Course Description:
This course examines the role of science and technology in Asian history from approximately 1000AD to the present. We examine the influence and interaction of knowledge traditions in East Asia, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, especially the strong regional influence of Chinese, and South Asian practices and priorities in science and technology. We examine how science and technology circulates around and beyond Asia, and their eventual interactions with European approaches to science and technology.

Required Texts:

Other readings will be available on D2L or through Bizzell Library Internet Access.

Staying in touch:
For general course announcements or information about changes to the syllabus or readings, please check your email. It is the best way to get you the information you need as swiftly as possible. I will also post announcements on the course’s D2L site.

For more individual matters – if you have a question or concern you’d like to discuss, or if I have a question about your work, I prefer to meet in person. Even simple issues can get too complicated to deal with electronically. You can always meet me before or after class to set up an appointment. If you do send me an email with a problem or question, I will usually ask you to set up a time to meet and talk it over.

Course Requirements
Class preparation: Students should complete the assigned readings before coming to class. Any day there is a reading, students may be given a quiz on the subject matter of the reading.

Attendance: Students should attend class regularly and actively (listening and participating) to do well. Attendance policies are as follows:

- No more than 3 missed course meetings during the semester: 50 pts
- 4-5 missed course meetings: 0 pts
- 6 or more missed course meetings: Automatic failure for the course.

Please note that showing up more than 5 minutes late for class may count as an absence.

If you will be missing class for any reason, please see me.

Grades: All exams and assignments are mandatory for all students. Please be aware that by turning in an exam or written assignment, you are pledging that the work you turn in is your own, created specifically and uniquely for this course. We will be using Turnitin this semester for all essays (see section on plagiarism for more):

Exams:

- Midterm #1 (in-class and take-home essay) 250 pts
- Midterm #2 (in-class and take-home essay) 250 pts
- Final (in-class only) 150 pts

One research essay and research presentation 150 pts

In-class short quizzes 100 pts

Participation 50 pts.

Attendance 50 pts

TOTAL 1000 pts.

Essays

When you write for my class, you never have to do it without help. I am always happy to provide feedback on drafts or outlines of essays (but please provide these at least three days in advance of the due date to make sure I have enough time to respond.) I am also
happy to just discuss your paper or your argument. You may also take advantage of OU’s excellent writing center. There you can get help on all aspects of your writing, and learn to produce more polished results more quickly.

Because writing always goes best when it is an iterative process, I offer the opportunity to rewrite any essay for which you received any grade less than an A-. With my approval, you have one rewrite opportunity for each essay. However, you may only rewrite COMPLETED assignments, not partial, or clearly unfinished work. You MUST come speak to me before you rewrite, so we can discuss your strategy. Please be aware that a rewrite does not guarantee a higher grade, but discussing your paper with me first will help you do the best job you can.

All essays are expected to meet university-level standards of quality in matters of content and presentation (i.e. grammar, spelling, organization, etc.) Please double space essays and use a 12 pt. readable font like Times or Arial. Margins should be one-inch all the way around.

**In the classroom**

Please turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, ipods or other mp3 players, blackberries etc and put them away before class starts. I prefer that you don’t use laptops in class, but please see me if this will create a hardship for you.

We will spend a good bit of class time on discussion, both in small groups and as a whole. Our environment for discussion should be as civil and open as possible, so please exercise common-sense courtesy toward your fellow students.

**Collaboration**

Subjects like history are nearly always best learned collaboratively, which is why I provide as much time as possible for discussion in class, and I encourage you to discuss topics and study together outside of class as well. In essay writing, it is often helpful to talk over your ideas with me or your fellow students. This is fine, providing that you do not step over the line into collaboratively writing, or designing essays, which is prohibited. If you are unsure where the line is, talk to me.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is passing off someone else’s work as your own. This can happen in many ways: straight copying or cutting and pasting from another source, too-close paraphrasing (i.e. copying and substituting a few synonyms here and there), quoting without providing a proper citation of the source, and when students collaboratively develop an assignment that was meant to be done individually. Plagiarism is cheating and hence a serious
offense. It prevents an individual from learning, and creates an unfair and dispiriting atmosphere in the classroom. Because I am concerned about plagiarism, I do take the time to look for it. We will be using Turnitin, the plagiarism detection/prevention software this semester for that reason. If I find a case of suspected plagiarism, I will ask the student or students involved to talk to me and explain the situation. In the event that it is determined that a student has intentionally plagiarized any portion of an assignment, I reserve the right to give a failing grade for the assignment, or for the class. If you are not sure what is plagiarism and what is not, please come talk to me. I will be very happy to help you avoid unintentional plagiarism.

**Schedule of Class Meetings**

1/19 Introduction to the course

1/21 Chinese Science


1/26 Science and Technology in Ancient and Medieval India


1/28 Chinese culture and technology


2/2 The Rice Societies


2/4 Firearms: Technological Circulation in Asia


2/9 Korea and Japan: Science and Technology in Early History


OR

2/11 The “Closed” Societies: Technology and Culture in Ming China and Tokugawa Japan


Essay #1 Due Friday, 2/12 at midnight (submit to Turnitin, or if you have problems, D2L)

2/16 Exam #1

2/18 Asia and Europe: Contact and Exchange. The Needham question


2/23 China and Southeast Asia in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries


OR


2/25 India and the experience of European colonialism

Gyan Prakash, *Another Reason*, chs 1-2

3/2 India under colonization (continued)

Prakash, chs. 3,4,6,7

3/4 Catch up day

3/9 The Meiji Restoration


3/11 Chinese Modernization 1880-1905


SPRING BREAK
3/23 The Disruptions of Early 20th century colonialism, nationalism, technology, science
No reading.

3/25 The early twentieth century, continued

Essay #2 due Friday March 3/26 at midnight. Please upload to Turnitin, or as a backup to D2L.

3/30 exam 2

4/1 Science, Technology, and Postwar Japan

or


4/6 Science and Technology in Mao’s China

4/8 The Postcolonial Experience: Korea and Taiwan after World War II
Chihyung Jeon, “The Road to Modernization and Unification: The Construction of the Gyeongbu Highway in South Korea”, *Technology and Culture* 51, no. 1. (p. numbers to be announced.)

4/13 The Postcolonial Experience: Indonesia

4/15 Digital Lives: ICT cultures in East Asia

and TBA

4/20 Technology and Modern Japanese popular culture
TBA

4/22 Information Technology: National Policies
TBA

4/27 Biotechnology in Asia


TBA

4/29 Science/Technology; Ethics/Risk: Some Asian Perspectives

Articles on the Hwang Scandal, East Asian Science, Technology, and Society 2, no. 1, pp. 1-46

OR


5/4 - 5/6 Student Research

4/26-5/7 Student Research