

FAR EASTERN STUDIES HONORS

Essential Curriculum

INTRODUCTION:

Far Eastern Studies is intended to be an in-depth historical and cultural exploration of eastern and southern Asia. Students will develop a keener understanding of how countries have evolved, as well as how people currently live in this area of the world. Throughout the course, students will make comparisons among Asian cultures, and at times they will also be asked to view those cultures in relation to the West. Emphasis will be placed on examining the interdependence of cultures, cultural change, and historical developments. The course should maintain a high level of interest through diverse learning experiences that provide students with alternative means of experiencing Asian cultures. Ultimately, students should obtain a broad understanding of what Asian society is like, how it has emerged, and why it is unique.

Thanks to the Writers of this Guide:

Dr. Will Klingaman
Mr. Dennis Ahearn

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Far Eastern Studies Honors

Content Outline

UNIT I: THE STUDY OF FOREIGN CULTURES

GOAL1: Students will demonstrate the ability to understand the different aspects of culture and the process of cultural evolution

- A. Material and non-material aspects of culture
 - 1. Beliefs
 - 2. Values
 - 3. Language
 - 4. Knowledge
 - 5. Norms
- B. Scientific method
- C. Abstraction and immersion
- D. Ethnographies and historical analysis
- E. Pitfalls of ethnocentrism and cultural superiority
- F. Popular culture and its effects

UNIT II: CHINA FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO 1600

GOAL 1: Understand how distinctive social, religious, and political systems developed in northern China

- A. Geographic and climatic features of China
- B. Zhoukoudian discoveries of Peking Man
- C. Rise of millet-based agriculture in Huang He Valley c. 6000 B.C.E.
- D. Role of Huang He floods in stimulating development of a central government
- E. Hierarchical structure of Shang society based on extended family ties
- F. Shang religion
 - 1. Ancestor reverence
 - 2. Human sacrifices
 - 3. Oracle bones
 - 4. Creation myths and the Yi dynasty

5. Overthrow of Shang rule by Zhou forces from west

GOAL 2: Understand the nature of Chinese culture during the Zhou dynasty

- A. Use of Mandate of Heaven to justify dynastic change
- B. Folk literature: *Book of Songs*
 1. Reflective of daily life and occupations
 2. Used for sacrifices and dances
 3. Satire criticizing social injustice
- C. Background and career of Confucius
- D. *Analects*: Emphasis on virtuous behavior
 1. Importance of rituals, relationships, responsibilities
 2. Filial piety and reverence for ancestors
 3. Central role of education
- E. Taoism
 1. Tao Te Ching
 2. Significance of balance
 3. Adapt to natural order and constantly shifting reality
- F. Evolution of writing system
- G. Political power assigned to members of ruling clan
- H. Gradual shift in political power to the periphery of empire

GOAL 3: Understand the long-term consequences of the Qin and Han dynasties

- A. Legalism
- B. Destruction of political power of aristocracy by Qin
- C. Campaign to unify China
 1. Great Wall
 2. Construction of network of canals and roads
 3. Standardization of currency and written language
 4. Attempt to tightly enforce government regulations
 5. Assault upon educated class
- D. Overthrow of Qin Shihuangdi
- E. Concept of dynastic cycle

- F. Rise of new aristocracy
- G. Territorial expansion into Korea, Central Asia, and Vietnam
- H. Scientific and technological advances
 - 1. Paper
 - 2. Astronomy
 - 3. Calendar
 - 4. Agricultural tools
- I. Population explosion
- J. Development of education system based upon Confucian classics
- K. Expansion of trade, including Silk Road
- L. Spread of Buddhism into China
- M. Growing popularity of Buddhism as dynasty crumbles

GOAL 4: Understand the literary and artistic movements in China during the Tang and Song dynasties

- A. Early Tang poetry: Wang Wei
 - 1. Beauty of nature
 - 2. Calm, peaceful tone reflects stability of empire
- B. Growth of urban class
- C. Golden age of Buddhism in China
- D. Li Bo
 - 1. Romanticism; uniquely sentimental
 - 2. Sympathy for peasantry
 - 3. Contempt for nobility and government officials
- E. Imperial court preoccupied with struggles for power
- F. Highly developed civil service system
- G. Du Fu
 - 1. Denounced evils of late Tang empire
 - 2. Realism; contrast between heroic past and decadent present
 - 3. Focus on craftsmanship rather than emotion

