

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANTH 462  
Fall Term 2020

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA  
EAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dr. Christian E. Peterson

## EAST ASIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

**CRN:** [79080](#)

**Time:** F 10:30–01:00p

**Classroom:** Saunders 345

**Professor:** Dr. Christian E. Peterson

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**Office:** Dean Hall 204

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### Course Description

This course examines the development of ancient East Asian civilization (in what are today China, Korea, and Japan) from an archaeological and social evolutionary perspective. We survey the major sociocultural changes in each of these regions from about 10,000 BC until about AD 500. The approach is less chronological, however, than it is thematic and geographical, with not all developments discussed falling comfortably into a familiar temporal order. No attempt is made to be comprehensive, but the topics selected for discussion are ones that sound familiar themes in social science and historical discourse. Some of the issues to be examined include: nationalism, identity politics, and the practice of archaeology in East Asia; Mesolithic pottery production, littoral forging, and the transition to sedentary food production; the spread of rice agriculture; the dynamics of early village life, the origins of social inequality, and the development of early complex societies; state formation, urbanization, and the emergence of empire. The class is a mix of short lectures and discussions; student performance will be assessed using weekly quizzes, a take-home midterm, and an in-class final exam. An extra credit assignment is also available.

### Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:

1. be able to briefly summarize the prehistory and early history of China, Korea, and Japan;
2. have articulated a position in several key debates of archaeological interest;
3. have gathered evidence to support a specific position in regards to these debates;
4. have been provided opportunities to practice their academic writing skills through weekly quizzes and formal exams;
5. have been provided an opportunity to practice their verbal debating skills through weekly in-class discussion.

### Course Prerequisites and Campus-Wide Articulation

You must have Junior or Senior standing to take this course without permission of the instructor. The course is designed to follow ANTH 460 Asian Palaeoanthropology in sequence (which focuses on human evolution in East Asia from about 1 million to around 10,000 years ago), although the latter is not considered a prerequisite. HIST 309 East Asian Civilizations picks up where ANTH 462 leaves off and continues up through to AD 1500.

\*\*\* For more information contact Prof. Christian Peterson ([cepeter@hawaii.edu](mailto:cepeter@hawaii.edu)). \*\*\*