

EA 150 A – Foundations in East Asian Studies

Colby College

Fall Semester 2021

Instructor: Dr. Viktor Shmagin

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Class time: Mon, Wed 14:30 – 15:45

Class location: Lovejoy 212

Office hours:

M, W, 13:00 - 14:00, 16:00 - 17:00

Tu 13:00 - 15:00

Office: Lovejoy 427

Format: Seminar. Face-to-face.

If you are diagnosed with Covid-19, please email me at your earliest opportunity. We will find a way for you to continue with the classwork.

With the exception of the required text (*Sources of East Asian Tradition*, Vol. 1), all course materials are to be found on the course Moodle page. You will submit assignments there by uploading them, unless otherwise instructed. Research resources (such as JSTOR, others) are available through the Colby College Libraries homepage <https://www.colby.edu/libraries/>

Statement of purpose

What exactly is “East Asian” about East Asian culture? Really, think about it. Is the culture geographically bounded? Is there a stable East Asian cultural core? What roles do race and ethnicity play here? The best place to start is by exploring texts that have come to form an East Asian canon of knowledge. As East Asia gains prominence in our global community today, its traditions hold greater meaning and significance for understanding the foundations of our world. The “texts” you will be studying include written translated documents, such as philosophical treatises, political documents, and novels, as well as materials and visual objects, such as bronze vessels, paintings, and maps. As we learn how to “read” and East Asian historical text, we will explore broad themes from a comparative perspective, looking at correspondences and reactions across time and space (ie. historically and regionally).

Your work in this course will serve as a foundation for a major or minor in East Asian Studies, and completion of this class is required for these. We work extensively on written and oral communication skills in this class. We begin with the early ritual traditions of Chinese Bronze Age civilization, Korean Shamanism, and Japanese Shinto. We will then turn to the classical philosophies of Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism, and Buddhism. The third segment of the course looks at how subsequent texts built upon and responded to these very early works. Students will conclude the course by completing a research project prospectus on the use of East Asian canonical texts in today's world and presenting their findings to the class. Effort and deep engagement with the material, and with each other as scholars and partners in learning, is what counts in this class. Just give it your best; you will do well.

What Will Happen in this Course? (ie. learning objectives!)

- You will gain a critical perspective on the canon of East Asian textual traditions. This foundation will provide a point of departure for navigating future studies, social situations, and physical spaces.
- You will engage analytically with primary documents and acquire strategies for turning curiosity into deep learning and creative action.
- You will deploy questioning skills in the service of research.
- You will develop greater open-mindedness as you engage with other cultures, times, people, and customs.

Course texts

- Wm. Theodore de Bary, ed. *Sources of East Asian Tradition, Volume 1*. Columbia University Press, 2008. (Hereafter SEAT)

Course components and grading

- Attendance
As a college student, you are expected to attend every class. That being said, sometimes things happen. If you are unable to attend class for a reason beyond your control, let me know as soon as you can so that your absence can be excused. Three unexcused absences result in a 5% grade reduction, four in 10%. After five absences you will be unable to pass the course.
- In-class participation (25%)
You are all colleagues for the duration of this course, and that means engaging with each other's ideas is a must. You will engage in discussion and will complete various in-class activities and group activities. Your performance will be judged on a scale of 1-4 every

day. Participation is what counts here, not necessarily having “right” answers (as we shall see, “right” answers are dubious in any case). Unexcused absences will result in a grade of 0 for the day. If you miss a class due to an excused absence, the participation score from your next class will also be applied to the class you missed, and if you miss the last class of the semester due to an excused absence, the participation score from the last class you attended will be applied to the class you missed.

