

**Hist 463 Monsoon Asia/Cultural History**, Fall Semester 2006 Samford University  
Instructor J. Brown; DBH 113, MWF 10:30-11:35 a.m.

The catalog description of this course reads: “Broad cultural history of China, Japan, India, and Indonesia.” Short and sweet, perhaps, but not as informative as it might be. So here is some background on the origins and evolution of the course.

As a course “Monsoon Asia” was first born in the “Cultural Legacies” sequence of the old Cornerstone interdisciplinary general education curriculum, ca. 1992. It was team-taught by three professors – one from literature, one from history, and one from an allied humanities discipline such as art or music. It aimed to sample cultures of Asia by spending some time with cultural origins, with the classic (usually dynastic) age, with the challenge of western intrusion in the era of modern imperialism, and finally with the country’s response to that. It involved a fairly heavy reading load, daily quizzes, and an interesting range of activities. Your current instructor thought that the original course was one of the best he was ever involved in teaching, and when Cornerstone was replaced by the current general education curriculum, he “lifted” what he could of the course and redesigned it to be a regional survey history course. It is still broad cultural history, he hopes, but now taught by a History prof with just the insights from a single discipline. The major goal of the course is unchanged, however – to give students a quick handle on the history and cultural depth of the most populous part of the world. For this particular semester Indonesia will be traded in for Vietnam as the “Indo-Chinese” example.

Samford students who become intrigued with Asian cultures can go on to courses in more depth: the Dept. of History regularly offers a 400-level course in Chinese history, and BACHE (the Birmingham Area Consortium on Higher Education) schools including UAB, B’ham Southern, Miles & Montevallo offers similar advanced courses in India and Japan. In addition, Samford’s Critical Languages Program usually offers first and second year language courses in Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, Hindi, Bahasa Indonesian, and other Asian languages, and you often learn as much culture and history in a language class as you do language structure and vocabulary!

Required readings, now available in bookstore:

*Masterpieces of the Orient*, ed. G. L. Anderson  
Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*  
Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*  
Eugen Herrigel, *Zen in the Art of Archery*  
Jonah Blank, *Arrow of the Blue-Skinned God*  
Frances Fitzgerald, *Fire in the Lake*

What passes for a term paper in this course is non-traditional: each student must interview and then research and write up the history of an older Chinese or Japanese person for the first half of course, and an older Indian or “Indo-Chinese” person for the second half of the course. Midterm and final exams will be about half essay and half objective; each one will include the open-ended bonus question “What did you read (view, interview, etc.) specifically for this class, and what did you learn that wasn’t in lectures or assigned readings?” Daily reading quizzes will be objective. When a reading is listed on your schedule below, it is to have been read for that day.

***Schedule: Tentative topic:***

***Required readings:***

Mon. Aug. 28 – introduction; the monsoon	
Wed. Aug. 30 – China: the geographic setting	Anderson 367-407
Fri. Sept. 1 – China: the language(s)	Anderson 407-477
Mon. Sept. 4 – China: the dynasties I	Sun Tzu 7-72
Wed. Sept. 6 – China: the dynasties II	Sun Tzu 85-262 selectively
Fri. Sept. 8 – China: the traditional novels	Anderson 477-496
Mon. Sept. 11 – China: the traditional games	Anderson 496-530
Wed. Sept. 13 – China: western intrusion I	Anderson 531-556
Fri. Sept. 15 – China: western intrusion II	Anderson 556-592
Mon. Sept. 18 – China: Chinese response	Tan, part one
Wed. Sept. 20 – China: the KMT	Tan, part two
Fri. Sept. 22 – China: the CCP	Tan, part three
Mon. Sept. 25 – China: Since Mao Zedong	Tan, part four
Wed. Sept. 27 – Japan: geography, language	Anderson 593-625
Fri. Sept. 29 – Japan: origins through Heian	Anderson 625-667
Mon. Oct. 2 – Japan: feudalism	Herrigel (all)
Wed. Oct. 4 – Japan: centralized feudalism	Anderson 668-702
Fri. Oct. 6 – Japan: Gyo-taku	Anderson 702-753
Mon. Oct. 9 – Japan:	Anderson 753-786
Wed. Oct. 11 – Japan:	Anderson 786-827
Fri. Oct. 13 – student presentations of 1st interview BE-JE	
Mon. Oct. 16 – (no class; Fall Break)	
Wed. Oct. 18 – student presentations of 1 <sup>st</sup> interview JO-WE	
Fri. Oct. 20 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
Mon. Oct. 23 – India: geography; Aryans vs. Dravidians	Anderson 130-168
Wed. Oct. 25 – India: Life of Buddha	Anderson 168-231
Fri. Oct. 27 – (no class in exchange for museum visit)	
Mon. Oct. 30 – India: Readers' Theatre	Anderson 232-316
Wed. Nov. 1 – India: Mauryans & Guptans	Anderson 316-346
Fri. Nov. 3 – India: Moguls	Anderson 316-366
Mon. Nov. 6 – India: East India Company rule	Blank, prologue, chpts. 1-2
Wed. Nov. 8 – India: the British Raj I	Blank chpts. 3-4
Fri. Nov. 10 – India: the British Raj II	Blank chpt. 5

Mon. Nov. 13 – India: the life of Gandhi	Blank chpts. 6-7
Wed. Nov. 15 – India: Partition	Blank chpts. 8-9
Fri. Nov. 17 – India: the Nehru dynasty	Blank chpt. 10
Mon. Nov. 20 – India: since Babri Masjid/Ram Mandir	Blank chpts. 11-12
Wed. Nov. 22 – (no class; Thanksgiving holiday)	
Fri. Nov. 24 – (no class; Thanksgiving holiday)	
Mon. Nov. 27 – Vietnam: dual heritage of IndoChina	Fitzgerald TBA
Wed. Nov. 29 – Vietnam: early history	Fitzgerald TBA
Fri. Dec. 1 – Vietnam: history to U.S.-Vietnam War	Fitzgerald TBA
Mon. Dec. 4 – Vietnam: since	Fitzgerald TBA
Wed. Dec. 6 – student presentations of second interview JO-WE	
Fri. Dec. 8 – student presentations of second interview BE-JE	

FINAL EXAMINATION – Monday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Determination of grade:

- Daily readings (dropping 2 lowest): 30%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final: 20%
- Interview/Research Paper I: 15%
- Interview/Research Paper II: 15%

Missing 6 or more classes results in grade of F, as, of course, does cheating or plagiarizing (clearly defined in student handbook).

Other semester dates of possible interest:

- Sept. 1 – last day to drop/add without financial penalty
- Oct. 9 – faculty deadline for submitting midterm grades for freshmen
- Oct. 13 – last day to withdraw without academic penalty
- Nov. 16 – last day to completely withdraw from all courses without academic penalty

Samford University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting Disability Support Services, located in Counseling Services on the lower level of Pittman Hall (telephone number: 726-4078 or 726-2105). Instructor will grant reasonable accommodations only upon written notification from Disability Support Services.