

ARCHY 3xx: Archaeology of China, Korea and Japan

Instructor: Erik Gjesfjeld
Office and Office hours: TBD

Course Description

The archaeology of China, Korea and Japan is an archaeology unlike any other region in the world. Perhaps most unique about the archaeology of China, Korea and Japan is the incredible diversity in archaeological topics including the first migration of our ancestors out of Africa, the origins of settled life, the adoption of agriculture and the rise of complex societies and dynastic civilizations. The combination of all these topics within one region has allowed archaeologists to investigate a wide range of themes including human adaptation to diverse environments, technological innovation, trade and exchange, warfare and socio-political dynamics. Overall, this course seeks to not only provide an introduction to the archaeological history of China, Korea and Japan but also understand how the archaeological research in East Asia can help better understand our human past and modern society.

Required Text

Barnes, Gina. 1993 China, Korea and Japan: The Rise of Civilization in East Asia

Imamura, Kenji, 1996 Prehistoric Japan: New Perspective on Insular East Asia

Learning Goals

1. Demonstrate competency in the archaeological history of China, Korea and Japan.
 - a. Chronological and culture history
 - b. Contribution of key sites / artifacts / scholars
2. Critically evaluate the dynamic relationship between China, Korea and Japan and understand how these relationships shape their histories
 - a. Demographic relationships
 - b. Economic relationships
 - c. Political relationships
3. Integrate archaeological themes from China, Korea and Japan to broader archaeological debates
 - a. Human-environmental interaction
 - b. Rise of agriculture
 - c. Development of complex societies and state formation

Grading and Evaluation

Student performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of the following assignments:

	<u>Total Points</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Midterm Exams (2) – 100 points each	200	40%
Final Exam – 100 points	100	20%
Research Paper – 100 points	100	20%
Annotated Bibliography	50	10%
Site Summary (5 x 10 points each)	50	10%

Grading Scale

Percentage	Points	Letter Grade	GPA Value
90-100	450-500	A+	4.0
85-89	425-449	A	4.0
80-84	400-424	A-	3.7
77-79	385-399	B+	3.3
73-76	366-384	B	3.0
70-72	350-365	B-	2.7
67-69	335-349	C+	2.3
63-66	316-334	C	2.0
60-62	300-315	C-	1.7
57-59	285-299	D+	1.3
53-56	266-284	D	1.0
50-52	250-265	D-	0.7
0-49	<250	F	0.0

Midterm and Final Exams: Two exams will be given throughout the course consisting of multiple choice, short-answer and essay questions from all the available course material including readings, in-class assignments, lectures, videos and guest lectures. A cumulative final exam will be giving covering all of the course material. While similar to midterm exams, the final exam will focus on critically evaluating themes from the course and applying them to broader archaeological scenarios and our modern society.

Research Paper: Throughout this course we will be discussing a number of important archaeological sites. In your research paper, I want you to chose an archaeological site (approved by me) and write a 3,000 word research paper concerning the history of archaeological research at the site, the importance of the site to our understanding of East Asian archaeology and the relevance of the site to broader archaeological themes. Additional details about the course will be provided later in the course.

Annotated Bibliography: In preparation for your research paper, I want you to develop and annotated bibliography with at least ten peer-reviewed publications and a paragraph highlighting the key insights of each article or chapter.

Site summaries: Through the course, I will ask student to chose from a selection of key sites and summarize the findings and the site and their importance to the current class theme. Summaries will be approximately 500 word long and use at least peer-reviewed sources.

Course Policies

Class participation: This is primarily a lecture class, although discussions will supplement lecture content and readings. Your opinions, questions and commentary are always welcome as long as your opinions respect other students in the course and your instructors. I will not tolerate any disrespectful comments towards student or instructors.

Absences

Your attendance and class participation is critical to your success in this class. In-class activities and discussions during lecture will help prepare you for exams and review worksheets. Note that exams and in-class assignments cannot be made up without an officially excused absence.

Class Schedule

Week	Topics	Assignments Due
W1	Introduction to East Asia 1.1 Introduction to East Asia (Geography and Environment) 1.2 Research History and Central Themes 1.3 Research History and Central Themes (continued)	
W2	The First Asians 2.1 <i>Homo erectus</i> : Out of Africa 2.2 Lower Paleolithic of China 2.3 Zhoukoudian and Nihewan Basin	2.3 Site Summary 1
W3	Emerging Complexity 3.1 Middle to Upper Paleolithic Transition 3.2 Upper Paleolithic in East Asia 3.3 The Japanese Paleolithic / Review	
W4	The Ancient Jomon of Japan 4.1 Emergence of complex hunting-gathering 4.2 Social complexity and pottery production 4.3 Exam 1	4.1 Site summary 2
W5	The Rice Revolution 5.1 The origins of the Neolithic 5.2 The emergence of rice agriculture – South China 5.3 The emergence of rice agriculture – North China	5.3 Site Summary 3

W6	Emerging Hierarchy 6.1 Xia and Shang Dynasties 6.2 Yungshao Lungshan 6.3 The maintenance of hunter-gatherer lifestyles (6.3 Annotated Bibliography
W7	Transitional Periods 7.1 Chulmum to Mumon Transition in Korea 7.2 Jomon to Yayoi to Kofun Transition in Japan 7.3 A comparative perspective on East Asia transition / Review	
W8	Imperial China 8.1: Zhou to Qin 8.2: Han and its peripheries 8.3: Exam 2	8.1 Site summary 4
W9	Japan and Korea - States 9.1 The Silk Road 9.2 The rise of religion 9.3 Korean States and Japanese States	
W10	Asian Invasion 10.1 Mongols in East Asia 10.2 Mongols throughout the World 10.3 The Okhotsk and the Ainu	10.1 Site summary 5
W11	What did we learn? 11.1 Integrating East Asian themes with world archaeology 11.2 Research Paper Peer review (no class) 11.3 Course wrap-up	11.1 Research Paper Due!
W12	Final Exam Date and Time: TBD	