

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
HIST/ASIA 1420 W A01**

**ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS TO 1500**

Winter 2018

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

By the end of this 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. 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).

Eknath Easwaran, ed., *The Bhagavad Gita*. (Nilgiri Press 2007).

## 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 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. Regular attendance is essential, as all testable material - including important class announcements - are made in-class. More than three unexcused absences may result in action being taken, including withdrawal from the course. Throughout the term, there will be in-class work (5%) which will require no prior preparation, and will be spread throughout the term. These short pieces of written work will have you perform a variety of tasks, such as summarizing key points in the day's lecture, answering identification questions, or to describe the relation between two or more things mentioned in the day's lecture. There will be a total of two in-class quizzes (5% each) which will test students' ability to identify figures, events, and themes covered in course lecture and to discuss their importance to the course. More information will be given in class. There will be one map quiz (5%). The development of strong academic writing is integral to this course. There will be two research essays on assigned topics (25% each). 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 set by

the University's Registrar's Office. It is important that you do not book travel during the exam period until you know your exam dates. More information will be made available on all assignments and exams in class.

### Course Evaluation

5% In-class work	Throughout term
5% Map Quiz	January 16
25% Essay 1	February 27
10% Quizzes (2x5%)	February 13, March 15
25% Essay 2	April 5
30% Final Examination	TBD by Registrar's Office during Exam schedule, April 9-23, 2018

### Grading

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

**Evaluation of coursework** will be provided by the VW date (16 March 2018).

### A Note on Electronic Devices and Language Aids 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 allowed during examinations or map quizzes. Language aids such as dictionaries are not allowed during an examination.

### Assignments

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

Research Papers: Each research paper will be on an assigned topic with specified readings. Each paper will be 1500-2000 words in length (excluding title page, footnotes, and bibliography), and will be formatted in 12-pt. Times New Roman font with double spaced text. It is important that papers focus on the assigned topic. Please see the Student Success Guide for more information on formatting and writing practice. A writing workshop will be provided in class for the first essay. Essays will be submitted via UMLearn.

**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** given in the term, requiring knowledge of borders, major cities, geographic features such as rivers or mountain ranges, and sites of major events.

Two (2) **in-class quizzes** will account for 10% (5% each) of the final course grade. These essays will be written during scheduled lecture time and will be on a theme that has been covered in previous lectures. Before the date of the essay, students will be provided with a broad theme, based on class course material, to help prepare. The exact question will be presented in-class. This method will help students prepare for the final exam, which will have two major exam essay questions.

All written work must be in the student's own words - verbatim reproduction is not allowed and constitutes academic misconduct, which can lead to disciplinary action.

There will be one (1) **final examination** in this course. The final exam will be comprehensive, 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 final exams are scheduled by the Registrar's Office,** and not by the Instructor. Do not book any travel or periods of absence during the examination period as dates are subject to change.

**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\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.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, through the course's UMLearn webpage.

## **Student Resources**

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/> The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage ([http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/)).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

### *Student Counseling Centre*

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

### *Student Support Case Management*

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off

campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

#### *University Health Service*

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

#### *Student Advocacy*

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

#### *UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)*

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/422932261087799/> or emailing [umhisau@gmail.com](mailto:umhisau@gmail.com).



## Lecture Schedule

This schedule may change. Follow UMLearn for updated Lecture Schedule. "RM" refers to the Rhoads Murphey course textbook. Any additional readings will be made available via UMLearn.

### Week 1

Lecture 1 (1) - January 4  
Course Introduction

### Week 2

Lecture 1 (2) - January 9  
Introduction to Asia: Geography, Religion, and Culture  
RM, Chapters 1 & 2

Lecture 2 (3) - January 11  
Indus Valley Civilization  
RM, Chapter 4  
Aryan Migration  
RM, Chapter 4

### Week 3

Lecture 1 (4) - January 16  
Writing Workshop  
*Map Quiz (5%)*

Lecture 2 (5) - January 18  
The Mauryan Empire  
RM, Chapter 4

### Week 4

Lecture 1 (6) - January 23  
The Gupta Empire  
RM, Chapter 4

Lecture 2 (7) - January 25  
Islamic India and the Delhi Sultanate  
RM, Chapter 6, p.105-112

### Week 5

Lecture 1 (8) - January 30  
South India  
RM, Chapter 6, p.113-117

Lecture 2 (9) - February 1  
The Origins of China: The Shang and Zhou Dynasties  
RM, Chapter 5

### **Week 6**

Lecture 1 (10) - February 6  
Chinese Philosophical Thought

Lecture 2 (11) - February 8  
The Qin and Han Dynasties  
RM, Chapter 5

### **Week 7**

Lecture 1 (12) - February 13  
The Warring States Period  
RM, Chapter 5  
*Quiz 1 (5%)*

Lecture 2 (13) - February 15  
The Tang and Song Dynasties

### **Week 8**

Lecture 1 (14) - February 20  
*No classes - University closed*

Lecture 2 (15) - February 22  
*No classes - University closed*

### **Week 9**

Lecture 1 (16) - February 27  
Mongolian Conquest and the Yuan Dynasty  
RM, Chapter 8  
*Essay 1 Due (25%)*

Lecture 2 (17) - March 1  
The Ming Dynasty  
RM, Chapter 11

### **Week 10**

Lecture 1 (18) - March 6  
The Ming Dynasty  
RM, Chapter 11

Lecture 2 (19) - March 8  
Early Japan  
RM, Chapter 9

**Week 11**

Lecture 1 (20) - March 13  
Medieval Japan  
RM, Chapter 9

Lecture 2 (21) - March 15  
Medieval Japan  
RM, Chapter 9  
*Quiz 2 (5%)*

**Week 12**

Lecture 1 (22) - March 20  
Mainland Southeast Asia  
RM, Chapter 7, p.119-128

Lecture 2 (23) - March 22  
Insular Southeast Asia  
RM, Chapter 7, p.128-132

**Week 13**

Lecture 1 (24) - March 27  
The "Age of Commerce"

Lecture 2 (25) - March 29  
TBA

**Week 14**

Lecture 1 (26) - April 3  
In-class film

Lecture 2 (27) - April 5  
In-class film  
*Essay 2 due (25%)*