

## **HILD 10: EAST ASIA: THE GREAT TRADITION EARLY HISTORY AND CULTURES OF CHINA, KOREA, & JAPAN**

**Lecture:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. 1:00-1:50, Peterson Hall 110

**Professor:** Dr. S. Schneewind

Phone: (858) 822-0814

This course introduces the main threads of East Asian civilization. The first half narrates the basic history of Korea, Japan, and China to about the year 1200, including the invention of writing; the roles of religion, politics, and warfare in the creation of increasingly organized states; major cultural developments; and the interactions of the three countries. The second half proceeds topically to explore the major East Asian religious and philosophical traditions (Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism); the economy and the family; technology and poetry. Lecture will include some visual material showing the art of the periods under discussion. As well as the textbook, course readings include a coursepack of primary sources from the three countries translated into English as a way to hear the voices of the past directly. 2-page reaction papers on the primary source readings will be due in discussion section most weeks. Time for review is built into the course. Study guides will be available for many readings on WebCT.

### **Required Books**

Available at the campus bookstore. But check Amazon.com for cheap used copies!

1. Patricia Ebrey, et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* – We read the first 10 chapters only; the rest of the book is covered in HILD 11 and 12.
2. Coursepack, with required primary sources in translation and required secondary scholarship. Many of these readings are very short; a couple are up to about 10 pp. There are reading guides for many of them on WebCT.
3. Confucius, *The Essential Analects*, translated and selected by Edward Slingerland (Hackett) This is a shortened version of *The Analects*, and we will read parts of it twice in the term.
4. Burton Watson, *Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings* (Columbia University Press) (selections) This is also available in a new edition entitled *Zhuangzi*. We will read about 40 pages of it.
5. Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources: A Guide for Students* This is a short, cheap, and useful guide that will help you in all your courses. The readings total about 100 pages per week.

### **Extra Credit Option**

Choose **one** of these, read it over the course of the term, and answer an essay question on it on the final exam.

a. Lothar Ledderose, *Ten Thousand Things: Module and Mass Production in Chinese Art*  
This would be a good choice for engineers and others interested in technology and material culture. It is a good way to learn how scholars marshal evidence to make one central argument.

b. Brett Hinsch, *Women in Early Imperial China*  
This would be a good choice for those interested in politics and ideology as well as gender and family. It also talks about daily life and law, and is mainly focussed on the Han period.

c. Lady Murasaki, *The Tale of Genji*, abridged translation by Edward Seidensticker  
This would be a good choice if you like stories and literature, or if you are interested in Japan. It is the tale of one of the greatest ladies' men ever created, and takes place in the Hei'an period.