- Class preparation (pop quizzes) (10%)

You must be thoroughly prepared to participate in class. This means reading carefully and taking notes. To help keep you on track in this regard, you will, from time to time, be given unannounced quizzes at the start of the class. These will be open notes, but not open book, judged on a scale of 1-5. A failing grade on one of these quizzes (2 or below) will also result in your class participation grade being capped at 2 for that day. Unexcused absences for the quiz will result in a grade of 0. If you miss a quiz due to an excused absence, the score from your next quiz will also be applied to the quiz you missed, and if you miss the last quiz of the semester due to an excused absence, the quiz score from the last quiz you completed will be applied to the quiz you missed.

- “Thick reading” of primary source (10%)

You will pick from a selection of East Asia – related primary sources and use it to complete a timed, at-home test. You will be evaluated on your ability to “read,” meaning to extract useful information from, primary sources. You will have to ask appropriate questions of the source, do a limited amount of background information, answer some questions and do some writing to explain the source’s significance.

- Two analytic essays (15% each)

You will write two 3-page essays that analyze the class readings. You will be given a choice of questions to answer, which you will do by developing an original thesis and effectively deploying evidence from the assigned texts in support of your arguments. Detailed instructions will be provided on the course webpage.

- Research project (25%)

The assigned materials for this course include very few modern texts, but of course the East Asian canon includes many. Thus, you will pick a modern canonical East Asian text (you can pick one from a list that will be provided to you, or talk to me about choosing one of your own) and analyze how it is in dialogue with the older canon. This project will introduce you to the kinds of research and writing that you will encounter in future courses, especially in East Asian Studies courses. You will improve your resource management skills, read a range of supporting materials, and develop an argument. You will turn in a prospectus and present your finding during the final exam period (late

submissions of the final project will not be accepted).

- Extra credit

Attendance at Asia-related events on the Colby campus may also be factored into your grade. You are encouraged to attend as many events as possible (they will be announced in class and posted on the course webpage. Instructions for completing assignment related to these events will be provided.

Late assignments

Unless indicated otherwise, late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day, and I will not accept assignments more than three days late.

Academic honesty

Academic honesty is expected of all Colby College students. Conversely, dishonest practices carry serious consequences, including failure of the course and possible suspension or expulsion. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, cheating on exams, and other practices, some of which may even be accidental (though you will still be held accountable). Please familiarize yourself with the definition of academic honesty at <http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/academic-honesty/> and learn how to avoid plagiarism at <http://libguides.colby.edu/avoidingplagiarism>

Other matters

Please put away your phones while in class. Please print out your readings to bring to class to refer to them if they are not in SEAT, as we will have periodic quizzes. Take notes on your readings and on the discussions. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me for help with the coursework, or to talk and share ideas.

If anyone is experiencing difficulties of any kind (health, financial, emotional, etc.), please let me or someone else know. You can say as little or as much as you like, but please say something so we can help. Colby is full of resources and caring people at your disposal. Some of these people can be contacted through:

- Student Advising and Support Homepage (links for Advising, Academic Support, Access and Opportunity): <http://www.colby.edu/studentadvising/>
- Dean of College Division Homepage (tabs for Health Services, Campus Life, Counseling Services, Dean of Studies, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, others): <https://www.colby.edu/life/about/>

Statement on Diversity

Your instructor embraces this statement: “Colby has adopted the term “diverse” to describe the kind of community we hope to build and maintain on Mayflower Hill. Our definition of what constitutes diversity may—and probably should—change over time, but when we promote diversity now we are expressing our commitment to an inclusive campus community, enriched by persons of different races, genders, ethnicities, nationalities, economic backgrounds, ages, abilities, sexual orientations, and spiritual values; to ensuring equal opportunity for all who work or study here; to sustaining a climate of civility, mutual respect, and tolerance; to promoting the free and open exchange of ideas, including unpopular ideas; to an open and inclusive governing and decision-making process; and to broadly educating students for life in a complex world.” (from www.colby.edu/diversity/statement-on-diversity)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- ✧ All graded assignments that you have to complete are INDICATED IN THIS MANNER
- Read all materials indicated before the start of the class under which they are listed.
- The materials other than the SEAT readings listed below are all formatted as notes (footnotes or endnotes) in the Chicago Manual of Style format. Please use this format for all citations in your writing assignments, and also give bibliographic information for all works you use. For details see https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html

Week 1 – What Is East Asia?

