

# HIST 112-Asian Civilization to 1500

History Department, University of Northern Colorado  
Fall 2024

3 credit hours

Instructor

Dr. Jiacheng Liu

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Office: Ross Hall 3280A

Office Hours: Tu & Th. 2:30-3:20 pm or by appointment

**Course Catalog Description:** Introduction to the historical development of premodern cultures in East, South, Southeast and Central Asia.

**Course Description** This course is an introductory, comparative survey of the societies and cultures of premodern Asia from prehistory through roughly 1500. Given the fact that there is no meaningful Asia, which is a Eurocentric notion, this course will focus on East Asia since there is a reasonably coherent “East Asian civilization.” But we also talk about other parts of Asia to explore the global influence of Buddhism and the Mongol Empire.

The course combines lectures and discussions. Lectures are devoted to the major themes and developments in premodern Asian history, including Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism, state building, diplomatic relations, trade connections and tributary system, gender relations, and social and cultural changes, etc. Discussions will allow us to examine a variety of primary sources—such as poems, stories, diaries, legal codes, philosophical and religious writings, visual images, and official communications, etc.—to deepen our understanding of the issues covered in the lectures.

## Important Dates (dates TBD)

Week 3 # 1 primary source analysis  
Week 6 # 2 primary source analysis  
Week 8 Midterm Historical Thinking Essay  
Week 11 # 3 primary source analysis  
Week 12 # 4 primary source analysis  
Finals Week Final Exam

## Liberal Arts Curriculum & GT Pathways

This course is a part of the Liberal Arts Curriculum at UNC and fulfills 3 credit hours of the History and International Studies category. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved HIST 112 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT +, F D W H J R U \ ) R U W U D Q V I H U U L Q J V W X G H Q W V V X F F H V V I X O guarantee transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.htm>

UNC's LAC outcomes in History are aligned with the State of Colorado's GT Pathways student learning outcomes, competencies, and content criteria for HI1. This includes CDHE competencies and student learning outcomes in Critical Thinking and Information Literacy.



<p>audience, and bias or point of view, when evaluating information source.</p> <p>4. Use Information Effectively to Accomplish a Specific Purpose</p> <p>a. Synthesize information from sources to fully achieve a specific purpose.</p> <p>5. Use Information Ethically and Legally</p> <p>a. Demonstrate full understanding of the ethical and legal restrictions on the use of information from a variety of sources through correct citation practices.</p>	<p>conclusions, making a historical argument supported by evidence, and documenting evidence via MLA, APA, or Chicago style citations</p>
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<p>Content Criteria for History (GT-HI1)</p> <p>A GT Pathways History course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduces students to the method of historical inquiry, which involves asking an important historical question, investigating and analyzing historical sources, and drawing conclusions.</li> <li>• Employs historical thinking and concepts, which include context, change over time, continuity, multiple causation and human agency.</li> <li>• Investigates multiple historical primary sources and secondary accounts.</li> <li>• Analyzes multiple perspectives to create written narratives, interpretations, or syntheses.</li> </ul>	<p>Course Mapping</p> <p>All course content (lectures, primary and secondary source readings, etc.) and</p>
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HIST 112

awareness of the







Email: [ppsy.clinic@unco.edu](mailto:ppsy.clinic@unco.edu)

\*Staff members at confidential campus resources are not required to automatically report incidents of sexual or relationship/dating violence or stalking to the University. There are limits to confidentiality, and before speaking with a staff member, those exceptions will be outlined.

Students who are survivors, who are concerned about someone who is a survivor, or who would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, can visit [www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct](http://www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct). Students may also contact OIEC at 970-4899 or email [titleix@unco.edu](mailto:titleix@unco.edu).

### *Center for Career Readiness*

Come visit us at the Center for Career Readiness to talk about resume, cover letter, interviewing, career/major exploration, job/internship search, graduate school search, and everything else career.

For more information on student resources, or to schedule an appointment, visit the website: [www.unco.edu/career/students](http://www.unco.edu/career/students) for student events, visit: [www.unco.edu/career/events](http://www.unco.edu/career/events).

Office: University Center 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Hours: M-F, 8am-5pm  
Appointments/Virtual and In-Person  
Drop-Ins: Visit our website for up-to-date information

### *Equity and Inclusion*

The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff. UNC honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and world views. People of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, sizes and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness of others' individual and intersecting identities. For information or resources, contact the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, at 970-351-1944. If students want to report an incident related to identity-based discrimination/harassment, please visit [www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance](http://www.unco.edu/institutional-equity-compliance).

Additionally, there are several cultural and resource centers across the campus (J 0.002, (ity) 2e(n)-Tid (e) 3T-2,00)



HIST 112

1410 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-2424  
ChavezCenter@unco.edu

Center for Women's and Gender Equity (Resource Center) & Stryker Institute for Leadership Development  
1915 10th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80639  
970-351-1492  
cwge@unco.edu

Center for Gender and Sexuality (Resource Center)  
2215 10th Ave., Campus Box 42  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-353-0191  
gsrc@unco.edu

Marcus Garvey Cultural Center (Cultural Center)  
928 20th St., Campus Box 41  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-2351  
MGCC@unco.edu

Native American Services (Cultural Center)  
924 20th St  
Greeley, CO 80639  
(970) 351-1909  
AsianPacificAmerican.StudentServices@unco.edu

