

**Old Dominion University**  
**Department of History**  
**101H: Interpreting the Asian Past**  
**Fall 2018: M/W/F, 9-9:50 AM and 10-10:50AM**

**Instructor:** Nicholas Abbott

**Office:** BAL 8010

**Office Hours:** M,W 2-3 PM, or by appointment

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**Course Description:**

This course surveys the interconnected histories of South, Southeast, and East Asia and their linkages with the wider world, from the advent of agriculture to the present day. The course is not designed to be a comprehensive examination of Asian history; rather, it seeks to familiarize students with some of its Asia's diverse religious and cultural traditions, the broad historical outlines of each of its major sub-regions, and some of the myriad roles of played by Asian peoples in world history.

**Course Objectives:**

- To familiarize students with the physical, political, and cultural geography of South, Southeast and East Asia
- To provide an overview of these regions' distinct and interconnected histories
- To illustrate some of the ways in which Asian peoples have shaped world history
- To develop methods of historical analysis through interpretation of primary sources and contemporary film narratives

**Required Texts:**

- Qiu Jin Hailstork, et al, *Interpreting the Asian Past*, Kendall Hunt, ISBN-13: 978-0757590122, ISBN-10: 0757590128 [**IAP**]

\*Additional primary source readings will be posted to Blackboard and distributed in class

**Course Requirements:**

Successful completion of this course requires regularly attending class lectures and participating in classroom discussion, reading all assigned textbooks and additional primary sources thoroughly and completely, completing all homework and reading summaries, and earning passing grades on the three exams and film paper.

**Grade Distribution:**

Grading is out of 1000 possible points

Homework, Reading Summaries	15% (150 pts: 15 at 10 pts ea.)
Exams	30% (300 pts: 3 at 100 pts ea.)
Film Paper	25% (250 pts)
Attendance	15% (100 pts)
Participation	15% (100 pts)

**Assessment and Assignment Descriptions:**

- **Homework and Reading Summaries:** Students are responsible for completing twelve homework assignments over the course the semester in which they will write one-to-two pages of typed, single-spaced notes on the assigned textbook readings and upload them to Blackboard by the beginning of class on the date indicated in the schedule below. For example, the first homework assignment, due by class time on Wed., 9/5, will consist of notes taken on pages 2-16 and 29-38 of the textbook. Notes can be in whatever format best suits the student's individual learning style but they should focus on main ideas and should cover the entire reading.

Submissions to Blackboard should be saved as a Word file (.doc/docx) or as .PDF file. **Assignments submitted as Google docs will NOT be accepted.**

In addition, students are required to submit, **in class and in hardcopy**, three typed, double-spaced summaries of primary sources on the day they are discussed in class (see schedule below). Students will write one paragraph for each of the day's readings, summarizing the reading's main ideas and/or its author's/authors' main points. Thus, for example, if two readings are assigned that day, the summary will consist of two paragraphs; if three readings, then three paragraphs will be required. Primary source readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Late homework will be accepted for **half credit** after the due date. **No late reading summaries will be accepted.**

- **Exams:** The three exams will be administered in class and will consist of maps, matching exercises, multiple choice questions, and short-answer identifications. Study guides will be distributed in class prior to each exam date. The date of the first exam is **Friday, 9/21**; the second exam is **Friday, 10/26**; and the third and final exam

is **Monday, 12/10 (9AM) or Wednesday, 12/12 (10AM) at 8:30AM** in our regularly scheduled classroom. **No make-up exams will be given without documentation.**

- **Film Paper:** Students will write a paper of 1500-2000 words (**five-to-seven double-spaced, typed pages**) on a film—chosen either from a list of pre-selected films or by the student in consultation with the instructor—that deals with an aspect of Asian history. The paper will consist of **three** distinct parts. Following an introductory paragraph, **the first part (one page or less)** will summarize the plot of the film. **The second part (two-to-three pages)** will—**using at least five books or scholarly articles, cited in footnotes according to the Chicago Manual of Style**—discuss the relative historical accuracy of the film’s depiction of its particular historical period, subject, setting, etc. **The third part (two-to-three pages)** will analyze what the film is trying to say about its particular historical period, subject, setting, etc., and will address how the film’s relative historical accuracy (or inaccuracy) impacts that message. A final concluding paragraph will summarize the paper and suggest how the film’s depiction of its particular historical period/subject/setting might affect how audiences understand that history.