- September 8 (Wednesday) – Introductions / What Is East Asia? / Map assignment handed out

Week 2 – The earliest historical record

- September 13 (Monday) – The dawn of Chinese history
 - SEAT, 13 -28.
 - “Oracle Bones Texts from Patricia Ebrey’s China Sourcebook,” Moodle, Colby College, accessed February 4, 2019.
- September 15 (Wednesday) – Early Chinese material culture [NOTE: Meet in Colby Museum lobby for class].
 - Viktor Shmagin, “Object Study Worksheet,” Moodle, Colby College, updated September 13, 2021.

- “Covered Ritual Wine Vessel (Gong),” Khan Academy, accessed September 3, 2021, <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/art-asia/imperial-china/zhou-dynasty/a/covered-ritual-wine-vessel-gong>

Week 3 – Early Korea and Japan: Prehistory, protohistory, origin myths

- September 20 (Monday) – “Korea”
 - SEAT, 485-96
 - “The Art of Asia,” Minneapolis Institute of Art, accessed September 04, 2021. <http://www.artsmia.org/art-of-asia/history/korea-neolithic-bronze-age.cfm>
[Explore the pottery under the “Neolithic and Bronze Age,” and “Three Kingdoms” tabs]
 - Paul Walsh, “Megalithic Cultures of the World: A View from South Korea,” *Archeology Ireland*, 13 no. 2 (Summer 1999), 20-23.
- September 22 (Wednesday) – “Japan”
 - SEAT, 621-39.
 - “The Dawn of Japanese History,” “Amaterasu and Susanoō,” “*Song of Myriad Leaves*,” from David Lu, ed., *Sources of Japanese History* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1973), 3-7, 39-46.
 - “Ise Jingu,” Jinguishicho (Jingu Administration Office), accessed September 03, 2021. <http://www.isejingu.or.jp/en/index.html>
[Explore the contents of all the main tabs”]

Week 4 – The Confucian tradition

- September 27 (Monday) – Life and afterlife
 - SEAT, 29-40.
 - Dorothy Ko, JaHyun Kim Haboush, and Joan R. Piggott ed., “Introduction” to *Women and Confucian Cultures in Premodern China, Korea and Japan* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003)
[Available to read online through Colby Library’s CBB portal]
- September 29 (Wednesday) – Mencius and Xunzi
 - SEAT 69-80, 92-104.
 - “Funeral banner of Lady Dai (Xin Zhui),” Khan Academy, accessed September 03, 2021, <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/south-east-se-asia/china-art/a/funeral-banner-of-lady-dai-xin-zhui>
- October 1 (Friday)
 - ✧ “THICK READING” assignment due on Moodle. Complete before 11:59pm

Week 5 – Daoist and Legalist traditions

- October 4 (Monday) – The way
 - SEAT 49-68, 134-38.
- October 6 (Wednesday) – The law
 - SEAT 106-30.
 - “Terracotta Warriors from the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor of China,” Khan Academy, accessed September 3, 2021,
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/south-east-se-asia/china-art/a/terracotta-warriors-from-the-mausoleum-of-the-first-qin-emperor-of-china>

