

**ASIA 1420 / HIST 1420**  
**Asian Civilizations to 1500**  
**Summer 2014**  
**MTWRF, 10:45-12:45**  
**Location: 303 Tier**

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This course will examine the history of South Asia, South-East Asia, China, Japan and Korea from prehistoric times to the fifteenth century. We will cover the rise of the Indian and Chinese civilisations, including the origin and spread of food crops and farming techniques; the rise and spread of the major Asian religions and philosophical systems; the rise of states and empires in settled agricultural regions such as China and India; the rise and fall of the Mongol Empire; and, lastly, trade, communication and cultural exchange between different parts of Asia, as well as between Asia and the outside world, including Europe.

### **Grade Distribution**

Map quiz: 5%  
Attendance and participation: 5%  
3 Papers: 15% each  
Midterm: 15%  
Final exam: 30%

### **Assignments and Due Dates**

Students are expected to attend every class. When a student is unable to attend due to a serious reason, he/she must provide documentation to the instructor in order for the absence to be excused. Since we are only going to have 17 class meetings during the term, every absence can have a negative impact on your grade.

Students are encouraged to participate actively in class by answering questions and asking relevant questions of their own.

There will be a **map quiz** on **8 May**, covering the countries of Asia.

There will be **three required papers** in this course. Each paper should be **four pages or 1,000 words long**.

For each paper, a **list of sources** is going to be distributed. Please use the textbook in addition to **at least three** of the sources on the list for each paper.

**All papers** should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins on all sides.

Please use the **Chicago Style** for citations. Please use **footnotes** rather than endnotes.

Further details and guidelines regarding the papers will be provided in class.

**Paper I** will be due on **12 May**.

Topic: What were the key aspects of the Indian cultural synthesis that developed under the Delhi Sultanate?

**Paper II** will be due on **20 May**.

Topic: What was the significance of Zheng He's explorations for China and the rest of Asia?

**Paper III** will be due on **26 May**.

Topic: What were the consequences of the Mongols' successful conquest of China and their failure to conquer India and Japan?

Students are expected to do their **weekly reading**. Not only will keeping up with the reading help you make sense of what is being discussed in class and enable you to ask pertinent questions, it will also aid you in writing effective papers and examination essays. Papers based solely on class lectures will not be acceptable.

*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.*

The **midterm examination** will take place on **15 May**.

The **final examination** will take place on **31 May**, at 9:00 am in room 231 Isbister Building.

Evaluation of term work will be provided by the Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) date, which is 22 May.

Due to the brevity of the summer session, late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5 percentage points per day.

*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.*

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

### Letter Grade Values

90% to 100% = A+	65% to 69% = C+
80% to 89% = A	60% to 64% = C
75% to 79% = B+	50% to 59% = D
70% to 74% = B	0% to 49% = F

### Policy on Academic Dishonesty

*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.*

### Required Textbook

- Rhoads Murphey and Kristin Stapleton, *A History of Asia* (7<sup>th</sup> edition) (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson, 2013)

### Reading Schedule and Topics Covered

(Supplementary reading may be assigned if needed)

#### Week 1: Introduction and South Asia

Reading for the week: Murphey and Stapleton, Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 6.

5 May: Introduction to Asian geography, societies, religions and history

6 May: Prehistoric India; Indus Valley Civilisation; Aryan migration

7 May: The Mauryas and Guptas; *registration revision period ends*

8 May: South India and Sri Lanka; **map quiz**

9 May: Delhi Sultanate

## **Week 2: China and Japan**

Reading for the week: Murphey and Stapleton, Chapters 5, 8, 9 and 11.

12 May: Chinese civilisation; the Shang, Zhou, Qin and Han Dynasties; **Paper I due**

13 May: The Warring States Period; the Tang and Song Dynasties

14 May: The Mongol conquests and the Yuan Dynasty

15 May: The Ming Dynasty; **midterm exam**

16 May: Early Japan

## **Week 3: Japan, Korea and Mainland South-East Asia**

Reading for the week: Murphey and Stapleton, Chapters 7 and 9

19 May: **Victoria Day. No classes.**

20 May: Medieval Japan; **Paper II due**

21 May: Korea

22 May: Vietnam; Khmer Empire; Ayutthaya; *VW period ends.*

23 May: Malaya

## **Week 4: Insular South-East Asia and Review**

Reading for the week: Murphey and Stapleton, Chapter 9

26 May: Borneo; Java; Sumatra; **Paper III due**

27 May: Documentary

28 May: Review

**Final exam: 31 May**