Students are responsible for meeting two deadlines prior to the submission of the final paper on **Friday, 11/30**. For the first deadline, **Friday, 10/19** students must sign up for the film on which they will write their papers by writing their names next to their chosen film on the online list. A link to the sign-up sheet will be distributed via email later in the semester. Students wishing to write on a film that is not on the pre-approved list must get approval from the instructor prior to the sign-up date. For the second deadline, **Friday, 11/9**, students will submit, as a hardcopy and in class, a short list of the film’s primary historical subject(s) and a bibliography (using Chicago Manual of Style format) of at least five books or scholarly articles the student plans to consult for the second part of the paper. If necessary, students may be asked to submit a revised description of the film’s subject(s) and/or bibliography. **Failure to meet either deadline on time will result in a deduction of up to 25 points from the final paper grade.**

The final paper should be submitted both to Blackboard and in hardcopy by the beginning of class on **Friday, 11/30**. It should be 1.) double-spaced; 2.) written in 12pt Times New Roman font or a near equivalent; 3.) have page numbers; and 4.) contain a **single-spaced** heading as follows:

Your Name  
 HIS 101H, MWF, 9/10 AM  
 Film Paper: *Title of the Film*

Hardcopies **must be stapled** in the upper-lefthand corner. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a deduction of up to 25 points from the final paper grade.**

Submissions to Blackboard should be saved as a Word file (.doc/docx) or as .PDF file. **Assignments submitted as Google docs will NOT be accepted.**

No late papers will be accepted after **Friday, 12/7** and ten points will be deducted per day for papers submitted after the due date.

Papers will be evaluated in terms of:

- **Organization:** Is the paper organized according to the above guidelines? Are its paragraphs constructed around a single idea? Does it use transitions effectively between paragraphs and sections?
- **Content:** Has the student met each incremental deadline? Does the paper contain each required part? Is each part the required length? Does it contain the required content?
- **Analysis:** Does the paper use the required number and kind of secondary sources to evaluate the historical accuracy of the film? Does the paper give specific examples of accuracies and/or inaccuracies? Does it connect those accuracies and/or inaccuracies thoughtfully to the film's message about its particular historical period, subject, setting, etc.?
- **Mechanics:** Is the essay free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors? Does it cite its secondary sources in footnotes according to the Chicago Manual of Style? Is the paper formatted according to the above guidelines?
- **Style:** Is the paper written clearly, intelligibly, and formally?
- **Attendance:** To receive full credit for attendance, students must attend each class. Students will be permitted **ONE** unexcused absence; **each additional absence without prior approval from the instructor and/or subsequent documentation will result in the deduction of one percent from your final grade. SIX OR MORE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES WILL RESULT IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE "F" FOR THE CLASS.**
- **Participation:** To receive full participation points, students must participate actively in class. Active participation entails coming to class having read all assigned readings carefully and in full; remaining engaged and attentive throughout lecture; asking and answering questions; and contributing voluntarily to classroom discussion.

#### **Policies:**

- **Decorum:** Students should make a point to arrive on time. If you have to arrive late or leave early, please enter or exit the room quietly and avoid disrupting lecture or

classroom discussion. **Rude, disrespectful, or disruptive language or behavior will not be tolerated.** Students who fail to abide by these rules will be asked to leave and will forfeit the day's attendance and participation points.

