

HIS 295 Classical Asia
M, W, F, 1-1:50 pm, HSS2310
Prof. W. Luo
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Officer Hours in Mears 312: MW-2 pm

Course Description and

Attendance and Participation 20%

Course Schedule
Online readings marked by @

Date	Topic	Assignments
1/22 W	Introduction	Syllabus @
1/24 F	“Eastern” vs. “Western” classics	J.M. Coetzee “What is a Classic?” @
1/27 M	Oracles	Fairbank, 2945 @ [SKIM] Eno, “Deities and Ancestors in Early Oracle Inscriptions” @
1/29 W	Prof. Michael Puett visit (no class)	Attend and take notes on one of his two public lectures
1/31 F	Philosophers and “Power Consultants”	F. Li, “Philosophers as Statesmen” in <i>Early China</i> , 207-28 @
2/3 M	Confucian view of human relationship [<i>in-class exercise: “as-if” rituals</i>]	Analects, Introduction; books 14
2/5 W	Benevolence, humaneness, and governance	Analects, books 13

2/7 F

Date	Topic	Assignments
2/12 W	Spontaneous actions	Zhuangzi @
2/14 F	Legalism and the rise of the state	Han Feizi@
2/17 M	Universal love and “sprouts of democracy”	Osborne@Mozi @
2/19 W	Politics and Heaven	Nakayama, “Characteristics of Chinese Astrology” @ X. Sun, “The role of astronomy in ancient Chinese society and culture” @ Concept Memo 1 due
2/21 F	<i>Workshop for concept memo 1</i>	Review and annotate your classmates’ memo drafts. Please bring them to class.
2/24 M	Human and universe in Vedic thought	The Rig Veda @ “Vedic thought” @ “Origins of Existence” @
2/26 W	The search for Atman	Upanishads @
2/28 F	The Hindu epical tradition Guest visit by Prof. Mercado	Gita, part 1
3/2 M	Dharma and early Indian social structure	Gita, part 2
3/4 W	What is yoga?	YogaAphorisms @; the Yoga Sutra @

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3/6 F	The historical Buddha	"The Buddha" @ Siddhartha, pp. 32
3/9 M	Justice of the holy man	Siddhartha, pp43-152 Concept Memo 2 due
3/11 W	<i>Workshop for concept memo 2</i>	Review and annotate your classmates' memo drafts. Please bring them to class.
3/13 F	Why enlightenment? [<i>in-class exercise: mindful communication</i>]	Dhammapada @; "The Art of Communicating" @
3/16-27	Spring Break	
3/30 M	Defining "Ancient" and "Classical"	Chapter by Piggot, in <i>Japan Emerging</i> @ Scaffolding Paper due
4/1 W	ShamarQueen's Lost Realm	Farris, <i>Sacred Texts and Buried Treasures</i> (chapter 1)
4/3 F	Writing, Text, and Civilization in Early Japan	Lurie, <i>Realms of Literacy</i> (excerpt)
4/6 M	Histories and Mythologies	Shirane <i>Inventing the Classics</i> (chapter 2) @ Kojiki (excerpt) @
4/8 W	Early Kingship and Political Narrative	Totman, A History of Japan (excerpt) @ Fudoki (Introduction) @
4/10 F	"All under Heaven"	"Manyoshu and the Imperial Imagination in Early Japan" @

Date	Topic	Assignments
4/13M	Women	Yoshie, "Gender in Early Classical Japan" @
4/15 W	Formation of the Japanese State	Ooms, <i>Imperial Politics and Symbolics in Ancient Japan</i> (Introduction) @ Concept memo 3 due
4/17 F	<i>Workshop for concept memo 3</i>	Review and annotate your classmates' memo drafts. Please bring them to class.
4/20 M	TBA	
4/22 W	The Sati controversies	Mani, "Contentious Traditions -The Debate on Sati in Colonial India." @
4/24 F	Chinese vs. Japanese	Goodrich et al <i>Japan in the Chinese Dynastic Histories</i> (excerpt) @ Ury, "Chinese Learning and Intellectual Life," in <i>Cambridge History of Japan</i> @
4/27 M	Buddhism in modern politics	1 .2.72 re W n BT 12 -0 0

Date	Topic	Assignments
5/6 W	Student presentations and feedback	
5/8 F	Conclusion and evaluations (extra time for presentations if necessary)	
5/12-15	Exam week	Final paper due May 12, noon

-classical period; and about works that can be called classics

Is there such a thing as Eastern classics, and how should we study them? Why should we study them?

Inherited culture—whose heritage? Does Shakespeare matter to Asian people? Why? In what way does the gender and race of the writer matter?

-how many of you have read some of these texts, regardless of language

History class—boundaries of disciplines quite blurred

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