H. Development of Chinese art

1. Emphasis on landscapes
2. Humans insignificant in nature
3. Shifting perspective
4. Absence of shadows

GOAL 5: Understand the effects of European contacts during Mongol rule and the Ming dynasty

- A. Conquest of northern China by Chingis Khan
- B. Expansion of trade during Yuan dynasty
- C. Conquest of southern China by Kublai Khan
- D. Restoration of Chinese rule
- E. Development of naval technology and Ming maritime expeditions under Zhenghe
- F. Conservative reaction; traditional emphasis on protecting land frontiers
- G. Arrival of Portugese in 1514; disdain of Ming rulers
- H. Manchu conquest

UNIT III: INDIA FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO 1600

GOAL 1: Understand the effects of geography and cultural diffusion on the development of Indian society and culture

- A. Influence of West Asian cultures
- B. Development of an agrarian economy
- C. Rise of merchant class to dominance
- D. Animism
- E. Amalgamation of Indo-European and Southeast Asian influences

GOAL 2: Understand the origins and effects of Indian belief systems

- A. Hinduism: deities, belief system

- B. Bhagavad-Gita
- C. Increased power of Brahman caste
- D. Jainism
- E. Siddharta Gautama
 - 1. Four Noble Truths
 - 2. Eightfold Path
- F. Spread of Buddhism into China, Southeast Asia, Japan

GOAL 3: Understand the evolution of Indian society and culture during the age of empires

- A. Chandragupta Maurya
 - 1. Centralized government
 - 2. Bureaucracy established
- B. Ashoka
 - 1. Conquest of subcontinent
 - 2. Conversion to Buddhism
- C. Invasion by Bactrians, Parthians, Shakas, and Kushans
 - 1. Increased trade with Europe and Central Asia
 - 2. Arrival of Christianity in India
- D. Split of Buddhism: Mahayana, Theraveda
- E. Decline of Buddhism in India
- F. Cultural advances
 - 1. Astronomy
 - 2. Architecture
 - 3. Mathematics
 - 4. Medicine
- G. Expansion of Indian culture throughout Southeast Asia
- H. Mughal invasion
- I. Influence of Islam

UNIT IV: JAPAN FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES TO 1600

GOAL 1: Understand the effects of geography upon the development of an indigenous Japanese culture.

- A. Jomon culture, economy
- B. Yayoi culture
- C. Ainu society

GOAL 2: Understand the development of Japanese culture through the adaptation of foreign influences

- A. Successive waves of invasion from mainland Asia
- B. Mythological origins of Jimmu Tenno
- C. Central importance of uji in early Japanese society
- D. Tenets of Shinto faith
- E. Influence of Tang China
 - 1. Confucian ideals of government
 - 2. Introduction of Buddhism into Japan
 - 3. Integration of Shinto, Confucian, and Buddhist ideals
- F. Development of centralized government based at Nara
- G. Heian period
 - 1. Dominance of Fujiwara clan
 - 2. *Tale of Genji*
 - a. Portait of courtly aristocratic life
 - b. Prominence of women in Japanese literature
 - 3. Expansion of agriculture and rise of provincial aristocracy

GOAL 3: Understand the origins and significance of martial virtues in Japanese society

- A. Deterioration of Heian rule and civil war
- B. Rise of samurai class
- C. Victory of Minamoto clan and establishment of shogunate

