

SP22 HIS 295 **Classical Asia**  
Classroom: N3110  
Prof. W. Luo  
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### **Course Description**

This course surveys the history of Ancient East Asia (China, Japan, and Korea) with some comparative notes on South Asia. We will study the historical and cultural background, as well as reconstruct the values and patterns of thought that circulated in this set of vanished worlds, each of them deeply removed and different from the one we live in today. We will look at how people in each culture created their distinctive identities, experienced the world around them, and inscribed their thinking into texts that have become the “Asian Classics.” This course also echoes the current antiracist movement in the US by reflecting on ethnic conflicts in East Asian

10 percent of the final grade. This exercise also prepares you for the final exam by familiarize you with names and locations, synthesize information and ideas, while articulate your own argument at the same time. General topics are given here, but more detailed instructions will be given separately. See (under Assignment on PWeb) for details.

**Memo 1:** Foundations of East Asian Civilization: The View from Early China

**Memo 2:** Trajectories of Development: Comparing Japan and Korea

**Film response (15%):** Please choose one of the films assigned for this class (either screened in class or watched on your own; including optional/recommended ones) and write a response essay engaging with the content of the film as well as the related reading assignments and what we have learned in class.

See (under Assignment on PWeb) for details.

**Final exam (take-home; open-book): 30%**

**Inclusive classroom and student accessibility services:**

I strive to create a fully inclusive classroom. Thus, I welcome individual students to approach me about distinctive learning needs. In particular, I encourage students with disabilities, including invisible or non-apparent disabilities such as chronic illness, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities, to discuss reasonable accommodations with me, and to have a conversation about how our classroom or course activities could impact the disability and what accommodations

1/27	China in the bronze age	Ebrey, Chap. 1  Eno, "Deities and Ancestors in Early Oracle Inscriptions" @
2/1 T	Early States, Philosophers, and "Power Consultants"	Ebrey, Chap. 2  F. Li, "Philosophers as Statesmen" in , 207-28 @

Happy Lunar New Year!

2/10	Men, States, and Heaven	Nakayama, “Characteristics of Chinese Astrology” @  X. Sun, “The role of astronomy in ancient Chinese society and culture” @
2/15 T	The Tao/Dao, Daoist Religion, and Han Dynasty Politics	Dao De Jing (excerpt) @  Zhuangzi @  Early Daoist Scriptures (excerpt) @  The Economic Order @
2/17	Buddhism and Political Division in China	Ebrey, Chap. 4  The Lotus Sutra @
2/22 T	The Sui and Tang Empires	

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2/24	Learning Memo Meeting I	*Learning Memo 1 due Wednesday
3/1 T	College designated "Work Differently Day"	

3/3

Early Japan

Ebrey, Chap. 7

&

Shaman Queen's Lost Realm



4/7

Medieval Japan

Ebrey, Chap. 13

The Way of the Warrior

@



4/21

Learning Memo Meeting II

\*Learning Memo 2 due  
Wednesday

5/10 T	The West marches East: the case of Opium	Brook et al, (excerpt) @
5/12	Review	