Traditional Asia and Its Legacy

HTS 2061
Fall 2011
TTh 12-1:30
304 D.M. Smith

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Office: 122 Old CE Building
Tel: (404) 894-6844

Office Hours: TTh 10 am – 12 pm, W 1 pm – 3 pm, and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a wide-ranging survey of the civilizations of East Asia from their beginnings to the middle of the nineteenth century. Emphasis is given to comparison of traditional cultures and ethics in China and Japan. Topics include formation of empires, religious systems, ethics and philosophies, folk customs, women’s history, scientific inventions, expansion of commerce, development of political and social institutions, and the foundation of modern East Asia.

REQUIRED READINGS:

The following books are available at the bookstore:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Quizzes 30%
2) Midterm 20%
3) Final Exam 40%
4) Attendance 10%

In evaluating a student's performance, consideration will also be given to informed participation in discussions.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND READINGS

Week 1  August 23 & 25
Asia: An Overview
Morton & Lewis, pp.1-4
Week 2  August 30 & September 1
China: The Land and the People
Morton & Lewis, pp.5-21
Film: China: Unruly Dragon

Week 3  September 6 & 8
From Legend to History
Morton & Lewis, pp.22-44
Film: China: The History & the Mystery

Week 4  September 13 & 15
The Golden Age of Chinese Thought: Ethics, Philosophy, and Religions
Morton & Lewis, pp.45-70

Week 5  September 20 & 22
Qin-Han: The First Chinese Empire and the Establishment of Confucian Ethics
Morton & Lewis, pp.71-80
Film: Entombed Warriors

Week 6  September 27 & 29
The Period of Disunity: Introduction of Buddhism and Buddhist Ethics
Morton & Lewis, pp.81-97
Film: The Mandate of Heaven

Week 7  October 4 & 6
Sui-Tang: The Second Chinese Empire
Morton & Lewis, pp.98-114
Film: Overview of Chinese History

Week 8  October 11 & 13
Song-Yuan: Economy in Transition
Morton & Lewis, pp.115-122

October 15-18, Fall 2011 Student Recess

Week 9  October 20
Song-Yuan: Ethics in Transition
Morton & Lewis, pp.123-136

Week 10  October 25 & 27
Ming-Qing: Late Imperial China
Morton & Lewis, pp.137-147

Midterm: Thursday, October 27
Week 11  November 1 & 3  
The Origin and Early History of the Japanese  
Morton & Olenik, pp.1-27  
Film: *Buddha in the Land of the Kami*

Week 12  November 8 & 10  
Classic Japan  
Morton & Olenik, pp.28-67

Week 13  November 15 & 17  
The Shogunate and Samurai Ethics  
Morton & Olenik, pp.68-118  
Film: *The Age of the Shogun*

Week 14  November 22  
Tokugawa Japan  
Morton & Olenik, pp.119-146  
Film: *The Japanese Tea Ceremony*

Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 15  November 29 & December 1  
Commodore Perry and the “Black Ships”: Japan at the Dawn of Modern Era

Week 16  December 6 & 8  
East Asia and the World  
Preparation for the Final Essays

Students will have the topics and guidelines for the take-home final essays before Thanksgiving. The essays are due on Thursday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 122 of the Old Civil Engineering Building.