D. Code of samurai:

1. Tradition of personal loyalty
2. Bushido

E. Defeat of Mongol invasion

F. *Tales of the Heike*

1. Reflection of militarism of Japanese society in 13th century
2. Stark, spare prose reflects short, fleeting life

G. Rise of Zen Buddhism

1. Popularity among disciplined soldier-aristocrats
2. Use of koans and zazen
3. Emphasis on sudden enlightenment

H. Prominence of tea ceremony

I. Evolution of Noh drama

J. Onin War

K. Arrival of Portugese traders (1542-43)

UNIT V: KOREA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA TO 1600

GOAL 1: Understand the evolution of Korean society and culture

A. Proximity to China and Japan

B. Isolation and internal division by mountain ranges

C. Initial settlement by migrants from eastern Siberia

D. Arrival of Chinese influences during Han dynasty

1. Confucian thought
2. Buddhism
3. Chinese legal concepts
4. Art and literature

E. Kingdoms of Paekche, Silla, and Koguryo

1. Domination of military aristocracy
2. Revival of Chinese culture during Tang dynasty

- F. Civil war and Mongol conquest
- G. Restoration of Korean rule under Yi dynasty
 - 1. Development of written Korean language
 - 2. Land reform
 - 3. Defeat of attempted Japanese invasion
- H. Effects of geography and climate on Southeast Asian cultures
- I. Ancient cultures
 - 1. Mons (Burma)
 - 2. Lao
 - 3. Khmer
 - 4. Annamese
- J. Influences from India and China

UNIT VI: ASIA IN THE AGE OF EUROPEAN IMPERIALISM

GOAL 1: Understand the causes and results of European dominance of Asia from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries

- A. Rise of Neo-Confucianism under Manchu rule
- B. Massive population growth in China
- C. Political corruption within Qing dynasty
- D. Qing cooperation with British to maintain elite status of ruling class
- E. Anglo-French rivalry in India
- F. Dominance of East India Company
- G. Transition from British trade to British hegemony
- H. Great Mutiny
- I. Consolidation of British rule in India
- J. Opium War
- K. Colonial regimes in Southeast Asia
- L. Taiping Rebellion
- M. Qing attempts to reform

- N. Meiji Restoration
- O. Rise of *zaibatsu*
- P. Victory of Japanese imperialism
 - 1. Conquest of Korea
 - 2. Russo-Japanese War
- Q. Rise of Guomintang and overthrow of Chinese imperial government

UNIT VII: ASIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

GOAL 1: Understand the reasons for the Communist victory in the Chinese civil war

- A. Founding of Chinese republic
- B. Role of Sun Yat-sen in coalition of Guomintang and Communists
- C. Ascension to power of Jiang Jieshi
- D. Guomintang military campaigns against Communists
- E. Long March
- F. Japanese invasion of China
- G. Renewed civil war, 1945-49
- H. Establishment of People's Republic of China

GOAL 2: Understand the effects of Maoist policies on Chinese society, 1949-1976

- A. Anti-landlord campaign; redistribution of land
- B. Korean conflict
- C. Five-Year Plans
- D. Split with USSR
- E. Great Leap Forward; famine
- F. Hundred Flowers movement
- G. Cultural Revolution

GOAL 2: Understand the transformation of Japanese society following the downfall of the military class

- A. Japanese conquest of Korea
- B. Establishment of Manchukuo, 1930
- C. Consolidation of military control of Japanese imperial government
- D. Invasion of Chinese mainland, 1937
- E. Invasion of Indochina and Burma
- F. War in the Pacific
- G. Japanese home front
- H. Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- I. American occupation of Japan
 - 1. New constitution
 - 2. Emphasis on civilian virtues and authority
 - 3. Reduced role of emperor
 - 4. Article 9
- J. Economic "miracle"

GOAL3: Understand the effects of the Cold War on Korea and Southeast Asia

- A. Partition of Korea
- B. Policies of Kim Il Sung
- C. Policies of Syngman Rhee
- D. Korean conflict
- E. Military rule in South Korea
- F. South Korean economic growth; rise of conglomerates
- G. Increasing repression in North Korea
- H. Policies of Kim Jong Il
- I. Victory of Kim Dae Jung

- J. Attempts at reconciliation between North and South Korea
- K. French defeat at Dien Bien Phu
- L. Partition of Vietnam, 1954
- M. American aid; military advisers
- N. Gulf of Tonkin incident; American military build-up
- O. Tet Offensive, 1968
- P. Incursion into Cambodia
- Q. American withdrawal from Vietnam, 1975
- R. Victory of Khmer Rouge in Cambodia
- S. Reign of Pol Pot, 1975-1979
- T. Vietnam-Cambodian conflict