National Consortium for Teaching About Asia
2005 Indianapolis Teaching about Asia Seminar, sponsored by the Freeman Foundation

An Introduction to East Asia
Syllabus

(Most sessions will feature pedagogy discussions or activities, film clips or power point presentations, and introduction to resources)

Week 1  Session 1 Introduction:

- Introductions, paperwork and course expectations
- Early Chinese Civilization and Pastoral Peoples
- The geography of East Asia and its influence on culture
- Chinese food culture
- Development of East Asian civilization
- Shang Dynasty
- Oracle bones and the Chinese writing system
- Guide to Chinese pronunciation
- Brushwork: Chinese characters

Week 2  Session 2 Early China and Chinese Thought

- Chou (Zhou), Ch’in (Quin), and Han dynasties
- Themes in Chinese history
- What Confucius (and his opponents) REALLY said: Confucianism, Legalism, and Taoism (Daoism) in words, paintings, and cartoons
- Philosophers’ roundtable or “historical heads”
- Chinese medicine and feng sui
- China’s first empire
- The Great Wall

Week 3  February 20  Session 3  Tang China

- Expanding influence of Chinese culture,
- Silk Road
- Buddhism
- China’s examination system
- Tang art and poetry
- Writing Tang-style poems
- What constitutes a Golden Age?

Week 4  March 6  Session 4  Early through Classical Japan

- Japanese geography and early culture
• Spread of Buddhism
• Japanese writing system
• Classical Japan
• Japanese literature: The Pillow Book and The Tale of Genji
• The samurai, the "Way of the Warrior," the "Way of Tea," and the warrior-aesthete
• Sitting Zen

Week 5  Session 5 Song and Yuan China, Early and Classical Korea

• Northern and Southern Sung
• Mongols in China and Eurasian links
• How to govern China? (simulation)
• Early Korean development and relations with China and Mongols
• The Yi Dynasty
• Writing simulation activities

Week 6  Session 6 Tokugawa Japan and Ming China
(Technology Resources for East Asian Studies)

• The Unification of Japan
• The Shoguns
• Japanese castle towns
• The Floating World and geisha
• Japanese drama
• Ming China
• The Forbidden City
• The Voyages of Zheng He

Week 7  Session 7 East Asian Art

• Guest speakers: Details to be announced
• Introduction to East Asian Art and Museum Resources

Week 8  Session 8 Qing and 20th Century China

• Qing China
• Western encroachments and the Opium Wars
• The Taipings and the Boxers
• The Republican and Communist Revolutions
• May Fourth and modern Literature
• Japan's invasion and WWII
• The Cultural Revolution, posters and Mao’s “Little Red Book”
• Writing Maoist self-criticisms
• Cultural Revolution Simulation
• Tiananmen

Week 9  Session 9 Meiji Japan and Japan’s Expansion into Korea and China

• Japan's modernization
• Taisho Democracy
• Militarism and colonization
• Hiroshima
• Occupation
• Refining projects

**Week 10  Session 10  Japan, China and Korea since 1945**

**Projects Due**

• Democratization and economic miracles
• The Cold War and the Korean War
• Contemporary China, Japan and Korea
• McDonaldization, cars, and the human and environmental costs of development
• Recent literature and films
• Evaluations and other paperwork

**TBA Supplementary Session: East Asian Film Festival**

Meeting for food and a selection of Japanese, Chinese and Korean films

**TBA Follow-up Session, Autumn 2005**

Meeting for food and discussion of lessons