



TRUE BLUE CORE

Hist 1115- Themes in World Civilization: The Story of Tea

Fall or Spring

Time:

Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

Email:

Office hours:

Tea is one of the most popularly consumed beverages in the world, and there are many varieties of tea such as white, yellow, green, oolong, black and puerh. The way that tea is drunk also varies widely among different cultures, the Chinese steep it in hot water, the Japanese matcha is whisked from powdered tea, the English take it with sugar and cream, and the Tibetans drink it with yak butter and salt. The story of tea takes us from the origins of the plant *Camellia sinensis*, from which all different forms of tea come from, to its initial adoption by Buddhist monks and the literary elite to its spread to all sectors of society. During the process the drink also evolved from its medicinal and spiritual qualities to one of enjoyment. The value of tea was such that the tea trade played a vital role in shaping global economics and politics. It is this story of tea that we will explore this semester.

The Ten Virtues of Tea

- Tea has the blessing of all deities
- Tea promotes filial piety
- Tea drives away all evil spirits
- Tea banishes drowsiness
- Tea keeps the five internal organs in harmony
- Tea wards off disease
- Tea strengthens friendship
- Tea disciplines body and mind
- Tea destroys the passions
- Tea grants a peaceful death

—Attributed to Japanese Buddhist priest Myōe (1173–1232),
who had the words inscribed on a tea kettle

- For all catalogs 2024-2025 and beyond, this course (3 hours) satisfies the True Blue Core curriculum requirement for Explorations in Creativity and Cultural Expression (CCE). To learn more about TBC requirements: <https://w1.mtsu.edu/truebluecore/core.php>.
- For all catalogs prior to 2024-2025, this course may NOT be used to satisfy general education requirements. Students wishing to switch to the 2024-2025 catalog should see their advisors to discuss the implications of changing catalogs. To learn more about general education requirements for catalogs prior to 2024-2025: https://w1.mtsu.edu/gen_ed/requirements.php.
- **The TBC outcome for Explorations in Creativity and Cultural Expression (CCE):** Students demonstrate intercultural understanding by building knowledge, self-awareness, and conceptions of global and intercultural perspectives, values, systems, and attitudes.

Course Requirements:

1. 5% Class Attendance: Class attendance is required and roll will be taken each class. (grade for attendance will be calculated as follows: 0 absence: A+; 1 absence: A; 2-3 absences: B; 4-5 absences C; 6-7 absences: D; 8 absences & over: F. Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave early will be counted as absent)

2. 20% Class Presentation

3. 25%. Midterm

4. 50% Three Response Papers

A+ 98-100

A 94-97

A- 90-93

B+ 88-89

B 84-87

B- 80-83

C+ 78-79

C 74-77

C- 70-73

D+ 68-69

D 64-67

D- 60-63

F 59 and below

Books Required for the Course:

Victor H. Mair and Erling Hoh, *The True History of Tea*, Thames & Hudson, 2009

Okakura Kazuo, *The Book of Tea*, introduction by Christopher Benfey, Penguin Classics, 2010

Handouts, additional readings, web links are posted in D2L.

Access D2L through <https://elearn.mtsu.edu>.

Rules for Classroom Behavior

Turn off/Silence all cell phones. All cell phones should be turned off in class. Points will be deducted if your cell phone rings or if you text message. You may use a laptop or tablet or phone to take notes. Points will be deducted if you are spotted texting or using your electronic devices other than for taking notes during class (I may or may not notify you after a first warning).

Use of AI is Prohibited

The use of AI-generated content including text, images, code, figures, and any other material is strictly prohibited for any material submitted in this class. This includes using this content for homework, papers, codes, or other creative works. This restriction encompasses the creation or revision of work by AI. Violation of this policy will be considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with accordingly. The use of basic word processing AI systems including grammar and spelling checkers need not be disclosed in this class.

Make-up Policy

There will be **NO** make-ups and missed tests and examinations will count as Fs. Exceptions will only be made in cases of emergency and illness documented with a note from a doctor. No make-ups will be given after the test has been returned.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\)](#) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu. Also, if you require the use of assistive technology, please make sure to download the documents in order to access the accessibility that I have built into the content for you.

