

**Montgomery College
Rockville Campus
History and Political Science Department**

HIST247 East Asian Civilization
Office: Humanities Suite 270
Department Phone: 240-567-5178

HS247 East Asian Civilization fulfills a General Education Program Humanities Distribution requirement and the Global and Cultural Perspective requirement.

Required Texts:

Ebrey, Walthall, *Pre-Modern Asia: To 1800* (second or third edition)
Tsao Hsueh-chin, *Dream of the Red Chamber* (Anchor Books)

General Course Information:

Brief Course Description: The course is a survey of traditional East Asia from pre-history through the start of the modern era. This course consists of lectures, discussions, and screenings. We will schedule several movies in the class. These are not optional, and you are responsible for their contents. This course will discuss certain fascinating and critical issues in the political, economic, and intellectual life of the people in China Japan, and Korea. What contributions has East Asia made to world civilization? How has political power been legitimized and exercised in their history? How far have the possible “cultural legacies” of the two societies been responsible for their political and economic development? What does it mean to talk of “traditional East Asia,” “Confucian tradition,” and “East Asian culture”? We will raise a variety of issues in our discussion. Your challenge is to develop your sense of both important questions and answers.

Catalog Description: An interdisciplinary survey of the development of civilization in China, Japan, and Korea from pre-history to the early seventeenth century. Topics for discussion include society, economy, politics, religion, philosophy, literature, art, science, and technology. Assessment Level(s): ENGL 101/ENGL 101-A, READ 120. Three hours each week. Formerly HS208. 3 semester hours.

Aims and Objectives: By the end of the course students should be able to outline the experience of the people in China, Japan, and Korea from pre-history through the nineteenth century, describe important events and figures, and analyze some important issues in East Asia history. As an introductory course, HIST207 skills include, but are not limited to, the following:
a) synthesize information from a variety of source

- b) distinguish cause from effect and understand the “why” of historical incidents
- c) draw inferences from the historical evidence
- d) distinguish facts from opinions and/or conclusions
- e) see art and artifacts as equally important as documents and other historical evidence
- f) view events from a variety of viewpoints
- g) present coherent and informed oral and written arguments

Course Learning Objectives: After completing this course, the student should be able to

1. identify important events and figures in traditional China and Japan
2. explain the emergence of the classical civilization in China
3. illustrate the development of Confucianism and Daoism
4. outline the social, political, and economic development from the Zhou to the Qing
5. outline the social, political, and economic development from Yamato Japan to Tokugawa Japan
6. Compare and contrast Ming/Qing China and Tokugawa Japan

Assessment: Your course grade is determined on the basis of a short essay (5 points), a book report (20 points), the mid-term exam (30 points) and the final exam (45 points). The short essay is a summary of Chs. 4-5 of Ebrey’s book; the book report is based on *Dream of the Red Chamber*, a novel by Ts’ao Hsueh-ch’in. The requirements for the book report will be discussed in the class. The mid-term exam and final exams consist of multiple choices and essays. All readings and assignments indicated in this syllabus for particular dates must be finished prior to the class on that date.

Grading:

A: 90-100; B:80-89; C:70-79; D:60- 69; F: 59 or less

Policies:

Attendance Policy: Attendance is *required*. If you miss more than *three* classes without approval, you will receive *a reduced grade for the course*.

Make-up Policy: If *exceptional* circumstances necessitate student absence on the day of the exam, the student should contact the instructor timely and submit a written request, with an *official document*, such as doctor’s note, police report, for the arrangement of an make-up.

Late Work Policy: The student is required to turn in the assignment in the class on the day indicated in the syllabus. *A late work will be penalized 20% of the full points a day*. Please also notice that the absence does not excuse the student from the assignment due date. If a student is unable to come to the class that day, he/she must email the instructor his/her assignment as the *evidence of completion* and then submit *a hard copy*.

Academic Honesty Policy: The student is expected to understand and comply with the college's regulations that prohibit academic dishonesty. *Plagiarism* and other forms of cheating are *not tolerated* in this class, and will result in an *"F"* for the course.

Classroom Conduct: *Civility* is required at all times. Lively debate about various issues is encouraged, but respect for divergent interpretations must be given. To avoid disrupt class, the student should *turn off and put away all cell phones, portable media players, and other personal electronic devices before the class starts*. Restrain from web-surfing, text messaging, filming, chatting and other distractions from the duration of the class. Also, please be seated in the classroom before the class starts. *Frequent lateness is not a behavior of civility*.

Student Email: Emails are to be used *for short messages only*. *The instructor does not accept assignments via email*. Please regularly check your student email for any messages that may be sent regarding class issues. When contacting the instructor by email, *please use your MyMc account and indicate your name/class, and check the instructor's response*, which should come within 48 business hours.

Support Services: Student who has a disability might want to contact the Disability Support Office and to obtain an authorizing letter for accommodation. Please feel free to talk to the instructor in regard to necessary arrangements.

Important Student Information Link:

In addition to course requirements and objectives those are in the syllabus. Montgomery College has its website (see the link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to area that pertain to the following: student behavior (Student Code of Conduct), student email, the tobacco free policy, withdrawal and refund dates, disability supporting services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery Alert system, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your class. If you have any questions, please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like to have a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

<http://cmcs.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus>

Course Schedule:

Week 1	Introduction to the Course Pre-history Ch. 1
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Week 2	The Age of Philosophers Ch. 2
Week 3	The Qin and the Han Ch. 3
Week 4	The Arrival of Buddhism in China Ch. 4
Week 5	Short essay due The Sui and the Tang Ch. 5
Week 6	The Song Ch. 8
Week 7	Mid-term Early Korea Ch. 6 Early Japan Ch. 7
Week 8	Heian Japan Ch. 7 Koryo Korea Ch. 10
Week 9	Book Review due Kamakura Japan Ch. 11
Week 10	The Yuan Ch. 12 Japan's Middle Age Ch. 13 Choson Korea Ch. 15
Week 11	The Ming Ch. 14
Week 12	Former Qing Ch. 16
Week 13	Former Qing
Week 14	Edo Japan Ch. 17
Week 15	Arrival of the Modern West in East Asia
Week 16	Final Exam (TBA)