

University of Manitoba  
HIST/ASIA 1420W A01

# Asian Civilizations to 1500

Spring 2021  
May 10 - June 17  
MWTR 10:45-12:00  
Remote Learning

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## INSTRUCTOR

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**Office:** 354 University College  
**Office Hours:** By appointment

*Students must use their University of Manitoba email addresses for communication; other addresses will not receive a reply.*

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## Course Description

In recent decades, Asia's prominence in global affairs has risen. For millennia, Asia has been a region of mobility, technological advance, political expansion, and has seen the rise of complex religions and cultures. In the decade, since U.S. President Barack Obama's 2011 declaration that "The United States is a Pacific power, and we are here to stay," American involvement in the region has increased. Canada, too, has long imagined itself as a Pacific nation. Furthermore, nations in the West – including Canada – have seen the number of permanent and temporary migrants from the Asia-Pacific region increase significantly, to the extent that China, India, and the Philippines are the leading countries of origin for immigrants. And yet, Asia and its people are often depicted as an exotic "Other" in Western media, something distinctly different from 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 the media. 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 rise and 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.

## 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 the factors behind 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

The following required texts are available as e-books via the University of Manitoba Libraries webpage. Other readings will be posted to UM Learn.

Charles Holcombe, *A History of East Asia: From the Origins of Civilization to the Twenty-First Century* 2nd ed. (PUP 2017)

[https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB\\_INST/1p55dqn/alma99149864942101651](https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB_INST/1p55dqn/alma99149864942101651)

Sugata Bose and Ayesha Jalal, *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy* (Taylor and Francis, 2004)

([https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB\\_INST/k6qbb2/cdi\\_proquest\\_ebookcentral\\_EBC200287](https://search.lib.umanitoba.ca/permalink/01UMB_INST/k6qbb2/cdi_proquest_ebookcentral_EBC200287))

Craig Lockhard, *Southeast Asia in World History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009) (<http://uml.idm.oclc.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=271147&site=ehost-live>)

## 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. While the most up-to-date versions are preferably, older editions will be fine, as well.

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

Course content will be delivered through synchronous teaching on Zoom. 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. On Fridays, students will submit a brief **weekly summary** of the week's lecture materials of about 250-300 words, which will account for a total of 5% of the course grade. These will cover the major themes and trends of the week's material and should reflect how they relate to previous lectures. There will be **one in-class essay** (10%), written during class time via UM Learn, which will test students' ability to discuss figures, events, and themes covered in course lecture and to discuss their importance to the course. There will be **one map quiz** (5%). The development of strong academic writing is integral to this course. There will be **two research essays** (25% each) on assigned topics and sources. There will be a **final examination** (30%) in the exam period, 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 remain available during the exam period until you know your finalized exam dates. More information will be made available on all assignments and exams throughout the term.

## Course Evaluation

5%	Weekly summaries	Each Friday via UM Learn (Graded as Pass/Fail)
5%	Map Quiz	May 17
25%	Essay 1	May 31
10%	In-Class Essay	May 27
25%	Essay 2	June 14
30%	Final Examination	TBD by Registrar's Office during Summer Exam Period,

## Grading

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

**Evaluation of coursework** will be provided by the Voluntary Withdrawal date June 8, 2021.

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.*

**Weekly Summaries:** These will be entries of about 250-300 words that will be posted in the form of a short blog post under the UM Learn course discussion forums (Communication>Discussions). For this, you can either post an entry of your own, or submit a reply to one of your peers (remaining within the 250-300 word requirement). These summaries provide a discussion of the week's topics and what in particular stood out as important to you. Also, tie in the week's material into the overall progression of the course. There will be five (5) total weekly summaries, meaning each will account for 1%, and will be graded on a Pass/Fail scale.

**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 UM Learn. Essays must be submitted in Word format (.doc or .docx). No PDF files, please.

**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 UM Learn. 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.

Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for your courses.

- Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab;
- Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period);
- Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and

Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.

### **Quizzes & Examinations**

There will be one (1) **map quiz** (5%) given in the term, requiring knowledge of borders, major cities, geographic features such as rivers or mountain ranges, and sites of major events.

One (1) **in-class essay** will account for 10% of the final course grade. This essay will be written during scheduled lecture time and will be on a theme that has been covered in previous lectures. This method will help students prepare for the final exam, which will have two 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 cumulative, covering material from the entire term. The final exam will have two sections: a group identification section and essay questions. More details will be announced in-class, although students will have a selection to choose from (e.g., “Answer two out of four 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. Please note that you should not start preparing for your exam in the days leading up to it, but rather should begin at the start of term through regular review of notes. The key to exam preparation is lock what you learn in your long-term memory, and this is done by repetition over a period of time. Please use this resource to help you study: <https://learningcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/studying-101-study-smarter-not-harder/>. In particular, familiarize yourself with the “Study Cycle” (previewing, attending class, reviewing, studying, and checking your understanding). The exam 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, as is the course's UM Learn webpage. The use of group chats has become common amongst students, and these can be very helpful for sharing information. However, don't use this to replace talking to your instructor, the surest source of information. Sometimes I am invited to these groups, and I'm happy to join, but just a reminder that this platform will not replace class wide emails or in-class discussions as the primary delivery of information and announcements.

