History 4381 (Special Topics): Premodern Asia (to 1600)
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00 am-12:15 pm
Location: A 225

Dr. Laurie Dickmeyer
Email: laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu
Office Phone: 325-942-2325
Student hours: Academic Building, 239D
MWF: 9-10 am
T/Th: 12:30-1:30 pm
And by drop-in or appointment

Course Description
An introduction to Asian history and civilization from earliest times to 1600, examining the rise of civilizations in South, Southeast, Central, and Northeast Asia. This course will also discuss the spread of world religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam; commerce and the Silk Roads; the influence of Confucian thought in East Asia; and the Mongols.

Required Reading
There is one required book for this course:

ISBN-10: 030681739X

Beginning Feb. 13, we will be reading and discussing one chapter a week from this book. It will be available to read in the library via course reserve. You may also choose to rent or purchase this book. Please bring a copy of the assigned reading to class each Thursday.

Additional required readings (such as primary source selections) will be available as PDFs or weblinks on the Blackboard website or distributed in class.

Student Learning Outcomes
The desired student learning outcomes align with the mission of the Department of History, which seeks to assist students in “acquiring a fundamental understanding of world events and the manner in which humankind is affected by historical currents. The history program also aims to have its students write competently, read analytically, think critically and conduct research independently.”

After this course, students will be able to…

● identify and describe the major processes of Asian history to 1600 such as increasing interconnectedness across the region and beyond via commerce, religion, and warfare
● compare the rise of major civilizations in China and India
● explain how class, race, ethnicity, and gender impacted individual experiences
● contextualize, analyze, and critique the thoughts and actions of historical actors
● evaluate and synthesize information from disparate sources
● construct an evidence-based argument based on primary and secondary sources
Assessments

- **Map Quiz (5%)**: You will be provided with a word bank and will need to match physical features of Asia with their locations. A study guide is available on Blackboard.
- **Book Discussion (5%)**: You will be assigned a day to help lead discussion of a chapter from *When Asia Was the World*.
- **Participation (10%)**: Participation means your on-time attendance and daily participation in discussions and/or in-class writing activities. More than 6 absences will result in the reduction of a letter grade. Each 3 additional absences will result in another reduction of a letter grade.
- **Midterm Exam (15%)**: Both the midterm and final exams will include a variety of question types such as multiple choice, short answer, and essay that will cover material from class meetings and from *When Asia Was the World*.
- **Final Exam (15%)**
- **Research Paper (50%)**: Students will choose a topic in consultation with the instructor that relates to Asian history before 1600. You will be using 1-2 primary sources as the starting point for the paper, analyzing those, and placing them in context using at least 5 reliable secondary sources produced by scholars. One of the secondary sources can be *When Asia Was the World*. Several sourcebooks will be put on reserve at the library, which will be excellent starting points for this assignment (*Sources of Chinese Tradition, Sources of Indian Tradition, Sources of Japanese Tradition, Sources of East Asian Tradition, Sources of Korean Tradition*). I also have a sourcebook on the Silk Road. The final paper will be 6-8 pages long, and the research process will be broken down into several parts, each building off of previous assignments:
  - **Topic Brainstorming (5%)**: You may only proceed with the following assignments once your topic and primary source have been approved.
  - **Primary Source Analysis (5%)**
  - **Annotated Bibliography (5%)**
  - **Journal Article/Book Chapter Analysis (5%)**
  - **Partial Rough Draft/Outline (5%)**
  - **Full Draft and Peer Review (5%)**
  - **Full, Polished Rough Draft (5%)**
  - **Final Draft (10%)**
  - **Research Presentation (5%)**: During the final days of the course, each student will present their research paper to the class (5-7 minutes)

**Course Schedule**

Please note that the following schedule is subject to change. The schedule on Blackboard will be updated to reflect any changes and announcements will be made in class. Brief readings will be assigned as the course progresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 14</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>The Emergence of Civilization in India (Harappan Civilization, Indo-European migrations) (3000-1500 BCE)</td>
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<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>The Vedic World in India and the Emergence of “Hinduism” (1750-600 BCE)</td>
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<td><strong>Map Quiz: Physical Features of Asia (beginning of class)</strong></td>
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<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>The Dawn of Civilization in China: Early Dynasties of Xia, Shang, and Zhou (c. 2070-256 BCE)</td>
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Jan. 24  Topic Brainstorming Assignment due

Jan. 28  The “Hundred Schools” of Chinese Thought: Confucianism, Legalism, Daoism, Mohism (6th century BCE-221 BCE)

Jan. 30  Reform of the Vedic Tradition: Upanishads, Jainism, and Buddhism (c. 500 BCE)

Jan. 31  Primary Source Analysis due

Feb. 4  Indian Empires: Maurya, Gupta (322 BCE-543 CE)

Feb. 6  Library Visit

Feb. 11  The Rise of Chinese Empires: Qin and Han Dynasties (221 BCE-220 CE)

Feb. 13  China’s Golden Age: Sui and Tang Dynasties (581-907 CE)

Feb. 18  Early Societies in Central Asia: Xiongnu Empire, Turkic nomads, and the Tibetan Empire (to 821 CE)

Feb. 20  Exchange of Material Culture from Asia to the World: The Silk Roads (2nd century BCE-18th century CE)

Feb. 21  Annotated Bibliography due

Feb. 25  Exchange of Material Culture from Asia to the World: The Silk Roads (2nd century BCE-18th century CE)

Feb. 27  Early Civilization in Japan (to 645 CE)

