ASIAN ECONOMIC HISTORY

Course Scope and Goals: The countries of Asia seem likely to be central participants in the global economy and hence influences on your economic prospects for the foreseeable future. This course will focus on the history of three major Asian economies: China, India, and Japan. However, we will also consider some other regions of Asia, especially in the last few weeks of the course. Hopefully, at the end of this course you will have some understanding of and be able to explain:

a) the factors that have contributed to the contrasting courses of development of China, India, and Japan as well as some of the other Asian economies considered.

b) the similarities and differences between how Asian economies and those of Western countries, such as the United States, have been organized.

c) general factors affecting the course of economic growth and development. Particular attention will be given to the influence of culture and economic, political, and social institutions.

d) A term paper analyzing the role of institutions in the economic development of an Asian economy is required for this course. Hopefully, at the end of this course you will have written a well-argued paper that you will be willing to show to others as a sample of your writing.

Course Requirements:

1) Two in-class exams covering the material presented in class and the readings. Each exam will count for approximately 25 percent of your final grade. Both exams are scheduled to occur before the end of classes. The format of both exams will consist of three types of questions: a) questions asking you to identify and explain the significance of key terms and concepts in Asian Economic History b) a short essay question asking you to summarize the basic arguments and conclusions that have been made with regard to a specific issue in Asian Economic History and c) a longer essay question asking you to tie together and integrate a number of topics covered in class and readings in addressing some broad issue in Asian Economic History. You will also be asked to write an in-class essay during the final exam date, Dec. 13 comparing other countries and regions of Asia with the cases of China, India, and Japan. This essay will count for 5 percent of your overall course grade.
2) Four or five videos will be shown in class and there will be a quiz at the end of each video to test comprehension. These quizzes will count for a total of 5 percent of your final course grade.

3) This course has been designated as a “writing intensive course”. A Term paper is required. Preparing the paper itself will be broken up into smaller components. Graded writing assignments will be due at various points in the term prior to the final due date of the paper. A rough draft of your paper of sufficient quality to graded at the C- level or higher must be submitted Thurs, Nov. 29, in order to be eligible to submit final draft of your paper by the final draft due date, Thurs. Dec. 13. This is to allow time for me to provide feed back for you to incorporate in the final version of your paper. At one of the last four class meetings, Dec. 4, Dec. 6, Dec. 11, or Dec. 13 you will be expected to make brief (10 minute) oral presentation of your paper. There will be an oral presentation component to your overall paper grade. The combined component, paper, and oral presentation grades will count for 40 percent of your overall course grade; the bulk (35 percent) of this will be determined by your final term paper grade.

Grading Requirements for graduate students registered for Econ 682: Graduate students registered for this course as Econ 682 will be expected to do a separate takehome midterm based on further assigned readings than those on this syllabus and to submit a 5000 word term paper based on quantitative analysis of some topic in Asian Economic History. The specific details of each assignment will be worked out in discussion with the instructor.

UMBC Statement on Academic integrity, from the Provost’s website:
By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC’s scholarly community in which everyone’s academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, the Faculty Handbook, or the UMBC Policies section of the UMBC directory.

A Note on Grades: I grade on an absolute scale, not on a curve. In grading essay questions and papers, I will use the following scale for converting from numerical percentages to letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-84</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-59</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-19</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Readings:
Many of the readings from the course will come from Electronic Reserves that have been set up for this course at the UMBC library. These readings have been designated on the syllabus below by ER. To access readings for this course on electronic reserves, go to the UMBC Library.
website, www.umbc.edu/aok, then the link for “services for undergraduate students, then the link for UCORES, then select Department of Economics, and then select Econ 382. This will pull up a menu with the various individual items designated ER in the readings below. When you click on the link for one of these readings, you will be prompted for a username and password. For Econ 382, the user name = econ382fa12 password = hunnergames

In addition, I have ordered the following books for purchase at the bookstore. A number of exam questions will be based on material in these books. The one truly REQUIRED item not available on Electronic reserves but that will be covered on the midterm and that is available at the UMBC bookstore is:


The following are some additional books that will provide further perspective on the Asian countries considered in this course. These books have NOT been ordered at the bookstore. However, they have been placed on reserve at the library. I will not require or expect you to have read them to prepare for the in-class exams. I list these books and cite some of them in the further readings under specific topics below for those who may be interested in doing further readings on these topics.

One book that does provide a general overview of Asian history with some although predominant attention to economic issues is:


This book is a companion to the video series mentioned under alternative media below.

Some other books to consider according to your specific interests::


Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail*.

**Alternative Media**: The following movies/videos are relevant to Asian Economic History and segments from these will be shown in class. They are also available on various internet sites.

a) the Good Earth

**Tentative Schedule and Reading Assignments**:

August 30: 1) Introduction; Why Study Economic History? Why Study the Asian Case? Some basic features of the economies of Asia.

September 4: The Economics of Rice Agriculture.

September 6: Perspectives on the nature and role of the State in Asian Economies.


For a critical review by Jared Diamond, putting more emphasis on natural resource situations see:


For the response by Acemoglu and Robinson to Diamond see:

Sept. 11 to Sept. 18: China from early origins to the 1949 revolution.

September 11:
1) The Formation of the State in China.

Reading: Eastman, Chapters 1,4, and 5. 
Naughton, Chap.1.


September 13: Video: The Good Earth

September 18:
1) Trends in Commerce and Manufacturing in China until 1949.
Readings: a) Eastman, Chapters 6,7,8.
   b) Borthwick, pp.80-100, 162-180.
   c) Naughton, Chap.2.

Readings: a) Eastman, Chap.7.
   b) Borthwick, pages 9-17, 27-39, and 43-47.
   c) Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence.*

September 18: Video, Pacific Century: The Two Coasts of China.

Sept. 20 to Sept. 25: The Economic History of India prior to and under British Rule.
Sept.20 The Economy of India Prior prior to Colonial Rule.

   b) Borthwick, pp.74-80.

September 25: The Economy of India under British Rule.
Readings: Roy, chaps. 3 to 11.
Sept. 27 to Oct. 4: The Economic Development of Japan from the Tokugawa era through World War II.

September 27:
   c) Borthwick, pp. 40-43.


October 2 to October 4

2) The Economic Development of Japan after the Meiji Revolution to World War II.
   b) Borthwick, Chap. 3 (pp. 109-130, 145-50), pp. 191-201.

Oct. 9: Review.

Oct. 11: 1st in-class examination

   b) Borthwick, pp. 231-250, 255-264.

Japanese Corporate Forms -- Zaibatsu and Keiretsu.
The Role of Government in Promoting Growth in Japan since 1945.

Readings:


Oct. 16: Video Inside Japan Inc.

Oct. 23:

Readings:


Oct.25 to Oct.30  The Economic Development of India since 1945 -- Achievements and Frustrations.


Readings:  
  c) Borthwick, Chap.10.

Nov. 15: Review

Nov.20: : 2nd in-class examination

Nov. 27 to Dec. 13: Other countries of Asia Paper presentations and feedback on papers.

Nov. 27:
Video: Big Business and the Ghost of Confucius