- **Electronic Devices:** Cell phones should remain silenced and put away for the **ENTIRETY** of class. This includes earbuds and headphones. **Students who have their phones out and/or are wearing earbuds or headphones in class will forfeit all of their attendance AND participation points for that day.** Students MAY use tablets and/or laptop computers to take notes. However, if I see that they are being used for anything other than note-taking, I will ask them to be put away.
- **Email Etiquette:** Courteous email communication is critical to academic and professional success. I strongly encourage students to email me promptly with any questions or concerns but I insist that you do so in a polite and formal manner. **Rude or slapdash emails will not receive a response.** These include: emails beginning with the word "Hey" or written with text message informality or spellings; emails written with run-on sentences, spelling and/or grammatical errors, and/or numerous typos; or emails containing no information in the subject line or line breaks in blocks of text. Additionally, make sure to consult the syllabus before sending an email; answers to many potential questions are contained inside. If you have read this far, send me an email with a YouTube link to your current favorite song and receive ten points of extra credit.

A template you can follow for email communication with me and other instructors:

Subject line: Question about this week's readings  
**[Have a clear subject for your email]**

Body of the email:

Dear Dr./Prof. So-and-so  
**[Use formal titles]**

My name is ... and I am a student in your ... class.  
**[Introduce yourself and, if relevant, your relationship to the recipient. This is especially important the first time you email the recipient. After the first email, this is not necessary.]**

I am writing because...  
**[Explain your question and/or concern clearly and succinctly.]**

Could you please...?  
**[Explain clearly and politely what you want the recipient to do for you.]**

Thank you. I appreciate your assistance/consideration/etc.

[Thank the recipient]

Sincerely,  
Your Name

**[Make sure there are line breaks between each section. If sections run long, consider breaking them into multiple paragraphs. Avoid paragraphs of more than four or five lines; they are difficult to read. Most importantly: PROOFREAD BEFORE SENDING!]**

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failure of the course. The ODU catalogue defines plagiarism as follows: “A student will have committed plagiarism if he or she produces someone else’s work without acknowledging its source; or if a source is cited which the student has not cited or used. Examples of plagiarism include: submitting a research paper obtained from a commercial research service, the Internet, or from another student as if it were original work; making simple changes to borrowed materials while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact; or copying material from a source, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more of the members of the group does none of the group’s work and participates in none of the group’s activities, but attempts to take credit for the work group.” If you have questions or concerns about plagiarism, please see me BEFORE submitting dubious work. **When in doubt, indicate language that is not your own with quotation marks and cite ALL sources used in your work.**

\*\*\***Note on Accessibility:** If you have a disability that will affect your access to and/or participation in any aspect of this class, please provide me with an accommodation letter from the Office of Educational Accessibility (OEA) so that any and all necessary arrangements can be made. The OEA is located at 1021 Student Success Center and can be contacted at (757) 683-4655 and <http://www.odu.edu/educationalaccessibility/>. Additionally, if you have any other concerns about your participation or performance in the class, please feel free to discuss them with me.

**Class Schedule**<sup>1</sup>**NB:** Assignments are due the date under which they are indicated.

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Monday, 8/27</b>	<b>Wednesday, 8/29</b>	<b>Friday, 8/31</b>
	Course Introduction	Geography of Asia (IAP, 2-6)	IVC and the Aryans (IAP, 29-38)
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>Monday, 9/3</b>	<b>Wednesday, 9/5</b>	<b>Friday, 9/7</b>
	<b>No Class: Labor Day</b>	South Asia's Religious Traditions (IAP, 7-16)	The Shang and Zhou (IAP, 45-54)
		<b>Homework #1: IAP, 2-16, 29-38 (BB)</b>	<b>Homework #2: IAP, 17-23, 45-54 (BB)</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>Monday, 9/10</b>	<b>Wednesday, 9/12</b>	<b>Friday, 9/14</b>
	East Asia's Religious Traditions (IAP, 17-23)	Readings: Asia's Religious Traditions	The Mauryan Empire and Medieval India (IAP, 38-42, 63-72)
	<b>Homework #3: IAP, 38-42, 63-72 (BB)</b>	<b>Reading Summary #1 (In class)</b>	
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>Monday, 9/17</b>	<b>Wednesday, 9/19</b>	<b>Friday, 9/21</b>
	The Qin and Han (IAP, 54-60)	The Tang (IAP, 79-84)	<b>Exam 1</b>
	<b>Homework #4: IAP, 54-60, 79-84 (BB)</b>		
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Monday, 9/24</b>	<b>Wednesday, 9/26</b>	<b>Friday, 9/28</b>
	Origins and Expansion of Islam (IAP, 23-26, 72-73)	The Delhi Sultanate and Vijayanagara (IAP, 73-75)	Readings: Islam in Asia
	<b>Homework #5: IAP, 23-26, 72-75, 139-45 (BB)</b>		<b>Reading Summary #2 (In class)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Schedule subject to change.

