

Department: History

Course Number: 205

Course Name: **Rice Fields, Imperial Palaces,  
and the Great Wall: Historical  
Landscapes of East Asia**

## **AREAS OF INQUIRY**

### **GLOBAL AND MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES**

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This form must be submitted to the Faculty Council on Liberal Learning and Academic Life as part of the submission process.

Please attach a proposed syllabus for this course and the Undergraduate Curriculum Course Proposal Form.

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DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:

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Please answer the following questions:

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#### **Check Only One:**

◇ This course is an existing course (in the current curriculum) that we are now proposing for this Area of Inquiry.

**X This is a new course that we are now proposing for this Area of Inquiry.**

1. Name and contact information for the department chair administrating this course.

**Dr. Shumet Sishagne. 594-7118; sishagne@cnu.edu**

2. In any given semester, how many sections of this course is your department willing to offer?

**Two or Three**

3. Why is this course being offered/what is it designed to achieve (Course purpose/goal) ?

**It is created to broaden the offering of Areas of Inquiry courses in the liberal learning core, in the area of Global and Multicultural Perspectives.**

4. Check the objectives below that the course will address. The first objective is required and every proposal must include at least two more objectives from the list below.

**X Examine the interactions and interrelationships among cultures, especially the relationship of marginalized to mainstream cultures (required)**

◇ Compare communication styles among cultures

**X Assess how culture impacts and informs the development of creative expression/movements, politics, economics, or philosophy**

◇ Analyze how concepts of “self” and individuals in various cultures differ and/or intersect

**X Articulate how culture influences languages, societies, and institutions**

5. Briefly explain how this class addresses the above objectives. A course may cover more than three objectives.

a.) **To achieve the first objective, the course will engage students to learn East Asian societies in a historical perspective by tracing the development of East Asian culture in the historical context of environmental, economic, social, and political dimensions and of interactions among China, Japan, and Korea in the pre-modern era and their interaction with the West in the modern era. Through the course students will gain a better understanding the interaction and interrelationships among cultures of China, Japan, and Korea and their relationships with Western culture in general and be prepared to understand and participate in the interaction and interrelationships between Asian-American culture and mainstream American culture.**

b.) **To achieve the second objective, the course will adopt an interdisciplinary approach and engage students to analyze and assess the interactions among the ecological environment, economic patterns, social structures, political institutions, and cultural norms in East Asian countries. Students will learn to appreciate how cultural norms were shaped in the interaction among those historical factors and how history can be studied with interdisciplinary approaches.**

c.) **To achieve the third objective, based on the strategies indicated above, the course will require students to write papers to analyze interactions among culture, languages, societies, and institutions and make oral presentations of their findings. Regular class discussions will be part of the course.**

6. Course Assessment: Identify how this course will accomplish the above objectives (choose at least one):

**X Participating in class discussion and debate**

◇ Engaging in teamwork and other collaborative exercises

**X Writing analytical or evaluative papers, perhaps incorporating original research**

**X Making oral presentations**

◇ Creating an artistic product or a performance

◇ Participating in fieldwork

**X Other means – Exams, Written Questions from Readings.**

7. Attach a proposed syllabus, which includes a statement of purpose, course objectives, and how these objectives will be accomplished.

**See Attached syllabus.**

8. Please identify and explain if this course contributes to the Foundations of Liberal Learning expectations for:

◇ Oral Communication Literacy:

**Through class discussions and oral presentations.**

◇ Information Literacy:

**Through course readings and research for term paper.**

◇ Writing Literacy:

**Through completing papers and other writing assignments.**

9. Explain how this course connects to Vision 2010 – the CNU Strategic Plan.

**This course serves as part of the liberal learning core curriculum as an Areas of Inquire course. It will serve the goals in the Vision 2010 as follows.**

**This course engages students to examine the historical development of East Asian cultures in the context of ecological environment, economic systems, social structure, and political institutions so that students will better understand the interactions and interrelationships among cultures of China, Japan, and Korea and between those cultures and Western culture in general; it engages students to assess and reflect on how cultures are shaped by and interacted with environment, economy, society, and politics; and it requires students to complete challenging course assignments including written assignments and oral presentations in analyzing the interactions among the above-mentioned historical factors. Besides intellectual growth from this liberal learning experience, students will be better prepared to participate in the global society where East Asian countries are playing an increasingly important role and to interact with Asian-Americans in the United States. In so doing, the course serves the Priority I Goal B “Support learning that cultivates critical and innovative thinking” and related strategies; the Priority I Goal C “Foster independent student learning” and related strategies, especially “Encourage the wise use of knowledge in the service of human freedom;” and the Priority II Goal E “Create learning opportunities that expand individual potentials” and related strategies, especially “Prepare students to succeed in a diverse and global society.”**

Submission Checklist:

By the deadline, submit a packet with the following documents to the Assistant Dean for Liberal Learning. Please submit in electronic and hard copy form.

