City and Everyday Life in East Asia

This course is designed to introduce some major themes and current works in the field of East Asian History and to familiarize students with seminar presentation and research methodology. Of particular concerns are the city, everyday life, and material culture in China and Japan.

Course requirements include classroom discussions and presentations (40% of grade), a paper proposal (10%), and a final paper (50%). Students are expected to finish weekly reading assignments prior to each seminar meeting and give brief presentations in the class based on reading notes.

By the 10th week, each student should prepare a two-page proposal for the final paper. The topic of the final paper can be chosen from any of the subjects discussed in the seminar (see the list below). The final paper, 15-20 double-spaced pages in length (about 4000 words), should be based on both primary and secondary sources.

The following is the list of readings from which you may choose a topic to write. Weekly reading assignments will also be assigned based on the list. In most cases, the weekly reading assignment for each student will be one or two chapters (or a journal article), not the whole book.

1. General History


2. Pre-Modern City Life


3. Everyday Life and Material Culture


4. City Politics


5. Teahouse


6. Urban Neighborhood


7. Market and Shopping


8. Women’s Studies: Footbinding and Geisha


**9. Food Culture**


**10. Medicine and Opium**


**11. Urban Underclass**


**12. Post-Mao Society**