## **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 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 wide 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, Ellen Tisdale ([ellen.tisdale@umanitoba.ca](mailto:ellen.tisdale@umanitoba.ca)), 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.

## **A Note**

There are different ways to make this course and its requirements more accessible to students with various learning styles and life circumstances which may affect your performance. Please speak to the instructor if there is anything that can make the course more accessible to you.

## **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 twitter account @UMH\_Undergrad, our Instagram account @UMHISA\_Undergrad, or by emailing [umhisau@gmail.com](mailto:umhisau@gmail.com)



## Lecture Schedule

This schedule may change. Follow UMLearn for updated Lecture Schedule. Any additional readings will be made available via UMLearn.

## Introduction to the Study of Asia

### Week 1

Lecture 1 – May 10

Course Introduction

Lecture 2 – May 11

What is Asia?

Acharya, “Asia is Not One” (UMLearn)

Acharya, “The Idea of Asia” (UMLearn)

Lecture 3 – May 12

Environment and Geography of Asia

Lecture 4 – May 13

Religions of Asia Pt. 1

### Week 2

Lecture 5 – May 17

Religions of Asia Pt. 2

*Map Quiz (5%)*

Lecture 6 – May 18

Writing Workshop

Slides will be posted to UMLearn

## South Asian Civilization

Lecture 7 – May 19

Indus Valley Civilization

Aryan Migration

Kulke & Rothermund: Chapter 1 “Early Civilisations of the Northwest”

Lecture 8 – May 20

The Mauryan Empire

Kulke & Rothermund: Chapter 2 “The Great Ancient Empires”

### Week 3

May 24 – *Victoria Day – No classes*

Make up class on May 28

Lecture 9 - May 25

The Gupta Empire

Kulke & Rothermund: Chapter 2 “The Great Ancient Empires”

Lecture 10 – May 26

Islamic India and the Delhi Sultanate

Kulke & Rothermund: Chapter 4 “Religious Communities”

## Chinese Civilization

Lecture 11 – May 27

*In-Class Essay (10%) via UMLearn*

Lecture 12 – May 28

The Origins of China: The Shang and Zhou Dynasties

Holcombe, “Introduction” and “Chapter 1: The Origins of Civilization in East Asia” pp. 15-30.

Week 3

Lecture 13 – May 31

The Origins of China: The Shang and Zhou Dynasties

Holcombe, “Introduction” and “Chapter 1: The Origins of Civilization in East Asia” pp. 15-30.

*Essay 1 Due (25%)*

Lecture 14 – June 1

Remonstrance: Confucianism & the Chinese State

Holcombe, “Chapter 2: The Formative Era,” pp. 36-40

Lecture 15 – June 2

The Warring States Period

The Qin and Han Dynasties

Holcombe, “Chapter 3: The Age of Cosmopolitanism,” pp. 60-71.

Lecture 16 – June 3

The Qin and Han Dynasties

Holcombe, “Chapter 3: The Age of Cosmopolitanism,” pp. 60-71.

Week 4

Lecture 17 – June 7

The Tang and Song Dynasties

Holcombe, “Chapter 4: The Creation of a Community,” pp. 95-113.

Holcombe, “Chapter 5: Mature Independent Trajectories,” pp. 132-140.

Lecture 18 – June 8

The Song Dynasty

Holcombe, “Chapter 5: Mature Independent Trajectories,” pp. 132-140.

Lecture 19 – June 9

Mongolian Conquest and the Yuan Dynasty

Holcombe, “Chapter 5: Mature Independent Trajectories,” pp. 141-146

Lecture 20 – June 10

The Ming Dynasty

Holcombe, “Chapter 5: Mature Independent Trajectories,” pp. 147-148.

Holcombe, “Chapter 6: Early Modern East Asia,” pp. 167-182.

## Japanese Civilization

Lecture 21 – June 14

Early Japan

Holcombe, “Chapter 3: The Age of Cosmopolitanism,” pp. 88-94.

Holcombe, “Chapter 4: The Creation of a Community,” pp. 120-131.

*Essay 2 Due (25%)*

Lecture 22 – June 15

Medieval Japan

Holcombe, “Chapter 5: Mature Independent Trajectories,” pp. 154-161.

Lecture 23 – June 16

Medieval Japan

Holcombe, “Chapter 5: Mature Independent Trajectories,” pp. 154-161.

Lecture 24 – June 17

The Tokugawa Shogunate

Holcombe, “Chapter 6: Early Modern East Asia,” pp. 187-198