Veteran's Services (Resource Center)  
1815 8th Ave  
Greeley, CO 80631  
970-351-1403  
timothy.nellett@unco.edu

### *Food Insecurity and Basic Needs*

Knowing that food insecurity is experienced at higher rates among college students, UNC offers assistance to students facing food insecurity through an on-campus food pantry. The Bear Pantry is located in University Center 2166A and is open for regular hours throughout the semester. Please visit [www.unco.edu/bearpantry](http://www.unco.edu/bearpantry) for more information. Students who face challenges (e.g., emotional distress, grief and loss, academic concerns, basic needs insecurity, navigating university processes) and believe this may affect their academic performance may contact Student Outreach and Support (SOS), which is part of the Dean of Students Office. SOS will help connect students with appropriate referrals based upon their needs. The Dean of Students Office can be reached at [dos@unco.edu](mailto:dos@unco.edu) or via phone at 970-2001.

*Land Acknowledgment*

The University of Northern Colorado occupies the lands in the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne, Lakota and Arapaho peoples. The University acknowledges the 48 tribes that are historically tied to the state of Colorado. Thus, the land on which UNC is situated is tied to the history and culture of our native and indigenous peoples. UNC appreciates this connection and has great respect for this land. Additionally, the University community pays its respect to Elders past, present, and future, and to those who have stewarded this land throughout the generations.

As part of the learning and reflection process, please visit <https://nativeand.ca/> or call the Office of Equity & Inclusion at 970-351-1944.

*Name in Use/Pronoun in Use/Name Change*

Some students may have changed their names to better reflect their gender identity or for other reasons. The process to

## Class Schedule

(Subject to Change)

### Week 1

T. Aug 23-Introduction

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- *<Optional>* Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 5. (pp. 98) Documents: "The Parable of Burning House."

### Week 6

- T. Sep 27 Buddhism and Its Transformation in China (2): Chan Buddhism  
Documents: Excerpts from "The Platform Sutra of the Sixth Patriarch;"
- R. Sep 29 The Mulian Story: Syncretism of Confucianism, Daoism and Buddhism  
Documents: "The Great Maudgalyayana [Mulian] Rescue His Mother from Hell."  
**# 2 primary source analysis**

### Week 7

- T. Oct 4 Identifying Korea and Foundation Myths  
Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 6. (pp. 99-103 only)  
"Foundation Myths," in Peter H. Lee, *Anthology of Korean Literature from Early Times to the Nineteenth Century* (pp. 3-16)
- R. Oct 6 Understanding Early Japan: Geography & Shinto Myth  
Documents: Excerpts from *Weizhi* legends concerning Shinto deities

### Week 8

- T. Oct 11-Early State and Society in Japan and the Continental Influence  
Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 6. (pp. 112-117 only)  
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- R. Oct 13 Midterm/W rite your Paper

### Week 9

- T. Oct 18-The Sui and Tang Empires: Mid-Imperial Cosmopolitanism  
Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 7. (pp. 131-138 only)
- R. Oct 20-Three Kingdoms & Unified Silla  
Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 8. (pp. 163 only)

### Week 10

- T. Oct 25-The Decline of the Tang Dynasty
- Han Yu's "Memorial on the Bone of the Buddha," & "Emperor Wuzong's Edict on the Suppression of Buddhism."
- R. Oct 27 The Transition from the Tang to the Song
- Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 10. (pp. 202-202 only)  
Document: Wang Anshi, "Memorial on the Crop Loans Measure"

### Week 11

- T. Nov 1-Life in the Song Seen through a 12th-century Scroll  
Screening BBC documentary ".9 (t)-4935Dmhro H35soee Ic8 Wae"

**# 3 primary source analysis is due**

- R. Oct 27 The Intellectual and Social Change in the Southern Song
- Document: Excerpts from *The Attractions of the Capital (Hangzhou)*

Week 12

- T. Nov 8-Screening Beijing Olympics opening ceremony
- R. Nov 10-Review of the Chinese History from the Shang to the Song
- **# 4 primary source analysis (second half) is due**

Week 13

- T. Nov 15-Heian Court Culture
- Schneewind, *An Outline History of East Asia to 1200*, Ch. 9. (pp. 171-194)  
Primary document on “The Kondei System”
- R. Nov 17-The Rise and Fall of the Mongol Empire
- Ebrey & Walthall, Ch. 12 “China under Mongol Rule (1213-1368)” (pp. 198-209)  
and “Connections: The Mongol Rule” (pp. 160-8)

Week 14

- T. Nov 22-The Rise of Samurai and Kamakura Shogunate
- Karl Friday, “Once and Future Warriors: The Samurai in Japanese History”  
<https://www.asianstudies.org/wp-content/uploads/once-and-future-warriors-the-samurai-in-japanese-history.pdf>
  - Document “Selected Documents of the Kamakura Bakufu;” Legal document about the estate stewards, in Ebrey & Walthall, p. 190
  - **<Optional/extra credit opportunity> #5 primary source analysis is due**

Enjoy Thanksgiving Break, no class (Nov 23-28)

Week 15

- T. Nov 29-Ashikaga Shogunate and Muromachi Era
- Documents: Excerpts from the Kemmu Code, 1336; Excerpts from “An Account of my hut”

- R. Dec 1 Wrap up and Prepare for the Final Exam

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 6th, 10:45am – 1:15pm