Mar. 3  Midterm Exam

Mar. 5  Early Civilization in Korea (to 918 CE)

Mar. 6  Journal Article/Book Chapter Analysis due

Mar. 9-13  SPRING BREAK (No Class Meetings)

Mar. 17  Medieval India: Rajput and Regional Dynasties (650-1335 CE)

Mar. 19  Early Southeast Asia (500 BCE-5th century CE)

Mar. 20  Partial Draft of Paper due
Mar. 24  The Mongol Expansion and Its Impact (13th century CE)

Mar. 26  Chinese Influence in East Asia: Medieval Korea (Goryeo dynasty) (918-1392 CE)
   ●  Read: *When Asia Was the World*, Ch. 6: “Nobles and Notables”

Mar. 31  Paper Workshop

Apr. 2   Chinese Influence in East Asia: Medieval Japan (645-1586 CE)
   ●  Read: *When Asia Was the World*, Ch. 7: “Treasure and Treaty”

Apr. 3   Full Draft of Paper due

Apr. 7   The Arrival of Islam to India: Delhi Sultanate, Vijayanagar Empire, and the Mughal Empire (1192-1600 CE)

Apr. 9   Medieval Southeast Asia (500 CE-1500 CE)
   ●  Read: *When Asia Was the World*, Ch. 8: “Blood and Salt”

Apr. 14  The Ming Dynasty in China (1368-1664 CE)

Apr. 16  The Rise of the Shogunate in Japan (1600 CE)
   ●  Read: *When Asia Was the World*, Ch. 9: “Medicines and Misunderstandings”

Apr. 17  Final Draft of Paper due

Apr. 21  The Rise of the Manchus in China (17th century CE)

Apr. 23  Review/Catch Up/Study Day
   ●  Read: *When Asia Was the World*, Ch. 10: “The Asian World: 500-1500 CE”

Apr. 28  Final Exam

Apr. 30  Student Presentations

May 5   Student Presentations (10:30 am-12:30 pm)
Course Policies & Expectations: More than anything else, I ask that you be proactive about your progress in this course.

- Pay attention to the due dates.
- Complete the reading as due.
- Participate during class meetings. Take good notes!
- Study for exams.
- Visit me and/or the Writing Center for help with your research paper assignments.
- Pay attention to your grade (Blackboard→My Grades→Weighted Total).
- Talk to me about ways you can improve.

I know that you are all intelligent, capable people, and I want you to succeed in this course!

Attendance & Participation: If you need to miss class for school-related activities and travel, illness, religious holy days, childcare, or an emergency, please email me and provide documentation of that absence in a timely manner, and it will be excused.

As regular attendance is necessary to achieve student learning outcomes it is the policy of the History Department that missing more than 20 percent of the course (6 absences in a 75 minute Tues./Thurs. course) will result in a reduction of one full letter grade when calculating the final course grade. Every three absences after the limit will result in the reduction of another letter grade.

Religious Holidays: Students may miss a class with no penalty in order to observe a religious holiday in accordance with ASU OP 10.19. Please inform the instructor if you are unable to attend for religious reasons in advance.

Late Assignments: While it is best if you submit your assignments on time, I understand that many of you have busy schedules. Do your best to submit work in a timely manner. It can be very difficult to catch up if you fall behind. If you anticipate needing more time to complete an assignment, get in touch with me before the deadline, and we can discuss the possibility of an extension. Communication is key. If you do not secure an extension, then the assignment will be docked 5% for each day late.

Grading Scale: The “Weighted Grade” is your current grade in the class.

89.5-100% = A
79.5-89.4% = B
69.5-79.4% = C
59.5-69.4% = D
59.4% & < = F

Office Hours & Communication: Office hours will be held in Academic Building 239D at the times listed at the top of the syllabus and by appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact me at laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu if you need to schedule a meeting outside regularly scheduled office hours. I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to introduce yourself to me, to ask questions that you may have, to discuss current or future assignments, or to seek private instruction on specific issues with which you might be wrestling. I also encourage professional communication through email. Please remember to sign your email with your name and include the class name in your message.

I will respond to your email within 24 hours during the work week or sooner. When an assignment or exam is approaching, I will check email more often.
Please use and check your angelo.edu email regularly (at least once a day). I will use it to communicate with you outside of class time.

**Technology:** Computers and tablets are allowed in class to consult readings and take notes. Otherwise, please exercise self-restraint and focus on class. Be mindful not to distract your classmates (and yourself) with your technology usage.

Do not video or audio record lecture without permission. Lecture slides and handouts will be uploaded to the website following each class meeting. Feel free to email me if items have not been posted 24 hours after class.

**Student Disability Services:** ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at [www.angelo.edu/ADA](http://www.angelo.edu/ADA). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Ms. Dallas A. Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center 112

**Title IX at Angelo State University:** Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D.  
*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022  
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).
If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

**Incomplete Grade Policy**: It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU [Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures](http://www.angelo.edu/policies/10.11) for more information.

**Student Conduct Policies**

**Academic Integrity**: Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU. [Academic Integrity](http://www.angelo.edu/policies/10.11)

**Plagiarism**: Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s [Academic Integrity policy](http://www.angelo.edu/policies/10.11) in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else’s work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one’s own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper. **Assignments that have been plagiarized will be handled on a case by case basis, but most likely will receive a grade of 0%**. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Safe Assign. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](http://www.angelo.edu/writing-center).

**Copyright Policy**: Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

**General Policies Related to This Course**: All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](http://www.angelo.edu/policies/10.11)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](http://www.angelo.edu/policies/10.11)

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