

HH1002 ASIA-PACIFIC IN GLOBAL HISTORY: PRE-1800



Lecture: Tuesday, 15:30-17:20

Venue: LT 29

Tutorials: (T1) Tuesday, 17:30-18:20; (T2) Wednesday, 14:30-15:20; (T3) Wednesday, 15:30-16:20; (T4) Wednesday, 16:30-17:20

Venue: LT 29; LHS-TR+9

Instructor: Assistant Professor Ivy Yeh

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Office hours: By appointment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

What are the origins of the people, cultures, and civilizations of Asia-Pacific, and how do we understand those origins? The varied and complicated histories and relationships among people and societies in the modern Nation-States of China, Korea, Japan and other nearby countries are rooted in a distant past for which our only evidence comes from the material remains left behind and studied by archaeologists. This class explores those origins, and focuses on controversies that show the stakes of archaeological interpretation to political and social discourse in the modern world. We will discuss fundamental questions in the prehistory and early history of Asia-Pacific through the lens of archaeological discoveries, including human origins, the origins of agriculture, how stratified, complex societies emerged, early processes of globalization and connections across Eurasia, conflicts between centers and peripheries, connections between China, Korea and Japan in prehistory, Buddhist origins, and more. In addition to learning about the major issues in Asia-Pacific archaeology, we will explore controversies that have emerged in recent Asia-Pacific archaeological research and discuss why archaeological topics are subject to controversial interpretation and what is at stake in the disagreements. These examples illustrate the significance of ancient cultural material in the modern world and what is at stake in debates over who owns the past.

CONTENT DESCRIPTION

In *Asia-Pacific in Global History: Pre-1800*, students embark on a vicarious journey through time to revisit numerous events, historical personages, and civilizations and societies, some of which are only represented by dilapidated architectural remains. This course begins its narrative in prehistory and investigates how the earliest complex societies developed in Asia-Pacific regions, such as the Indus Valley and Yellow River region of China. The story spans hundreds of millennia from the earliest known appearance of human fossil remains through the development of societies in Asia and the Pacific up 1800 at which time different regions could be said to have become integrated into a single global system. Students begin their study from the earliest to the most recent period. This survey course will reveal a dynamic world of encounter, cooperation, conflict, interaction, and war. Students can expect to inject themselves into historical events, whether the numerous wars and conflicts between the mainland

Southeast Asian polities, the Mongols, and the Korean kingdoms, the political intrigues within the courts of Ayudhya and Xi An, or the death and destruction caused by the plague throughout 14th-century Asia and Europe.

LEARNING OUTCOME

Students will be able to create their own observations about the connections which formed across the globe before contemporary globalization, and gain an overview of the history of the world, which will prove important to understanding the world as we see it today.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed by:

Component	Weighting	Team/ Individual	
<p>1. Seminar Participation, Presentations and Discussion¹ --Presentation time: Lecture: 5 min/ group Tutorial: 30 min/ group; Q&A: 20 min --Each student has to submit one reflection (electronically) with a minimum of 100 words to an assigned teaching assistant weekly (name file as follows: firstName_reflection) – Reflection submission: by 11: 59pm every Monday to teaching assistant Wai Yee --Google sheet (students' contacts) : https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IHIDVvVKPxLXor2oY15XcRXc6P3BfqEA/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118213061396532362120&rt=pof=true&sd=true Groupings: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1WI5ZHYCdoZRABoE1zt3gEby9T3y5NMkZOWCijWBAT9Q/edit#gid=0 – Discussion slides: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1HyrUfrYDByc5O1tCW5Y4QjiiB_D5FVGVVPQ94pIRCCs/edit?usp=sharing</p>	20%	Team	
<p>2. Individual Research Project-essay A² (1,000-1,500 words) -- Secondary sources are fine -- Submit as a Word document (*.doc) and name file as follows: firstName_essayA --Deadline: 15 Sep 2022 11:59pm</p>	30%	Individual	
<p>3. Individual Research Project- essay B² (1,000-1,500) words -- Secondary sources are fine -- Submit as a Word document (*.doc) and name file as follows: firstName_essayB) --Deadline: 25 Nov 2022 11:59pm</p>	30%	Individual	

*Essay A and B should be different topics			
5. Video of archaeological/historical sites in Asia² -- The video will have to be uploaded on Youtube -- The rubrics will be 50% from the public's likeness and 50% from instructor's side (knowledge level of the archaeology, video quality, creativity) -- Length: 10 minutes (per group) -- Deadline: 3 Nov 2022 11:59pm	20%	Team	
Notes: 1. Seminar Participation, Presentations and Discussion: • Each group will get the chance to present, and be discussants (asking questions) in turn. This rotation will happen once over the whole semester. 2. Instructor will provide a list of topics where each of you are to pick a topic and that will be your topics for the whole of the semester. No limit on the number of students who can choose a certain topic.			

