquest and the Yuan Dynasty	RM: Ch. 8	
March 23	The Ming Dynasty	RM: Ch. 11, p. 200-218	
<b>Week 10</b> March 28	China's Links with Korea	RM: Ch. 11, p. 218-228	<i>Map Quiz (10%) Online Quiz 2 (5%) Voluntary Withdrawal Date (March 31)</i>
March 30	Chinese Arts and Literature		
<b>Japan</b>			
<b>Week 11</b> April 4	Early Japan	RM: Ch. 9	
April 6	Medieval Japan & Samurai Culture	RM: Ch. 9	
<b>Week 12</b> April 11	Japanese Arts & Literature		
<b>Southeast Asia</b>			
April 13	Mainland Southeast Asia	Ch. 7: p. 119-128	

<b>Week 13</b> April 18	Insular Southeast Asia	Ch. 7: p. 128-132	
April 20	“The Age of Commerce”		
<b>Week 13</b> April 18	Asia on the Eve of Western Colonial Contact: The Ming, Mughals, and Tokugawa		<i>Online Quiz #3 (5%)</i>
April 20	Exam Prep and Review		<i>Essay 2 Due (25%)</i>
TBA	Final Exam (30%)		