Week 6 – Buddhism in East Asia

- October 11 (Monday) – The Origins of Buddhism
 - “Buddhist Teachings: Noble Truths and Guidance for Daily Life,” in *Documents in World History Volume I: The Great Traditions: From Ancient Times to 1500, Sixth Edition*, ed. Peter N. Stearns, Stephen S. Gosch, Erwin P. Grieshaber and Allison Scardino Belzer (Pearson, 2011), 97-101.
 - SEAT, 223-37.
- October 13 (Wednesday) – The Lotus Sutra and Esoteric Buddhism
 - SEAT 238-41, 244-56, 689-94.
 - Minneapolis Institute of Art, The Art of Asia, “The Yamantaka Mandala,” Accessed January 29, 2019,
<http://archive.artsimia.org/art-of-asia/buddhism/yamantaka-mandala.cfm>
[Explore carefully the contents of the main sections: “The Mandala,” and “The Meaning”]
- ✧ October 15 (Friday)
 - ✧ ESSAY 1 DUE uploaded to Moodle by 11:59pm

Week 7 – Developments in Buddhism

- October 18 (Monday) – FALL RECESS: NO CLASS
- October 20 (Wednesday) – Pure Land and Chan (Zen)
 - “Chapter 10: Amida and the Pure Land,” in *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, ed. Ryusaku Tsunoda et al. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958), 190-98, 203-218.
[NOTE: You are only expected to read the indicated pages in the PDF]
 - “Ryoanji,” Khan Academy, accessed September 04, 2021,

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/south-east-se-asia/japan-art/v/ryoanji-temple>

Week 8 – Premodern East Asia and the world

- October 25 (Monday) – Ordering the realm
 - SEAT, 290-300; 640-51.
 - “The Debate on Salt and Iron,” in *Chinese Civilization: a Sourcebook*, ed. Patricia Buckley Ebrey (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993), 60-63.
- October 27 (Wednesday) – Imagining the world
 - Richard A. Pegg, *Cartographic Traditions in East Asian Maps* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2014), 7-14, 35-42, 76-82.
 - “People of Many Nations,” at the World Digital Library.
<https://www.wdl.org/en/item/4353/>
 - D. Max Moerman, “Locating Japan in a Buddhist World,” in *Cartographic Japan: A History in Maps*, ed. Kären Wigen, Sugimoto Fumiko and Cary Karacas (Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press), 89-92.

Week 9 – Korean thought and statecraft

- November 1 (Monday) – NO CLASS
- November 3 (Wednesday) – Classical Korea
 - SEAT 508-512; 534-39, 573-89.

Week 10 – Classical Japan

- November 8 (Monday) – Court culture
 - Sei Shōnagon, *The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon*. Ivan Morris, ed., trans., New York: Columbia University Press, 1991, 21-25, 33-44, 52-55, 73-77, 127-28, 135-37, 253-59.
 - “Gagaku” [Japanese courtly music and dance], Unesco, Youtube, accessed January 29, 2019,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OA8HFUNflk>
- November 10 (Wednesday) – Samurai culture
 - “Introduction,” “The Jetavana Temple [Gion shōja],” “The Death of Atsumori,” “Nasu no Yoichi,” “The Drowning of Emperor Antoku in *The Tale of the Heike*,” trans. Royall Tyler (New York: Penguin Books, 2014), xix- xxxviii, 3-5, 504-06, 594-97, 609-11.
 - Heiji Monogatari Emaki (Tale of the Heiji Rebellion Picture Scroll), Princeton University, accessed September 04, 2021,
<http://digital.princeton.edu/heijiscroll/>

(Read the introductory page, then launch the Interactive Scroll Viewer and explore all of the contents of that page). [NOTE: This website does not work with all browsers. Experiment with these until it works. Chrome is fine, perhaps others. Firefox can be problematic].