\_\_\_\_X\_ Area of Inquiry Course Proposal Form

\_\_\_\_X\_ Syllabus for the Course

\_\_\_\_X\_ Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Course Proposal Form

**History 205**  
**Rice Fields, Imperial Palaces, and the Great Wall**  
**Historical Landscapes of East Asia**

**Spring 2007, MWF, McMurran**

Instructor: Dr. Xiaoqun Xu

Office: Commonwealth Hall Room 22; Office Phone: 594-7393; Email: [xxu@cnu.edu](mailto:xxu@cnu.edu);

Office Hours: MWF, tba and by appointments

Course Description:

This course offers a survey of East Asian history through exploring the economic systems, social structures, political institutions, and cultural patterns behind the well-known verbal and visual imageries of East Asian countries (China, Japan, and Korea) such as rice fields, imperial palaces, Buddhist temples, the Great Wall, the Silk Road, and others. With an interdisciplinary approach, the course will examine 1) the ecological environment in which East Asian peoples tried to make a living off the resources available to them, 2) the social formations by which they organized themselves to pursue economic activities, 3) the political institutions and coercive instruments that were built to deal with conflicts between and among peoples, communities, and individuals, and 4) the distinctive cultural patterns that have evolved in East Asian countries through the ages.

Course Objectives:

The course is organized and conducted in such a way that it will expose students not only to the general outline of East Asian history but also to the interdisciplinary approaches by which history can be studied. Through the course students are expected to acquire survey-level knowledge of East Asian history, be able to discuss related issues in an informed way, develop historical perspectives and analytical skills to understand and interpret history in a different culture, and demonstrate their understanding and skills by meeting the course requirements.

Course Texts:

Rhoads Murphy. *East Asia: A New History*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Addison-Wesley Pub Co., 2003.

Susan Naquin and Evelyn Rawski, *Chinese Society in the Eighteenth Century*. Yale UP, 1989.

[Nishiyama Matsunosuke](#), *Edo Culture: Daily Life and Diversions in Urban Japan, 1600-1868*. U. of Hawaii Press, 1997.

Course Requirements (and grade distribution):

1. **Attendance and Participation** (10%): Students are required to attend class regularly and on time, come prepared to raise questions, offer comments, or respond to questions during class discussions.
2. **Reading**: To be prepared for class, it is essential for students to complete the reading assignment for each week prior to the corresponding lectures and come to class prepared. Students are required to hand in at least one question (on a 3x5 index card) arising from their readings each week.
3. **Exams**: There will be one mid-term exam (25%) and one final exam (35%). The exams will be on the content of lectures and readings and in a combination of identification questions and essay questions. No make-up will be given for exams. If the mid-term were missed due to *documented emergencies*, its weight would be added to the final. If the final were missed for similar reasons, an "Incomplete" would be assigned for the course.

4. **Written Assignments** (30%): Students are to write two short papers (5-7 pages each). Based on primary and secondary sources, one paper will analyze the interaction between culture and other historical factors such as environment, economy, society, and politics; and the other paper will analyze the interaction between East Asian culture and Western culture. Further instructions and requirements for written assignments will be handed out separately and explained in class.

Course Outline:

Week 1: Rivers, Mountains, Plains, and Forests: Environment and Ecology in East Asia

Week 2: Rice Fields and Market Towns: Agriculture and Handicrafts in Traditional China

Week 3: Writing and Painting with Brush: Chinese Language and Its Cultural Functions

Week 4: Filial Piety and Widow Chastity: Family and Society in Traditional China

Week 5: Imperial Palace and Magistrate Office: Political Institutions in Traditional China

Week 6: Beyond the Great Wall: Nomadic Invasions and Assimilation in Traditional China

**Mid-term Exam Week 7**

Week 7: Subsistence Crises and Peasant Rebellions: "Mandate of Heaven" in Traditional China

Week 8: Sun God and Buddha: Traditional Japan and Chinese Influence

**First Paper due in Week 9**

Week 9: Warriors and Geishas: Social Classes and Culture in Traditional Japan

Week 10: Opium Trade and Black Ships: Arrival of the West in East Asia

Week 11: Books or Swords: Chinese and Japanese Responses to the West

Week 12: Hermit Country No More: Korea Caught between Declining China and Rising Japan

**Second Paper due Week 13**

Week 13: Rise and Fall of an Empire: Japan in the Twentieth Century

Week 14: From a Civilization to a Nation: China in the Twentieth Century

Week 15: East Asia in the Age of Globalization

**Final Exam**

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Note to All Students:

We want you to succeed at CNU; therefore I may notify the Academic Advising Center, if you seem to be having problems with this course, and someone may contact you to help you determine what help you need to succeed. You will be sent a copy of the referral from. I invite you to see me at any time that I can be of assistance in helping you with the course materials. Email or telephone communication is also welcome.

