

**HILD 10**  
Fall, 2007

**Class:** MWF: 12:00 – 12:50

110 Peterson Hall

**Professor:** Suzanne Cahill

Office: HSS 3040

Phone: (858) 534-8105

Mailbox: HSS 5005

Office Hours: Wed. 1:00 – 2:00,

e-mail: secjbm34@aol.com

Th. 11 - 12, or by appointment

**TAs:**

David Cheng Chang, Jenwa Hsung,

Office: HSS 6017

Judd Kinzley, Ryan Moran

Phone (858) 822-2572

Matt Johnson

Office: HSS 1133; Ph. (858) 822-5110

Mailboxes for all TAs: HSS fifth floor Grad. Lounge

**EAST ASIA: THE GREAT TRADITION**  
**EARLY HISTORY, SOCIETY, AND CULTURES OF CHINA, KOREA, AND JAPAN**

**Introduction**

This course introduces China, Korea, and Japan from the Neolithic period through the Song dynasty in China (960 – 1279), the Koryo dynasty in Korea (889 – 1259) and the Heian period in Japan (794 – 1185). Rather than studying the histories of China, Korea, and Japan as three entirely separate stories, we will also investigate their connections. Writing, systems of thought and religion, government systems, technologies, family structures, and material culture will be our organizing themes for studying these civilizations over such a long time. We will stress social and historical context, continuity and change, crisis and resolution, comparison and contrast. Since creations of earlier eras have had a deep impact on life in China, Korea, and Japan today, we will sometimes use contemporary examples to show changing interpretations of the ancient heritage.

Our main framework will be chronological. Within the frame of time, we will consider the organizing themes mentioned above. Our approach will be interdisciplinary, combining history and the social sciences, written texts and material culture. We will try to include groups that have previously been excluded from the historical narratives, such as women, minorities, and peasants. Class materials come from a variety of sources, both textual and visual. Textual sources include historical, philosophical, religious, and literary writings; visual materials include

archaeological discoveries, art, and film. Secondary sources, such as your textbook by Ebrey et al., will provide structure, general background, and some interpretation. Primary resources, such as those found in the anthologies of Chinese literature and Japanese traditions, tell us that the people we are studying thought was important.

One of your main tasks this quarter is to read primary texts critically, analyzing arguments in terms of meaning, reliability, argument, and historical value. You will also be able to sharpen your writing skills, improving your ability to write clearly and convincingly. Section discussion will give you practice in oral discourse, communication, and collaboration. Our goal is for you to become active scholars, rather than passive recipients of data.

### **Course Requirements**

There are no prerequisites. Students should come to class with the assigned reading for that day completed, and take part in discussions. There will be weekly 2 page reading responses due in section. The reading responses, together with your section performance, make up thirty-five per cent (35%) of your grade. There will be a midterm worth thirty percent (30%), and a final exam worth thirty-five percent (35%), of your course grade. You must complete all written assignments and attend every section unless excused in order to pass the course.

### **Required Texts**

These books are available at Groundwork Bookstore in the old Student Center. Their phone is (858) 452-9625; the e-mail address is [groundworkbookscollective@yahoo.com](mailto:groundworkbookscollective@yahoo.com). There will also be copies on reserve at Geisel Library.

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, Anne Walthall, and James B. Palais, *Pre-Modern East Asia: To 1800: A Cultural, Social, And Political History* (Pre-Modern)

Victor H. Mair, *The Shorter Columbia Anthology of Traditional Chinese Literature* (Mair)

Wm. Theodore de Bary, Donald Keene, George Tanabe, and Paul Varley, *Sources of Japanese Tradition: From Earliest Times to 1600*; volume one, second edition (Keene)

Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*, (Silk Road)

Murasaki Shikibu, translated and abridged by Edward Seidensticker, *The Tale of Genji* (Genji)

## COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics and Readings</b>
<b>Week Zero</b>	<b>I. Introduction</b>
September 28	Themes, Approaches, Materials, and Expectations Romanization: Wade Giles and Pinyin; see Mair, 727 - 731 Get your textbooks: first reading assignment is due Monday
<b>Week One</b>	<b>II. Chinese Myth and Archaeology</b>
October 1	Chinese Origin Stories and Early Archaeological Records Readings: Pre-modern, Introduction and Chapter One
	<b>III. China in the Bronze Age: The Shang &amp; Western Zhou Dynasties (c. 1500 - 771 BCE):</b>
October 3	Oracle Bones, The Five Classics, and the Beginning of Written History Readings: Mair, Part I, Divinations and Inscriptions, entries 1 – 3 (p. 1-11); Part II, entry 16, (p. 61 – 73); Part III, entries 157 (p. 301 – 304), and 159 (p. 308 – 311)
	<b>IV. Philosophers and Warring States During the Eastern Zhou Period (771 – 256 BCE)</b>
October 5	A. Crisis: The Age of Confucius and the “Hundred Schools of Thought” Readings: Pre-Modern, Chapter Two
<b>Week Two</b>	
October 8	B. After Confucius: Rivals, Followers, and Alternatives Readings: Mair, entries 5 – 10; 159, 122, 200
	<b>V. The Bureaucratic Empire: Qin – Han China (256 BCE – 220 CE)</b>

- October 10 A. Qin and Han Empires and Legacy  
Reading: Pre-modern, Chapter Three
- October 12 B. Gender and Daily Life in the Han  
Readings: Mair, entries 17, 123, 128 – 139, 158, 160 – 162, 185, 186

**Week Three VI. Disunity in China (200 – 580 CE)**

- October 15 A. Political and Cultural Context  
Reading: Pre-modern, Chapter Four;  
Mair, entries 140 - 147
- October 17 B. Buddhism Comes to China  
Readings: Mair, entries 11, 21, 181, 182, 214
- October 19 C. Daoism and Literati Culture  
Readings: Mair, entries 18 – 25, 126, 168, 171, 172, 192, 202 – 204

**Week Four VII. Sui and Tang China (581 – 907)**

- October 22 A. Political and Cultural Context  
Readings: Pre-modern, Chapter Five,  
Mair, 149
- October 24 B. The Silk Road  
Readings: Silk Road, p. 1 - 137
- October 26 C. Buddhism and Art on the Silk Road  
Movie: Dunhuang: Art Gallery in the Desert  
Reading: Silk Road, p. 138 - end

**Week Five**

- October 29 Tang Poetry and Prose: Literature as a Historical Source  
Readings: Mair, entries 26 – 53, 85 – 89, 165, 173, 187, 188, 193 – 195,  
198, 199, 201, 207, 208

October 31 Midterm

### **VIII. Early Korea**

November 2 A. Bronze Age Through the period of Small Chiefdoms  
Reading: Pre-modern, Emergence of East Asian Civilization, Chapter Six

#### **Week Six**

November 5 B. Three Kingdoms and Silla  
Reading: Primary Sources for Early Korea through Parhae, TBA

### **IX. Early Japan to 794**

November 7 A. Political and Cultural Context  
Reading: Pre-modern, Chapter Seven

November 9 B. Early Records and Shinto Religion  
Readings: Keene, Chapters One through Three, Chapter Fifteen, p. 336 - 343

#### **Week Seven**

November 12 Veteran's Day Holiday

November 14 C. Buddhist Church and the Japanese State  
Readings: Keene, Chapters Four through Six (skim Chapter Four),

### **X. Song China and its Neighbors, 960 - 1279**

November 16 A. Political and Cultural Context  
Reading: Pre-modern, Chapter Eight

## **Week Eight**

November 19            B. Lixue (Neo-Confuciansim) and the Song Renaissance  
Readings: Mair, entries 54 – 59, 90 – 103, 127, 170, 174, 175, 183

November 21            C. Gender: Bound Feet  
Readings: Mair, entry 215

November 23            Thanksgiving Day Holiday

## **Week Nine**

### **XI. Koryo Dynasty, 889 - 1259**

November 26            A. Political and Cultural Context  
Readings: Pre-modern, Chapter Nine

November 28            B. Religion, Gender, and Daily Life in the Koryo Period  
Readings: Koran Primary sources, TBA

### **XII. Heian Japan, 784 – c. 1180**

November 30            A. Political and Cultural Context  
Readings: Pre-Modern, Chapter Ten; Keene, Chapter Seven, Chapter Eight, p. 175 – 187, Chapter Nine, p. 197 – 202, Chapter Fifteen, p.343 - 346

## **Week Ten**

December 3             B. The Heian Court  
Readings: Genji, chapters One through Seven

December 5             C. Daily Life of Heian Elites  
Readings: Finish Genji

December 7             **XIII. Connections and Divisions**

