

## Eastern Civilization 2018 Syllabus

Dr. Steven A. Martin

**Course description:** Civilization of Persia, Islam, India, China, Japan and Korea; development of political, economic, social, and cultural thinking; the dawn of Eastern philosophy; epoch of changes through western civilization and its influence on social systems and philosophy of the East, and Eastern civilization's adaptation towards globalization; the Impact of Islamic, Indian, and Chinese civilizations on other Far East countries

	<b>Items/content</b>	<b>Teaching and learning activities /teaching materials</b>
01	Instructor and student introductions; Review course description and discuss course objectives; Introduction of Project-Based Learning (PBL) and other approaches to learning; Introduction to the course themes and topics, including academic terms and concepts employed in the study of civilization.	In-class activity: Students share their current experiences and understanding of Eastern Civilization; Instructor shares relevant academic background and personal experiences in the field of study.
02	Overview of Eastern civilization with emphasis on early regional centers of agriculture and trade; Review of key archaeological sites and dates across the region; Discussion of student independent study projects (i.e. midterm papers), including a review of appropriate topics, word count, formatting and the use of references.	Activity: Students are provided access to academic materials and resources relevant to research paper writing; Handouts and guides are provided outlining APA format; Referencing assignment is explained and assigned as homework. Research paper development is ongoing throughout the term.
03	Persia: development of early civilization in the region, including archaeological sites, agriculture and the development of early cities, language and writing systems; The sphere of Greek influence with emphasis on Alexander the Great and the empire's impact on the East; The introduction and success of Islam in the region.	Activity: Students share and discuss their understanding of the Persian Empire, the life of Alexander the Great, and the events leading to the arrival of Islam and the formation of Iran and a modern state. Lecture provides learning materials, PowerPoint presentation and short video clips and photos.
04	Islam: The development of Islam as an Abrahamic religion and the influence of Islamic culture on the East, including South Asia and Western China; Islam in the context of Eastern culture and thought.	Activity: Students share their understanding of Islam and provide examples for group discussion; Lecturer presents PowerPoint, short video clips, and shares personal experience of travel in the Islamic realm, including the Middle East, Pakistan, Western China.
05	India: Indus River Valley Civilization; review of archaeological sites in the region with emphasis on Harappan cultural development and timeline; Development and spread of Hinduism, Jainism, Caravaka, and Buddhism in the region; Review of early literature and philosophy in the region, including the Vedas, Upanishads and Mahabharata.	Activity: Students examine their current perceptions of Indian culture, including origins and the Indianization of Eastern culture and thought; Lecturer shares PowerPoint, photos and personal experience of traveling to sites along the Indus River, Harappa, Taxila, and Gandhara.

