



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

September 2000

REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

January 2026

COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval):

May 2031

Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: HIST 115		Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: Traditional East Asian Civilizations Course Short Title: Trad East Asian Civilizations															
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities		Department/School: History													
Calendar Description: Examines the history and cultural traditions of East Asia from ancient times to about 1600 with an emphasis on China and Japan. Students study some of the ideas, narratives, events, and dynamics that shaped East Asian societies before the modern age.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		None.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None.													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None.													
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Annually Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"><tr><td>Lecture/seminar</td><td>45</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total hours</td><td>45</td></tr></table>		Lecture/seminar	45									Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	45														
Total hours	45														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No		Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: No <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: February 7, 2025													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: March 14, 2025													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: May 23, 2025													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the distinguishing features of different cultures and civilizations in pre-modern East Asia.
2. Explain key cultural concepts in traditional East Asia.
3. Describe themes and issues related to the history in question.
4. Reference written and visual sources from East Asian history.
5. Connect sources conveying different perspectives to answer socio-historical questions that are relevant to the region and the larger world.
6. Illustrate claims and interpretations of issues in East Asian history.
7. Employ evidence to support or question arguments.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	35%	Assignments:	30%	%
Quizzes/tests/midterm:	20%	Holistic assessment:	15%	%

Details:

Assignments: 4 short essays on primary and secondary sources (30%)

Holistic assessments include in-class contributions and presentation

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Teaching will be conducted with a combination of lectures and small group discussion. Visual materials, such as painting and video, will be introduced. Apart from reading the basic textbooks, students will also be encouraged to interpret history from literary sources.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
<i>Chapters and excerpts within fair use from the following:</i>			
1. Other	Sima Qian and Raymond S. Dawson	The First Emperor: Selections from the Historical Records, Oxford University Press	2007
2. Other	Stephen Owen	An Anthology of Chinese Literature: Beginnings to 1911, W. W. Norton	1996
3. Other	Wendy Swartz, et al. eds.	Early Medieval China: A Sourcebook, Columbia University Press	2014
4. Other	Marvin Marcus, ed.	Japanese Literature: From Murasaki to Murakami, Columbia University Press	2015
5. Other	Keller Kimbrough and Haruo Shirane, eds.	Monsters, Animals, and Other Worlds: A Collection of Short Medieval Japanese Tales, Columbia University Press	2018
6. Other	Wm. Theodore de Bary, et al. eds.	Sources of East Asian Tradition, vol. 1, Columbia University Press	2008

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

Course Content and Topics

Unit 1: Formation of a civilization in China

- Early China
- Ideas in ancient China
- Qin unification
- Han empire
- Divided realm after the Han

Unit 2: Divergent historical paths?

- Early Japan and Korea
- Narrative, ritual, and monarch in ancient Japan
- Medieval Japan
- Gender in traditional East Asia
- Late Imperial China
- Towards early modernity in Japan