COURSE OUTLINE

(Aug 9) (Week 1):
Singapore National Day

(Aug 16) (Week 2):
Lecture: Human evolution and Palaeolithic Asia

Tutorial: Humans at the End of the Ice Age

Reading:

1. Liu, L., & Chen, X. (2012). Foragers and collectors in the Pleistocene-Holocene transition (24,000–9000 cal. BP). In *The Archaeology of China: From the Late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age* (Cambridge World Archaeology, pp. 42-74). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139015301.004
 2. Barnes, G. L. (2015). *Early Holocene Subsistence Patterns: (10,000–5000 years ago = 8000–3000 BC)*. In *Archaeology of East Asia: The Rise of Civilization in China, Korea and Japan* (pp. 96–125). Oxbow Books. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt19893vd.11>
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(Aug 23) (Week 3):
Lecture: Neolithic Asia (I): Neolithic Transition

Tutorial: Domestication of plants and animals

Reading:

1. Liu, L., & Chen, X. (2012). Domestication of plants and animals. In *The Archaeology of China: From the Late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age* (Cambridge World Archaeology, pp. 75-122). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139015301.005

2. Yuan Jing, Rowan Flad, and Luo Yunbing (2008). *Meat Acquisition Patterns in the Neolithic Yangzi River Valley, China*. *Antiquity* 82: 351-366
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(Aug 30) (Week 4):

Lecture: Neolithic Asia (II): Diversity and Complexity in Early Farming Communities of Asia

Group presentation: Group 1-3 (Topics will be assigned by the instructor)

Tutorial: Early Complex Societies

Reading:

1. Liu, L., & Chen, X. (2012). *Emergence of social inequality – The middle Neolithic (5000–3000 BC)*. In *The Archaeology of China: From the Late Paleolithic to the Early Bronze Age* (Cambridge World Archaeology, pp. 169-212). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9781139015301.007
 2. Sue O'Connor, « *Rethinking the Neolithic in Island Southeast Asia, with Particular Reference to the Archaeology of Timor-Leste and Sulawesi* », *Archipel*, 90 | 2015, 15-47.
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(Sept 6) (Week 5):

Lecture: Trajectories to Early States / Ancient Korea and Japan

Group presentation: Group 4-6 (Topics will be assigned by the instructor)

Tutorial: Art, Myth, and Ritual: The Path to Political Authority in Ancient China

1. Chang, K. C. (1983). SHAMANISM AND POLITICS. In *Art, Myth, and Ritual: The Path to Political Authority in Ancient China* (pp. 44–55). Harvard University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1kz4hcb.7>
 2. Chang, K. C. (1983). ART AS THE PATH TO AUTHORITY. In *Art, Myth, and Ritual: The Path to Political Authority in Ancient China* (pp. 56–80). Harvard University Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1kz4hcb.8>
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(Sept 13) (Week 6):

Lecture: Imperial China: The ancient Silk Road and the birth of merchant capitalism

Group presentation: Group 7-9 (Topics will be assigned by the instructor)

Tutorial: The Maritime Silk Roads (I)

Reading (group presentation): Group 1, 6, 11, 16

1. Christian D. *Silk Roads or Steppe Roads? The Silk Roads in World History*. *J World Hist.* 2000;11(1):1–26.
 2. Benjamin, C. (2018). *The Roman Empire and the Western Silk Roads*. In *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE – 250 CE* (New Approaches to Asian History, pp. 119-147). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781316335567.006
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(Sept 20) (Week 7): **Consultation (slots to be created)**

Recess Week: September 27, 2022

(Oct 4) (Week 8):

Lecture: **Museum trip**

Tutorial: **The Maritime Silk Roads (2)**

Reading (group presentation): 7, 12, 17

1. Benjamin, C. (2018). *Maritime Routes of the First Silk Roads Era*. In *Empires of Ancient Eurasia: The First Silk Roads Era, 100 BCE – 250 CE (New Approaches to Asian History)*, pp. 204-237. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781316335567.009
 2. MIKSIC, J. N. (2013). INTRODUCTION: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SINGAPORE: FORGOTTEN HINTS. In *Singapore and the Silk Road of the Sea, 1300–1800* (pp. 1–24). NUS Press. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1nthqk.5>
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(Oct 11) (Week 9):

Lecture: **China's Cosmopolitan Empires**

Group presentation: group 10-12 (Topics will be assigned by the instructor)

Tutorial: **An Early Age of Commerce: 10th Through 14th Centuries**

Reading (group presentation): group 2, 3, 8, 13, 18

1. Murphey, R., & Stapleton, K. (2016). *A history of Asia*. Chapter 8.
 2. Wade, Geoff. "An Early Age of Commerce in Southeast Asia, 900-1300 CE", *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* 40, 2 (2009): 221-65.
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(Oct 18) (Week 10):

Lecture: **Nephrite and Mica Industries: A Link towards the Austronesian World**

Group presentation: group 13-16 (Topics will be assigned by the instructor)

Tutorial: **The Austronesian Dispersal and the Origin of Languages**

Reading (group presentation): group 4, 9, 14, 19

1. Bellwood, P. (1984). *A Hypothesis for Austronesian Origins*. *Asian Perspectives*, 26(1), 107–117. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42928109>
 2. Bellwood, P. (2006). *Austronesian Prehistory in Southeast Asia: Homeland, Expansion and Transformation*. In P. Bellwood, J. J. Fox, & D. Tryon (Eds.), *The Austronesians: Historical and Comparative Perspectives* (pp. 103–118). ANU Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt2jbjx1.8>
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(Oct 25) (Week 11):

Lecture: **Impact of the Austronesian Expansion**

Tutorial: **Practical sessions (Paper mulberry & Tapa beater)**

(November 1) (Week 12): **Consultations (slots to be created)- feedback for essay A**

(November 8) (Week 13):

Lecture: *The Seventeenth Century: An Era of Crisis and Upheaval*

Group presentation: group 17-20 (Topics will be assigned by the instructor)

Tutorial: *The Eighteenth Century: An Era of Expansion*

Reading (group presentation): *Group 5, 10, 15, 20*

1. Murphey, R., & Stapleton, K. (2016). *A history of Asia*. Chapters 13-14.
 2. Rafael Torres-Sánchez, Pepijn Brandon & Marjolein 't Hart (2018) *War and economy. Rediscovering the eighteenth-century military entrepreneur*, *Business History*, 60:1, 4-22, DOI: 10.1080/00076791.2017.1379507
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Subject to change