Note to Disabled Students:

If you have a disability, please discuss your needs with the instructor. In order to receive an accommodation, your disability must be on record in Disability Services located in the Academic Advising Center (Telephone 594-8763).

**UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE  
NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM**

Does this proposal affect Liberal Learning requirements? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

1. Title of Course: **Rice Fields, Imperial Palaces, and the Great Wall: Historical Landscapes of East Asia**

Proposed Course Number (cleared with Registrar): History 205

Prerequisite Courses:

(if you require a minimum acceptable grade greater than the default of D- , please indicate the grade you require) \_\_\_\_\_

Catalogue Description (including credits, lecture, and lab hours):

**History 205: Rice Fields, Imperial Palaces, and the Great Wall: Historical Landscapes in East Asia (3-3-0)**

**This course offers a survey of East Asian history through exploring the economic systems, social structures, political institutions, and cultural patterns behind the well-known verbal and visual imageries of East Asian countries (China, Japan, and Korea) such as rice fields, imperial palaces, Buddhist temples, the Great Wall, the Silk Road, and others. It will expose students not only to the general outline of East Asian history but also to the interdisciplinary approaches by which history can be studied.**

Is the course cross-listed? If so, what is the number of the other course?

**No.**

**\*\*A proposed syllabus, including complete text and/or reference information, as well as any relevant information to this decision, must be appended.**

**NOTE: All affected department chairs must sign approval on last page.**

2. For whom is the course primarily intended? Explain why it should be added to the curriculum.

**It is created to broaden the offering of Areas of Inquiry courses in the liberal learning core, in the area of Global and Multicultural Perspectives.**

3. If this course is required, append a description of how the course fits into the curriculum. Indicate how it affects hours required for graduation.

**This is an elective course for liberal learning core, not a required course for history major.**

4. Has this course been offered previously as a special topics course? If so, when? What course number was used?

**No.**

5. Has this course, or one closely related to it, been offered at CNU previously?

If so, is that course currently being offered? How does the proposed course differ? When is the last term the old course will be offered?

**No.**

6. What is the anticipated enrollment per offering for the next three years? **19**

During which term will this course first be offered?

Fall 2007

During which semesters will this course regularly be offered?

Fall

Print in the **2007-2008** Undergraduate Catalog.

7. How will the course be staffed?

**Dr. Xiaoqun Xu will teach it.**

8. Does the course involve a particular classroom, special equipment, or costs beyond those usually associated with a course at CNU? If so, please explain.

**No.**

9. Is the course repeatable for additional credit? If so, is there a limit to the number of times the course can be repeated? (e.g., applied music courses)

**No.**

10. If this course is for an Area of Inquiry

a. Identify the Area of Inquiry: **Global and Multi-Cultural Perspectives**

b. Demonstrate how your course will meet the objectives of this Area of Inquiry

**The required objective in this area of inquiry is to “examine the interaction and interrelationships among cultures, especially the relationship of marginalized to mainstream cultures.” This course is proposed with the rationale that students will be exposed to East Asian cultures (interaction and interrelationships among them and between them and Western cultures) so that students are better prepared 1) to participate in the global society where East Asian countries are playing increasingly important roles and 2) to interact with people from those cultural backgrounds in the United States (marginalized cultures to mainstream cultures). Through course requirements, students will “assess how culture impacts and informs the development of creative expression/movements, politics, economics, or philosophy” and to “articulate how culture influences languages, societies, and institutions.”**

This course was approved by:

**(Liberal learning core courses must be reviewed by BOTH academic Deans.)**

**Concur**

**Do Not**

**Concur\*\***

Department(s): (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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(2) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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College Curriculum  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dean: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dean: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Undergraduate Curriculum  
Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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***Changes to the Liberal Learning requirements must be reviewed by the Faculty Senate.***

Faculty Senate President: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Provost \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Distribution by Provost Office following approval:  
Department Chair(s), UCC Chair, Deans, Registrar

***\*\* If "Do Not Concur" is checked, please attach a statement of explanation.***