<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Monday, 10/1</b>	<b>Wednesday, 10/3</b>	<b>Friday, 10/5</b>
	The Mongols (IAP, 139-45)	<b>No Lecture</b> (In-class film: <i>Mongol</i> )	<b>No Lecture</b> (In-class film: <i>Mongol</i> )
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Monday, 10/8</b>	<b>Wednesday, 10/10</b>	<b>Friday, 10/12</b>
	<b>No Class: Fall Break</b>	Film Discussion	<b>No Class</b>  <b>Homework #6: IAP, 125-37 (BB)</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Monday, 10/15</b>	<b>Wednesday, 10/17</b>	<b>Friday, 10/19</b>
	Japan to 1600 (IAP, 95-120)	SE Asia to 1500 (IAP, 125-37)  <b>Homework #7: IAP, 125-37, 81-92 (BB)</b>	The Mughals (IAP, 181-92)  <b>Film Paper: Sign-up Sheet</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>Monday, 10/22</b>	<b>Wednesday, 10/24</b>	<b>Friday, 10/26</b>
	The Ming (IAP, 145-53)  <b>Homework #8: IAP, 145-59 (BB)</b>	The Qing (IAP, 153-59)	<b>Exam 2</b>
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>Monday, 10/29</b>	<b>Wednesday, 10/31</b>	<b>Friday, 11/2</b>
	European Expansion (IAP, 192-96)  <b>Homework #9: IAP, 192-202 (BB)</b>	The Company Raj (IAP, 196-202)	Readings: English Education Debates  <b>Reading Summary #3 (In class)</b>
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>Monday, 11/5</b>	<b>Wednesday, 11/7</b>	<b>Friday, 11/9</b>
	Colonialism in SE Asia (IAP, 163-79)  <b>Homework #10: IAP, 163-79, 207-27 (BB)</b>	The Opium Wars (IAP, 207-18)	The End of the Qing and Republican China (IAP, 218-27)  <b>Film Essay: Topics List and Bibliography (In-class)</b>



<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Monday, 11/12</b>	<b>Wednesday, 11/14</b>	<b>Friday, 11/16</b>
	The Tokugawa and Meiji Restoration (IAP, 229-44)  <b>Homework #11: IAP, 229-76 (BB)</b>	Japanese Imperialism and WWII in Asia (IAP, 247-76)	Japanese Imperialism and WWII in Asia (Cont.)
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Monday, 11/19</b>	<b>Wednesday, 11/21</b>	<b>Friday, 11/23</b>
	Nationalism in India (IAP, 279-83)	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving</b>	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving</b>
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>Monday, 11/26</b>	<b>Wednesday, 11/28</b>	<b>Friday, 11/30</b>
	Mao's China (IAP, 302-6)  <b>Homework #12: IAP, 279-306 (BB)</b>	The Cold War: Korea and Vietnam	Decolonization in SE Asia (IAP, 288-94)  <b>Film Paper (In class and BB)</b>
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Monday, 12/3</b>	<b>Wednesday, 12/5</b>	<b>Friday, 12/7</b>
	South Asia since Independence	The "Miracle" Economies and the "Asian Century" (IAP, 306-18)	Review
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>Monday, 12/10</b>	<b>Wednesday, 12/12</b>	
	<b>Final Exam (9AM): 8:30-11:30AM</b>	<b>Final Exam (10AM): 8:30-11:30AM</b>	