

Dr. Keith Knapp

History 371: East Asian Historical Conceptions of Leadership

TR 9:30-10:45am

Office hours: MW 9: 11:15, 1-3:30pm, TR 2:30-3:30pm, or by appointment. Office # 430A. Telephone: 3-5073, e-mail: knappk@citadel.edu.

Course Description: East Asians have devoted an immense amount of attention and energy into the issues of good leadership and governance. History was largely a record of good and bad leaders whose example was supposed to be either studiously followed or avoided. Even poetry and music were supposed to make leaders more moral. These traditions largely produced stable governments that ruled over huge populations. During the Qing Empire (1644-1911), a mere 36,000 officials governed a polity of 400,000,000 people – there was just one magistrate for every 800,000 people. The first aim of this class is to explore pre-modern East Asian ideas about good leadership and governance. We will do this by reading and discussing some of the foundational texts that laid out methods for how to rule well. Our second goal will be to see how in modern times actual leaders made use of (or forgot) these teachings. To do so, we will examine the lives of three leaders: the Qing emperor Qianlong (1711-1799), the “Last Samurai” Saigô Takamori (1827-1877), and Mao Zedong (1893-1976). A final and constant goal of the class will be to determine how we can employ some of these East Asian ideas to make ourselves better leaders.

Course Requirements: Students must do **all** of the readings and participate in class discussions. Discussions will center on primary sources that are handed out and supplementary book-length primary and secondary sources. The week's assigned reading should be done **prior to** the first class of the week. The participation grade will be based on your attendance, preparation, and willingness and ability to participate in discussions. Besides doing the assigned reading, students must write a short paper (three to five pages) on either the *Essential Mengzi* or the *Han Fei Tzu*, and a ten-page research paper. The research paper will be based on a primary source from an extensive list that the instructor shall provide. Papers will lose half a grade for each class they are late. Papers that are more than two weeks late will not be accepted. Students should keep extra copies of all materials that they hand in. If a student's paper is lost, no matter who is at fault, it is the student's responsibility to give the instructor another copy. All papers must be typed and double-spaced and will be evaluated on the premise that content and style are inseparable. Students must also take six quizzes, two tests, and a final examination. Examinations and quizzes must be written in pen. Quizzes will merely consist of simple questions to see if you have done the reading. Tests will be based on the class readings and lectures and will consist of short identifications and essay questions. The composition of your grade will be as follows: participation 10%, quizzes 30%, short paper 10%, mid-term 10%, research paper 20%, and the final examination 20%. Even if the absences are excused, no student can miss more than 20% of our class sessions. Students who disrupt classroom order, argue about their grades, use tobacco products, play with their cell-phones, or read non-class materials will be asked to leave and marked as absent. Both papers and examinations are designed to test your knowledge as individuals; hence, they are not collaborative projects.

Students who cheat on tests or engage in plagiarism will be reported for honor code violations. Plagiarism means using the ideas of others without crediting them. **Makeup tests will not be given without a written note from a doctor or other appropriate official. Guard duty or other military activities are not exceptions from scheduled tests.** The instructor also reserves the right to adjust the syllabus as he sees fit.

Textbooks:

Van Norden, Bryan W. *The Essential Mengzi*. Hackett.

Burton Watson, *Han Fei Tzu: The Basic Writings*. Columbia University Press.

Philip Ivanhoe, tr. *Master Sun's Art of War*. Hackett.

D. E. Tarver, *Hagakure: The Heart of the Warrior*. Writers Club Press.

David B. Gordon. *Sun Yatsen: Seeking a Newer China*. Longman.

Mark Ravina, *The Last Samurai: The Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori*. Wiley.

Rebecca E. Karl, *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-century World*. Duke Press.

Week One: Orientation (1/12)

Week Two: Warring States China (1/17 & 1/19)

Readings: Start *The Essential Mengzi*

Week Three: Confucian Approaches to Leadership (1/24 & 1/26)

Readings: Finish *The Essential Mengzi*

1/26 Quiz on *The Essential Mengzi*

Week Four: Taoist Approaches to Leadership (1/31 & 2/2)

Class Exercise: Readings from the *Daode jing* (<http://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/taote.htm>)

Readings: Start *Han Fei Tzu*

2/2 Paper due on *The Essential Mengzi*

Week Five: Legalist Approaches to Leadership (2/7 & 2/9)

Readings: *Han Fei Tzu*

2/9 Quiz on *Han Fei Tzu*

Week Six: Military Approaches to Leadership (2/14 & 2/16)

Readings: Finish *The Art of War*

2/16 Quiz on *The Art of War*

2/16 Paper due on *Han Fei Tzu*

Week Seven: Chinese Influence on Japanese Leadership ideas (2/21 & 2/23)

Exercise: Prince Shotoku's Constitution,

<http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/japan/japanworkbook/traditional/shotoku.htm>

2/23 Mid-term

Week Eight: Samurai Visions of Leadership (2/28 & 3/1)

Readings: *Hagakure*

3/1 Quiz on the *Hagakure*

Week Nine: Nineteenth Century East Asia (3/6 & 3/8)

Readings: Start *Sun Yatsen*

Week Ten: Meiji Japan (3/13)

Readings: Start *The Last Samurai*

Week Eleven: Saigo Takamori (3/20 & 3/22)

Readings: Finish *The Last Samurai*

3/22 Quiz on *The Last Samurai*

Week Twelve: Sun Yatsen, father of a nation (4/3 & 4/5)

Readings: Finish *Sun Yatsen*

4/5 Quiz on *Sun Yatsen*

Week Thirteen: China in the 20s and 30s (4/10 & 4/12)

Readings: Start *Mao Zedong*

4/15 Research Paper due

Week Fourteen: Mao Zedong as a Leader (4/17 & 4/19)

Readings: Finish *Mao Zedong*

4/19 Quiz on *Mao Zedong*

Week Fifteen: East Asian Leaders Today (4/24)

4/30 Final Exam at 8:00am