06	India: Gandhara, Taxila, and Greek influence in the region; The development of Mahayana Buddhism, including art, literature and education.	Activity: Students examine their current perceptions of Gandhara, Taxila, and Greek influence on Eastern culture and thought; Lecturer shares PowerPoint, photos and personal experience of traveling to sites at Taxila, and Gandhara; Class discussion on the fundamental differences between Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism.
07	India: Survey of four outstanding empires; The Mauryan Empire (324-185 BCE) the great expansion of Indian Buddhism; The Kushan Empire (30-375 CE) and the art and culture of Gandhara; The Gupta Empire (320-600 CE) and the golden age of India; The Mughal Empire (1526-1857) and Islamic imperial power of the Indian subcontinent	Activity: In class discussion on great empires of India; Lecturer shares PowerPoint slides and short videos; In-class map-making activity to illustrate the location and reach of each empire.
08	India: Introduction to the <i>Scheduled Tribes</i> of India; Discussion and clarification of student independent study projects (i.e. midterm papers) focused on required criteria, such as appropriate topics, word count, formatting and the use of references.	Activity: Students work in small groups and gather information of the various ethnic groups in India, including where they live and the issues they face today; Class discussion on midterm paper assignment; Lecturer provides example of outstanding papers and works which are below standard; Students are provided time to ask questions regarding their term papers.
09	Midterm exam period: Project-Based Learning (PBL) assignment (i.e. no scheduled exam). Students write term papers on assigned topics in Eastern Civilization in line with the course curriculum and syllabus. For example, the Scheduled Tribes of India or other topic areas generated by the course instructor based on appropriate content.	Guidelines and criteria for the final paper provided online and made available in advance in order to allow time for topic selection and exploration. Appropriate support for paper outlines and reference requirements ongoing throughout the term.
10	China: Historical overview of the region from the Neolithic; Review of archaeological sites in the region with emphasis on cultural development and timelines. Discussion on Longshan, Da Wen Kuo, Hemudu cultural periods; Civilization in the Chinese context and as a Han construct; Discussion on "How and when did China become Chinese?"	Activity: Students brainstorm topics in small groups for their final papers; In-class discussion on how and when the region became Chinese; Lecturer provides PowerPoint slides and personal experiences to archaeological sites in China.
11	China: A review of the pragmatic and syncretic nature of Chinese culture and thought across time; The Confucius/Mencius tradition; Taoism as a truly Chinese homegrown way of life; The transformation of Indian Buddhism to Chinese Buddhism; A review of early Chinese literature.	Activity: Students examine their own perceptions of Confucius (including his life), Mencius, and Zhu Xi; Movie review on the life of Confucius; Students examine their current perceptions of Laozi and Zhuangzi; Students search the internet and present findings on the three great persecutions of Buddhism and discuss how these events led to the

		development of a distinctly Chinese approach to Buddhism; Lecturer provides key concepts by PowerPoint.
12	China: Special topics on the Silk Road; trade, religion and cultural exchange; Early Chinese explorers, Buddhist monks and western merchants; Silk Road literature; the journals of Xuan Zang and Marco Polo; Buddhism, Christianity and Islam on the Silk Road.	Activity: In-class map making exercise on the Silk Road following the instructor's PowerPoint presentation, personal experience and discussion on selected topic and key location across China. Students will have time to ask questions, discuss, and complete their maps in class.
13	China: Special topics on The Great Wall; The Great Wall in the context of civilization; History and philosophy of the Great Wall.	Activity: In-class map making exercise on the Great Wall following the instructor's PowerPoint presentation, personal experience and discussion on select topics and key outposts along the Wall. Students will have time to ask questions, discuss, and complete their maps in class.
14	Taiwan: Historical overview of the island from the Neolithic; Survey of the island with emphasis key historical periods (e.g. Dutch, Koxinger, Qing, Japanese, Nationalist and Democratic); Survey of indigenous peoples, including theories of their origins, including the development and spread of Austronesian languages based on evidence of material culture, linguistics, and genetics.	Activity: Students share their understanding of Taiwan's history and provide examples for group discussion; Lecturer presents PowerPoint, short video clips, and shares personal experience in Taiwan, including numerous research publication available online.
15	Japan: Historical overview; Survey of key periods and events, including influences from regional and foreign powers; Review of the Feudal Age, modernization and imperialism.	Activity: Students share their understanding of Japanese history and provide examples for group discussion; Lecturer presents PowerPoint, short video clips, and shares personal experience in Japan.
16	Korea: Historical overview; Survey of key periods and events, including influences from regional and foreign powers; North and South Korea in comparative context; Course review and discussion; Summary of topics covered in during the semester; Discuss final papers and due dates.	Activity: Students share their understanding of Korean history, including the division of South and North Korea, and provide examples for group discussion; Lecturer presents PowerPoint, short video clips, and shares personal experience in South Korea.
17	Final exam period: Project-Based Learning (PBL) assignment (i.e. no scheduled exam); Students write final papers on assigned topics in Eastern Civilization, such as the Archaeological Sites of China, Taiwan, Japan and Korea or other topic areas generated by the course instructor based on appropriate content.	Guidelines and criteria for final papers is provided by the course instructor and is made available to students on the first day of class; Appropriate topics and support for paper outlines and reference requirements is ongoing throughout the term; Lecture will provide case examples.