- Tsuruta Kinshi, Tanaka Kakuo, Saito Kakuryu, “Dan no ura,” [voice and biwa performance], Youtube, accessed January 30, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4W9dhKgks0k>
[You should try listening to this while reading one of the other assignments]

Week 11 – Commoners’ Culture

- November 15 (Monday) – Traditional Culture
 - “The Love of a Tigress and a Man,” in *Myths and Legends from Korea: An Annotated Compendium of Ancient and Modern Materials*, ed. James H. Grayson (London and New York: Routledge, 2011), 202-04.
 - Li Chaowei, “The Dragon King’s Daughter,” In *The Dragon King’s Daughter: Ten Tang Dynasty Stories*, trans. Yang Xianyi and Gladys Yang (Silk Pagoda, 2007), 33-47.
 - “How a Priest Put the Magical Incantation of the Boddhisatva Zuigu into His Forehead,” from David Lu, ed., *Sources of Japanese History* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1973), 75.
- November 17 (Wednesday) – Popular (mass) culture [NOTE: Meet in Colby Museum lobby for class]
 - Donald Shively, “Bakufu Versus Kabuki,” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 18, No. 3 (December 1955): 326-356.
- November 19 (Friday)
 - **ESSAY 2 DUE** uploaded to Moodle by 11:59pm

Week 12 – The “Great Divergence”?

- November 22 (Monday) – TITLE
 - “The First Opium War,” Extra History, YouTube, accessed January 30, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fgQahGsYokU&list=PL3DKBb-thhxCjbiB7WUFxcuJmA0XJUTYI>
[NOTE: Watch all four episodes]
 - Lin Zexu, “Letter to the English Ruler,” in *Sources of Chinese Tradition, Vol. 2.*, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 198-205.
 - Fareed Zakaria and Lee Kuan Yew, “Culture is Destiny: a Conversation with Lee Kuan Yew,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 73, No. 2 (Mar. - Apr., 1994), pp. 109-126.

- Kim Dae Jung, "Is Culture Destiny?: The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 73, No. 6 (Nov. - Dec., 1994), pp. 189-194
- November 24 (Wednesday) – THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS

Week 13 – Research project workshops

- November 29 (Monday) – In-class workshop
- December 1 (Wednesday) – In-class workshop

Week 14 – Research project workshop

- December 6 (Monday) – In-class workshop
- December 8 (Wednesday) – In-class workshop and wrap-up

Final Exam Period – Presentations

- Date and time TBA
 - ✧ FINAL PRESENTATIONS
 - ✧ RESEARCH PROSPECTUS due uploaded to Moodle by presentation time.

Useful resources

- EA 150 research guide. Karen Gillum, Colby's East Asian specialist librarian, has put together some great research guides, including one for the course. Please consult it to get background information on course topics, and to further explore areas of interest.
<http://libguides.colby.edu/c.php?g=29978&p=187386>
 Karen Gillum is also happy to meet with you one-on-one to talk about any aspect of your research. Please do not hesitate to email her at kjgillum@colby.edu
- Also very useful are the following EAS-relevant research guides.
 - Getting Started (do consult this one as well):
<http://libguides.colby.edu/c.php?g=29978&p=187364>
 - News (including searchable backlog archive):
<http://libguides.colby.edu/ea/news>
 - Japanese Literature:
<http://libguides.colby.edu/c.php?g=29978&p=187383>
 - Chinese Literature:
<http://libguides.colby.edu/c.php?g=29978&p=187384>
 - Film, Art & Music: <http://libguides.colby.edu/ea/films>
 - Philosophy & Religion:
libguides.colby.edu/c.php?g=29978&p=187379

- Data and Primary Sources (some excellent sources, including US government documents on relations with Japan, Korea, and China)
<http://libguides.colby.edu/c.php?g=29978&p=187382>
- The East Asian Studies department homepage. You will find information related to the EAS major and minor, courses, EAS faculty and their work, Asia-related events and more.
<http://www.colby.edu/eastasianstudies/>
- The Farnham Writer's Center can help you with any part of your writing. Please do not hesitate to contact them for advice or help. <http://web.colby.edu/farnham-writerscenter/>
- Study abroad is an immensely rewarding experience, and especially recommended for history majors, minors, and anyone interested in Japan, or any part of the world. Please consult the Off-Campus Study office webpage for resources and advice.
<https://www.colby.edu/offcampus/types-of-ocs-programs/>