Free Tutoring

Take advantage of our FREE tutoring service and learn how to study, get help with understanding difficult course material, receive better test grades, or simply improve your grade point average. Tutoring is available in *study skills* and *learning strategies*, including time management, note taking, when and where to study, and memory principles. Tutoring is also available in over 200 courses, including biology, history, computer information systems, physics, math, psychology, chemistry, economics, recording industry, and many more. The central location for tutoring is the Tutoring Spot, located in Walker Library, but tutoring is also conducted at various other campus sites. For available tutoring opportunities, visit <http://mtsu.edu/studentssuccess/tutoring.php#on> . For questions, call the Tutoring Spot at [615-904-8014](tel:615-904-8014).

Withdrawal Schedule:

Statement on Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a hallmark of Middle Tennessee State University. We expect students to complete academic exercises, i.e., assignments turned in for credit, that are original and appropriately credit all sources used.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism: The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.
2. Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. It also includes purchasing assignments or paying another person to complete a course for you.
3. Fabrication: Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Going online and using information without proper citation, copying parts of other students' work, creating information to establish credibility, or using someone else's thoughts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, please ask me to clarify. All cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Director of Student Academic Ethics and may result in failure on the

test/assignment or for the course. When students participate in behavior that is considered to be academic misconduct, the value of their education and that of their classmates is lessened, and their academic careers are jeopardized.

Students guilty of academic misconduct are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions (including expulsion from the university), which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or zero for an activity or to assign an “F” for the course. Students guilty of plagiarism will be immediately reported to the Director of Student Academic Ethics.

Lottery Scholarship

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.

If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor](#).

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Readings are due before class time.

Introduction

Camellia sinensis

Reading:

--“Chinese Tea in World History”

<https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/aaa/archives/chinese-tea-in-world-history/>

Beginnings: Discovery and transmission of tea

Reading:

--*True History*: Prologue, Chs.1 & 2

Early Development of Tea

Reading:

--Timeline for historical periods:

https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/timelines/china_timeline.htm

--*True History*, Ch. 3

Tang dynasty: Historical background

Reading:

“Internationalism in the Tang Dynasty”:

https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/inte/hd_inte.htm

Tang dynasty: Religion and Tea

Reading:

True History, Ch. 4

Tang, Lu Yu’s *Classic of Tea*

Reading:

--*True History*, Appendix A “The Autobiography of Instructor Lu”

--*Classic of Tea* in D2L “Additional Readings”

Song dynasty

Reading:

“China in 1000 CE”

<https://afe.easia.columbia.edu/songdynasty-module/index.html>

Song dynasty

Reading:

--*True History*, Ch. 5 & Appendix B “ A Debate between Tea and Beer”

First Response Paper due.

Nomads and Trade: The Tea Road

Reading:

True History, Ch. 6, 10

Ming and Qing dynasties

Reading:

True History, Ch. 9

Japan: Zen Buddhism and Tea

Reading:

--“Bakufu”

<https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Bakufu>

--*True History*, Ch. 7

Tea in Japan

Reading:

Eisai’s *Kissa yojoki* (A Record of Drinking Tea and Nourishing Life) (D2L

“Additional Readings”)

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Reading:

True History, Ch. 8

Response Paper 2 due.

Fall Break

Midterm

Tea in Russia

Reading:

True History, Ch. 11

Islam

Reading:

True History, Ch. 12

European explorations and tea

Reading:

True History, Ch. 13

Tea and the Opium war

Reading:

True History, Ch. 14

Tea in America

Reading:

True History, Ch. 15

India and Globalization of Tea Production

Reading:

True History, Ch. 16

British Tea

Reading:

True History, Ch. 17

Tea Power

Reading:

A History of the World in 6 Glasses Ch. 10 “Tea Power” (D2L “Additional Readings)

Okakura Kazuo, Tea ceremony

Reading:

Okakura *The Book of Tea*, Introduction & Chs. 1-3

Globalization of the tea ceremony

Reading:

Okakura *The Book of Tea*, Chs. 4-7

Response Paper 3 due.

Tea Today

Reading:

True History, Ch. 18

Thanksgiving holiday

Tea party

Syllabus subject to change by instructor.